



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Forty-first session

24 June–12 July 2019

Agenda item 3

## Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 11 July 2019

### 41/13. Youth and human rights

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,*

*Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,*

*Recalling also Human Rights Council resolutions 32/1 of 30 June 2016 and 35/14 of 22 June 2017 on youth and human rights,*

*Recalling further all previous relevant resolutions, including the most recent, namely, General Assembly resolutions 72/146 of 19 December 2017 on policies and programmes involving youth, and 50/81 of 14 December 1995, by which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, and its subsequent resolution 62/126 of 18 December 2007,*

*Acknowledging that the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond provided a policy framework and practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people,*

*Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, in which it is stated that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and that all human rights must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,*

*Encouraging States to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and reaffirming the need to develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere real opportunities to enable their full, effective and meaningful participation in society,*

*Recalling the high-level event held by the General Assembly on 29 May 2015 to mark the twentieth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth, which offered an important opportunity for Member States and other relevant stakeholders to take stock of the progress made in its implementation and to identify gaps and challenges, and the way forward for its full, effective and accelerated implementation,*



*Taking note with appreciation* of the report prepared by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,<sup>1</sup> which provides an overview of the international and regional human rights framework applicable to young people and describes the challenges and the discrimination encountered by them,

*Noting with appreciation* the United Nations Youth Strategy entitled “Youth 2030: Working with and for Young People” as a tool for the empowerment of young people and the advancement of their rights, launched at the high-level event held in September 2018 at United Nations Headquarters,

*Noting* the inputs from recent relevant conferences, forums and global initiatives relating to youth at the international, regional and subregional levels, inter alia, the first and the second World Youth Forum, held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, in November 2017 and November 2018,

*Encouraging* contributions by the High Commissioner, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and the treaty bodies, and other relevant international and regional human rights mechanisms, as well as the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth, in identifying and addressing obstacles to the enjoyment of all human rights by youth,

*Underlining* the important role that youth can play in the promotion of peace and security, sustainable development, human rights and the importance of the active, meaningful and inclusive participation of youth in decision-making,

*Conscious* that today’s generation of youth is the largest that the world has ever witnessed, and therefore encouraging States to make further efforts to ensure the respect, protection and fulfilment of all human rights for young people, including all economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, given that lack of participation and opportunity has adverse consequences for communities and societies,

*Affirming* 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 education, health and access to information and technology, and bearing in mind that more than 71 million young people are unemployed and that 156 million working youth are in poverty, including extreme poverty,<sup>2</sup>

*Recognizing* that young people experience difficulties in the exercise of their rights by virtue of being young, and that there are gaps in the protection and fulfilment of the human rights of youth,

*Emphasizing* the need to empower youth in order to achieve sustainable development, including poverty eradication, and stressing in this regard the commitment made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to substantially reduce by 2020 the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training and to develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment,

*Concerned* that young people face specific challenges that require integrated responses by States, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on youth, and takes note of its report<sup>1</sup> and its recommendations on strengthening the promotion and protection of the rights of young people;

2. *Also welcomes* the holding of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth and Youth Forum Lisbon+21, in Lisbon on 22 and 23 June 2019, and takes note with appreciation of its Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, especially with regard to empowering youth and their representatives, the commitment to protect, respect and fulfil the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all young people, protecting the most disadvantaged and those in vulnerable situations and contributing to the creation of indicators to assess the impact of youth policies and programmes;

3. *Stresses* the fundamental importance of equal opportunities, education and technical and vocational training, and that lifelong learning opportunities and guidance for youth are necessary for the realization of all human rights for young people;

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<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/39/33.

<sup>2</sup> See General Assembly resolution 72/146.

4. *Recognizes* that the participation and representation of youth in institutional political processes and policymaking are low compared with those of other age groups, and that young people are not proportionately represented in political institutions, such as parliaments, political parties and public administrations;

5. *Urges* Member States, in consultation with youth-led and youth-focused organizations, to promote new initiatives for the full, effective, structured and sustainable participation of young people in relevant decision-making processes and monitoring in political, economic, social and cultural spheres, including in designing and implementing policies, programmes and initiatives, in particular while implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

6. *Calls upon* all States to promote and to ensure the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for youth, including by taking measures to combat age discrimination, neglect, abuse and violence, and to address issues relating to barriers to social integration and adequate participation, bearing in mind that the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by young people empowers them to contribute as active members of society to the political, civil, economic, social, and cultural development of their countries;

7. *Urges* Member States to promote equal opportunities for all, to eliminate all forms of discrimination against young people, including that based on age, race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status;

8. *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 development, by reaffirming the commitment 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 and reproductive behaviour;

9. *Encourages* Member States to conduct their coherent youth-related policies through inclusive and participatory consultations with youth and relevant youth-led and youth-focused stakeholders and social development partners in the interest of developing integrated, holistic and inclusive youth policies and programmes, as well as coherent cross-sectoral efforts, based on the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in which human rights are mainstreamed, and to evaluate them regularly as part of the follow-up action on and implementation of the Programme of Action at all levels;

10. *Urges* Member States to consider addressing, through the universal periodic review and the treaty bodies, issues pertaining to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights of youth, and to share the best practices that they have developed in dealing with the realization of the human rights of young people;

11. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations bodies, especially the Human Rights Council, and the Office of the High Commissioner, to collaborate broadly with the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth in implementing the United Nations Youth Strategy and other youth-focused activities in order to guarantee the empowerment of young people and the full enjoyment of their human rights;

12. *Requests* the High Commissioner to organize and convene, from within existing resources, during the first semester of 2020, a full-day intersessional seminar focused on the challenges and opportunities of young people in the field of human rights, with the participation and involvement of youth-led and youth-focused organizations, and to submit to the Human Rights Council a report on the seminar prior to its forty-sixth session;

13. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

39th meeting  
11 July 2019

[Adopted without a vote.]