
Youth Declaration for Youth Engagement in the Asia Region, Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting

Youth Leaders Forum, 27th and 28th July 2015, New Delhi, India

‘Youth Participation at the heart of sustainable development’

We, youth leaders from the Asian region, gathered at the Asian Regional Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting- Youth Leaders Forum held in New Delhi, India on the 27th and 28th of July 2015 and deliberated on significant issues of national and regional youth development.

At the youth leaders forum, we recognized;

1. The need for youth to be treated not just as partners but as effective contributors in decision making and implementation of the national and regional sustainable development agenda.
2. The need for the inputs of young people to not only be desirable but also be indispensable to policy making.
3. The importance of setting up of national and regional nodal councils/alliances that can fill the void by facilitating the Asian youth to have a voice. The aim is to skillfully use this collective voice to make a positive impact in global hierarchies and institutions.

Youth Participation in Governance

We call upon the Ministers to-

4. **Ensure active youth participation in governance process from the local to global level through adequate representation. Additionally, vulnerable groups in each country should be identified and adequately represented.**
5. **Urge the respective state governments and nodal agencies to promote civic education and engagement through formal and non-formal education systems.**

6. **Commit on financial support towards the functioning of National Youth Councils and other youth led and youth serving Organizations.**
7. **Include deserving and competent youth selected through a transparent and inclusive process in the national delegations of member countries at various Regional, Pan-Commonwealth and International forums.**

National/Regional Youth Councils and Youth led Organizations.

We call upon the Ministers,

8. **To endorse the creation of a working committee for establishment of a transparent, youth led, inclusive and democratic proposed Asian Regional Youth Platform.**
9. **Of the 3 (India, Pakistan & Bangladesh) member countries (not having NYC) to endorse the creation of a working committee and work constructively towards establishing an inclusive, democratic, autonomous and youth-led National Youth Councils within their countries.**
10. **To strengthen the existing National Youth Councils of the member countries (Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Maldives, Singapore and Sri Lanka).**
11. **To organize Bi-Annual Consultative Meetings among National Youth Councils, Youth Volunteer Network, other youth led organizations and Government to build consensus and promote engagement and collaboration.**

We call on the Youth Leaders to,

12. **Connect with the Commonwealth Youth Council and Commonwealth Secretariat to seek support for relevant national/regional youth development initiatives.**
13. **Promote awareness about NYC and its functions and to maintain a continuous dialogue between the youth and relevant stakeholders.**
14. **Establish communications channels between NYCs of member nations to collaborate and share best practices.**

We call upon the Commonwealth to,

15. **Endorse the Constitution of the Asian Regional Youth Platform.**

Professionalizing Youth Work

We call upon the Ministers to-

- 16. Endorse youth work as a profession at the national level. Recognize academic and professional validation of courses specific to youth work to build global acceptance.**
- 17. Recognize ethical standards for youth work to ensure productivity and efficiency. Acknowledge professional associations of youth workers for safeguarding their interests and ensuring best practices.**

We call the Commonwealth/ Commonwealth Youth Council to –

- 18. Formulate a Youth Work Key Performance Index.**

Advocating for Youth in Global Development Agenda

We call upon the Ministers to,

- 19. Utilize resources effectively to improve the mechanisms of acquiring, assessing and publishing data on the status and issues pertaining to youth.**
- 20. Take into account the needs and aspirations of all sections of youth groups and meaningfully incorporate them in the implementation and monitoring of sustainable development goals.**
- 21. Conduct an annual review on the comprehensive engagement of young people on the progress and implementation of sustainable development agendas, and promote ‘Youth audit’ on the adequate resources utilized by the governments.**

Employment, Skills Development and Entrepreneurship

We call upon Ministers to,

- 22. Invest more in skill development, strengthening education systems and capacity building for youth.**
- 23. Initiate programmes to inculcate life skills amongst youth to ensure better quality of life.**
- 24. Advocate to create green jobs for youth and to facilitate a transition into green economy.**

25. Strengthen the mechanisms to provide better access of entrepreneurial resources to young people.

We call upon the Youth Leaders to,

26. Engage with institutions that promote entrepreneurship to adapt best practices from them towards further development of youth entrepreneurship in the Region.

Youth Participation in National Policy and Peace Building

We call the Ministers to,

27. Formulate and ensure the effective implementation of realizable National Action Plans in consonance with the National Youth Policy of each nation with the active participation of the youth.

28. Review National Youth Policy and implementation strategy every five years.

29. Recognize and promote formal and informal youth volunteerism to support National development processes and peace building efforts.

We call on Youth Leaders to,

30. Participate in regular assessment of the implementation of National Action Plans based on National Youth Policy.

Closing Remarks

We express our appreciation to the Government and the people of India for their gracious hospitality in hosting the AsR-CYMM. We also express our gratitude to the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Youth Council for organizing this event.