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EFFECTING URBAN YOUTH

YOUTH LAW & LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS
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YOUTH LAW & LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS
EFFECTING URBAN YOUTH
1. Introduction

This paper will examine youth law and legislative frameworks at the international level, which consist of a dispersed model of youth-related laws and policies. The dispersion refers to the lack of a single, comprehensive, and authoritative source of normative energy and authority that will serve as a model law for guidance. The dispersed model of laws and policies often leads to confusion and lack of a clear framework for the implementation of human rights and policies without a cohesive approach. Therefore, the paper recommends a comprehensive approach to remove the dispersed model of laws and policies without a clear framework. This paper will examine youth law and legislative frameworks at the international level, which consists of a dispersed model of youth-related laws and policies. The dispersion refers to the lack of a single, comprehensive, and authoritative source of normative energy and authority that will serve as a model law for guidance. The dispersed model of laws and policies often leads to confusion and lack of a clear framework for the implementation of human rights and policies without a cohesive approach. Therefore, the paper recommends a comprehensive approach to remove the dispersed model of laws and policies without a clear framework. This paper will examine youth law and legislative frameworks at the international level, which consists of a dispersed model of youth-related laws and policies. The dispersion refers to the lack of a single, comprehensive, and authoritative source of normative energy and authority that will serve as a model law for guidance. The dispersed model of laws and policies often leads to confusion and lack of a clear framework for the implementation of human rights and policies without a cohesive approach. Therefore, the paper recommends a comprehensive approach to remove the dispersed model of laws and policies without a clear framework.
2. DEFINITION OF ‘YOUTH’

Youth population is growing faster in the developing world, especially in the slums and informal settlement of developing world cities. Most of these urban youth who live in towns and cities, are essential for understanding the implications of existing national and global policies and limitations of existing national and global policies and frameworks. National frameworks on youth do not provide a clear definition of the concept of ‘youth’. Therefore, the term ‘youth’ varies across different countries and regions. There are approximately 1.2 billion youth aged 15-24 years and nearly 90% of the urban population growth.

In the article, the author argues that the definition of 'youth' is fluid because today's youth live different lives compared to youth of previous generations. Youth now lead a more urban existence than previous generations of youth. In general, they have better access to education and health services and are better exposed to the world and different sets of values. The author also notes that there is still no universal/national convention that exists to specifically target youth populations in the world. There is still no international/national convention on the definition of all forms of discrimination and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) does not provide a clear definition of the term 'youth'. The author argues that the term 'youth' should be defined in terms of economic status, age, and life stage, rather than chronological age.

The UN has defined ‘youth’ as “anyone between the ages of 15 and 24” without prejudice to the definitions provided by Member States. It must be noted that the concept of ‘youth’ is fluid because today’s youth lead different lives compared to previous generations. Youth now lead a more urban existence than previous generations of youth. In general, they have better access to education and health services and better exposure to the world and different sets of values.
To understand youth laws and legislative frameworks affecting urban youth, it is necessary to understand the many issues facing the urban youth of today. Given that they are generally marginalized and excluded from education, training, and employment, the urban youth feel that their interests are not being acknowledged or addressed. In many developing countries, education and training opportunities are limited, and unemployment rates are high. The urban youth are generally underrepresented in the current policymaking sphere, which is symptomatic of the distrust and disengagement they feel towards their national governments and the multinational organizations that shape economic, environmental, and social conditions. They are under-represented in the current policymaking sphere, which is symptomatic of the distrust and disengagement they feel towards their national governments and the multinational organizations that shape economic, environmental, and social conditions. They are under-represented in the current policymaking sphere, which is symptomatic of the distrust and disengagement they feel towards their national governments and the multinational organizations that shape economic, environmental, and social conditions.
According to the Global Youth Wellbeing Index, which was released by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and the International Youth Foundation (IYF), youth face a global crisis of overall well-being and feel excluded from economic opportunities and spheres of power. They are facing the highest unemployment rate in history, i.e. 12.7%, which is more than double of the population as a whole.

Given the widening disparity between the social classes and growing income inequality, it is understandable that with higher unemployment rates and insecure economic foundations, youth are more likely to rely on their governments and require additional social, economic and political investments. It is also important to note the influence of youth unemployment on the increasing rates of violence, community disintegration and other forms of social unrest.

Current events and emerging trends of the 21st century show that societies have failed to offer youth equal opportunities, which compels them to create platforms for themselves. This has important ramifications: by empowering youth to transcend the boundaries of traditional youth platforms and, instead, create a larger space for their participation in the very foundations of the multilateral system, the international community can shape the world that is inclusive and beneficial for all.

The definition of youth is certainly important from a gender perspective. In many regions, youth initiatives and platforms remain dominated by young men due to the social and cultural norms of the current environments they are living in and the multilateral systems. The international community can shape a global agenda for the participation in the very foundations of the multilateral system by empowering youth to transcend the barriers of traditional youth platforms and create a larger space for their participation in the very foundations of the multilateral system.

Moreover, because young women occupy a bulk of the informal, unpaid labour force, the education, skill building and economic opportunities they have access to is scarcer compared to their male counterparts. This has significant implications on the treatment of young women because it reinforces the lack of investment in the education of girls. It leads to increased familial burdens and expectations of girls, which reduces their economic and political incentives. Furthermore, because young women are considered women in many urban settings, marriage is not considered a limiting factor in demarcating youth and women, even if they bear children, are considered young much longer.

This differentiation is also significant from the point of view of examining the needs of young women and men. Differentiation is also significant from the perspective of economic opportunities, as young women are often marginalized and excluded from economic opportunities. By empowering young women to transcend the barriers of traditional youth platforms and create a larger space for their participation in the very foundations of the multilateral system, the international community can shape the world that is inclusive and beneficial for all.

The increase in the number of young women is equally important for all. Young women are often more likely to rely on their governments and receive economic opportunities and engage in economic functions, which are more than double of the population as a whole. Young women are often the highest unemployable in history, i.e. 12.7%, and their economic opportunities and spheres of power are often limited by economic opportunities and spheres of power. They are considered young much longer, which makes it necessary for the international community to shape the world that is inclusive and beneficial for all.
YOUTH LAW & LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS

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riddled with multiple frustrations, including inaccessibility of educational opportunities, high unemployment, poor working environments, and inadequate job benefits, all of which are known to increase the rates of violence. Out of the entire global population, a large proportion live in poverty and violence. In addition, 300,000 child soldiers are directly involved in various conflicts globally and further complicates the possibility of achieving peace and sustainable development.

It has been said that „an educated citizenry is a vital requisite for our survival as a free people” and that healthy democracies rely heavily on an educated populace. The economic benefits of increased education for youth among other sections of the population include faster economic growth, greater innovation and flexibility, lower unemployment rates, higher job satisfaction, higher productivity, and greater individual earnings. Thus, youth education is a crucial component of sustainable development and further complicates the possibility of achieving peace and sustainable development.

Youth are said to have accounted for more than 40% of the unemployed (see UN-Habitat, “Youth 21: Building an Architecture for Youth Engagement in the UN System”). In Europe, almost one in four youth are out of a job. In North Africa and the Middle East, youth unemployment rate is 30%, which is the highest in the world. (see UN News Centre, “Creation of Sustainable Jobs at Centre of UN Youth Forum” (4 May 2012). [http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=41924&Cr=youth&Cr1-employment]

Besides its direct effects, youth education is also linked to broader social and economic benefits. For instance, higher education is a strong predictor of higher earnings and greater economic opportunity. Additionally, education reduces crime rates and has been shown to improve health outcomes. Education also empowers youth to become active citizens and leaders in their communities. It is therefore crucial to invest in quality education for all youth, regardless of their background or circumstances.
benefits include greater life expectancy, decreased violence, and happier and healthier citizens who are more engaged in the community. In addition, significant progress has been made in many regions. Despite these benefits and significant progress, most governments have reduced their expenditure on education and health.

Forty-six UN Member States have undertaken regressive measures. This is especially prominent in developing countries with a youth-dominated population, where over 98% of the world's non-literate populations live. Regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa, and South and West Asia have youth literacy rates below 80%. In some Pacific and Asian countries, secondary enrolment levels are low at 25% and 16%, respectively.

The persisting disparities in the access and quality of education are contingent upon crucial factors, such as ethnicity, income, gender and location. More recently, there has been a revival of the "youth bulge" theory, which was first introduced in the 1970s and which specifically targets the autonomies, rights and lives of youth, especially those from less developed nations.

According to the "youth bulge" theory, as this generation of youth enter the workforce, they will either help their nations move forward as demographic "dividends" under the right social, economic, environmental and political conditions or the lack of opportunity will result in a drastic growth of unemployment rates, with a huge number of unemployed youth, particularly men. This theory also disproportionately impacts young women as it seeks to promote government control on youth's fertility and reproductive decision-making.

While the increasing recognition of the negative impact of youth exclusion and the increased acceptance of the "youth bulge" theory have encouraged governments to focus on much-needed job creation and economic opportunities for youth, it does not formulate policies based on the fundamental rights of youth. In effect, it is treating the symptoms without addressing the causes and addressing the root causes of youth's marginalization and underdevelopment. According to the "youth bulge" theory, the increased expectation of the "youth bulge" has resulted in the neglect of youth education and the recognition of the need for more youth education and training. This has led to a proliferation of government programs that aims to promote the engagement of young women in development.

These sorts of reactive measures are counterproductive, as gender, cultural and social factors, such as ethnicity and poverty, significantly impact the role of women in society and the economy. In some Pacific and Asian countries, where over 98% of the world's non-literate populations live, women are disproportionately affected. These measures do not address the root causes of youth's marginalization and underdevelopment, such as poverty, inequality, and lack of access to education and economic opportunities. Instead, they perpetuate the cycle of poverty and underdevelopment.
Moreover, when youth are excluded from the formulation and implementation of policy, their needs become overlooked or misconstrued. This has consequences ranging from the development of ineffective policy to more serious societal consequences, such as the global epidemic of youth unemployment and its influence on multinational policy and economy, for example, in Europe. Excluding youth from policy-making processes and power structures creates significant tensions in society and can materialize in forms that represent a serious threat to the social fabric, such as crime and violence.

In worst cases, a poor economic and social environment creates conditions where manipulative leaders recruit or force youth without opportunity into armed conflicts nationally and regionally. Engaging youth in international organizations would enable youth without opportunity into armed conflicts nationally and regionally.
education and training, and employment. Youth are considered
impacted by youth the most in terms of their access to health,
and economic and financial crisis have severely
dangerous to the full realization of sustainable development
solutions to these dilemmas which is both unbalanced and
impossible to achieve. Youth is often left out of the
necessary discussions and decision-making processes. This is
both dangerous and unsustainable.

Youth inclusion takes multiple forms, including
economic empowerment, employment, consultative frameworks
and educational empowerment. This is evidenced by studies
conducted by the European Students’ Forum, AEGEE-Europe
and CPPF (2004).

Yet, youth continues to be sidelined in key decision-making
areas. The required minimum age to serve as an elected/
appointed official is restrictive of youth and only purports to
exclude them from decision-making processes. This stems from
both a societal and organizational skepticism of youth’s ability to
understand the various issues that affect their livelihoods and
their ability to formulate effective policies that address these
issues. The disengagement of youth in various decision-making
processes is both unfounded and dangerous to the full realization
of sustainable development.

The prevailing global economic and financial crisis have severely
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At the bottom list of priorities when it comes to job opportunities and the first to be dismissed, thereby exacerbating the increasing youth unemployment rate.

At the political level, national political structures provide a clear route to global institutions, which means that most policy makers on global issues are incumbents or were once political representatives in their home countries.

Furthermore, one has to take into account the influence of access to information technology on global and national politics. The use of modern information technology and the nature of online communications has enabled youth to voice their interests, aspirations, frustrations and other feelings and opinions as well as to transcend the boundaries between them. Governments and other decision-makers have recognized the need to voice their interests and express their opinions through social media.

Facebook’s influence has been well-documented and acknowledged in the 2008 US presidential election, where Facebook was key in the communication strategy for the 2011 Arab Spring uprising in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Syria. President Barack Obama used the platform to communicate with young voters, thereby gaining their support and confidence. Facebook was also key in the communication strategy for the 2011 Arab Spring uprising in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Syria.

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Moreover, the multilateral system, comprising the UN, the international financial institutions (‘IFIs’) and the World Trade Organization (‘WTO’), has become increasingly aware of the importance of the virtual world and has started using ICT to create spaces for youth engagement. A noteworthy example is the way the UN Secretariat directly reached out to youth over the heads of Member States to seek their views on the Sustainable Development Goals (‘SDGs’) under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and for “The World We Want” campaign.

Most media outlets in many countries are controlled by the states, thereby limiting youth’s freedom of expression. According to a study conducted in 2013, Freedom House found that state governments partly control media outlets in Africa and the Middle East, which makes it difficult for youth to conduct activities and/or speak up against their governments.

Moreover, media has an increasing influence on countries, including their economies, politics and cultures—while serving as a powerful outlet for youth to express their opinions. For example, the transnational non-state actors like ISIS and Boko Haram have used the internet and social media to recruit the excluded and frustrated youth to attain their goal of terrorism. Therefore, this lack of accountability poses serious challenges in the international community.

In addition, access to the internet is not distributed equally between and within countries.

Leadership skills in youth:

Leadership skills are crucial for the development and growth of the nation, and it is important to instill these skills in the younger generation. However, there are several factors that hinder youth from developing leadership skills. First, the lack of opportunities for youth to participate fully in decision-making processes within their communities confines their leadership skills. Second, the lack of formal education and training programs that focus on developing leadership skills further limits youth in this regard. Therefore, it is crucial to create avenues for youth to develop their leadership skills and take an active role in shaping their communities.

In Pakistan, a strong ICT strategy was used to boost economic development, which resulted in an increase in internet usage from 0.1% in 2000 to 17.6% in 2011. By contrast, North Korea limits internet access due to the potential political and social ramifications resulting from global accessibility.

Those in powerful positions would naturally want to maintain and consolidate those positions, which means that involving youth in policy-making and decision-making would render an opportunity cost for adult leaders. Given that most state institutions and international organizations do not have adequate capacity building mechanisms, there are relatively few structures at the national and international levels to instill leadership skills in youth.
There is insufficient strong political will and infrastructure to support youth engagement in the political process in most countries. This is especially evident in less developed countries ('LDCs') where many governing classes are family dynasties. For example, in Togo, Faure Gnassingbe is the 6th President while his father is the incumbent President. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, Joseph Kabila is the President who succeeded his father since 2001. These trends seem to be emulated in other developing countries with populations dominated by youth.

In countries like the US, politics are increasingly being privatized, requiring tens of millions if not billions to run. Moreover, economic malpractices such as corruption come in the way of youth's ability to expand beyond their local and domestic zones.

In addition, poverty, insecurity, war, occupation and other forms of social and political unrest make it difficult for youth to have access to basic healthcare and facilities. This problem is further compounded by the existence of fatal diseases and lack of resources to support good mental health. In developing African countries and the second leading cause of death among youth in the world, HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death among youth in Africa and according to the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2014, findings that only 25% of young men and 17% of young women have been tested for HIV. In particular, girls are still afforded less health services and outcomes compared to boys. The number of young women aged 13 to 19 years old living with HIV in Sub-Saharan Africa is estimated to be 1.6 million. These types of diseases are also experienced by youth in other parts of the world.

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the issue of access to land, particularly in the urban context, has not been actively discussed, raising important questions regarding the relationship between youth and land in the city, how youth access land, how do public policies incorporate youth, and whether youth are less concerned about the private proprietary space and more about public space. Improving land governance is important to the realization of various development outcomes and to prevent the marginalization of youth. Youth are still not sufficiently involved in the governance processes, particularly on access to land.

The issue is land is consequently also about a young person’s right to the city. Traditionally, the access to land is linked with the access to land and property costs. Circumstances are not only because of poor land regularization or reasons underpinning access to land are complex and arise from long-standing factors, including access to education, employment, and health. Cultural rights, including land and public access to schools and family life, are also part of the education system. Open spaces for recreation and entertainment, religious practices, and cultural events, are also part of the cultural rights. Economic rights include land for livelihoods, work, and income generation. Social rights include education, health, and housing. Cultural rights include land for community events, religious practices, and cultural events. Economic rights include land for livelihoods, work, and income generation. Social rights include education, health, and housing. Cultural rights include land for community events, religious practices, and cultural events.
There are various sources that form the "International Law of Youth Rights". First, Article 2 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice codifies the classical definition of "international law" as comprising (a) conventions (treaties); (b) international custom; and (c) general principles of law. This means that various sources selected for this compilation of international law are presented in a legal context and are based on jurisprudential methodology in order to provide an interpretation of the de lege lata (i.e., the legal norms that are currently in force).

Second, the concept of "youth rights" does not have a fixed definition given that the concept of the "youth" is perceived as a fluid period of transition from childhood to adulthood. "Youth rights" are not only to be understood as solely the rights of youth but also as the rights of youth within the framework of international human rights law. Hence, the human-rights based approach provides a foundation for the "International Law of Youth Rights".

In addition, sources of the "International Law of Youth Rights" can be found in universal human rights instruments. These instruments are not specifically related to youth.

The UN Charter was signed on 26 June 1945 in San Francisco, California at the conclusion of the UN Conference on International Organizations. It came into force on 24 October 1945 and is the foundational document of the UN. All Member States are bound by the UN Charter. It provides for the maintenance of peace and international security and respects human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. The Charter was adopted and proclaimed by the General Assembly as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote social progress and better standards of living in larger freedom.

The UDHR was adopted and proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10 December 1948 as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote social progress and better standards of living in larger freedom. The UDHR was drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world. It was proclaimed by the General Assembly as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote social progress and better standards of living in larger freedom.

The UDHR provides for the promotion of the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, and for the promotion of the right to education. It also provides for the protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and for the protection of the right to freedom of association and assembly. The UDHR also recognizes the right to participate in the political life of the state, and to enjoy the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration without distinction of any kind, as provided for in Article 2.

The UDHR further stipulates that the General Assembly proclaims the UDHR as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for the rights and freedoms set forth in the UDHR and to promote the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. The UDHR is a universal document that has been adopted by the United Nations and has been incorporated into international law. It has been translated into over 500 languages and is widely respected as a binding document that sets forth the fundamental rights and freedoms that are essential for the dignity, worth, and equal rights of all human beings.
Article 1 provides that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights."

Other rights protected under the UDHR are the following: right to life, liberty and security of person (Article 3), prohibition of slavery or servitude (Article 4), prohibition of torture or cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment (Article 5), right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law (Article 6), right to equality before the law and right to non-discrimination and equal protection of the law (Article 7), right to an effective remedy by competent national tribunals for acts violating fundamental rights granted by the constitution or law (Article 8), prohibition of arbitrary arrest, detention or exile (Article 9), right to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal (Article 10), right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to law in a public trial (Article 11), freedom from arbitrary interference with privacy, family, home or correspondence and from attacks upon honour and reputation and right to protection of the law against such interference or attacks (Article 12), freedom of movement (Article 13), right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution (Article 14), right to a nationality (Article 15), right to marry and found a family along with equal rights to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution (Article 16), right to own property alone and in association with others (Article 17), freedom of thought, conscience and religion (Article 18), freedom of expression and opinion (Article 19), freedom of peaceful assembly and association (Article 20), right to take part in the government of one’s country, directly or through freely chosen representatives and right of equal access to public service in his country (Article 21), right to social security and to realization of economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and free development of his personality (Article 22), right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment (Article 23), right to rest and leisure (Article 24), right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family and right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control (Article 25), right to education (Article 26), right to freely participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits and right to protection of his moral and physical integrity from inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment (Article 26).
right to protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author (Article 27), and right to a social and international order for the realization of the rights and freedoms under the UDHR (Article 28).

Universal human rights instruments

i. Core Human Rights Treaties

The ICCPR is an international treaty that was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 16 December 1966. It came into force on 23 March 1976. It contains an important set of civil and political rights, which State Parties to the ICCPR are under an obligation to respect and promote. The ICCPR is monitored by the UN Human Rights Committee ('CCPR') (a separate body to the UN Human Rights Council ('UNHRC'), which monitors the other five core human rights treaties). The Committee of Experts monitors the implementation of the ICCPR, and issues periodic 'General Comments' (GCs) on various topics. These comments are not legally binding, but provide guidance on how the rights are being implemented.

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The civil and political rights protected under the ICCPR are as follows: right to self-determination (Article 1), right to life (Article 6), prohibition of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment (Article 7), prohibition of slavery, slave-trade, servitude, and forced/compulsory labour (Article 8), right to liberty and security of the person (Article 9), treatment with humanity and respect for the inherent dignity of the human person for those deprived of their liberty (Article 10), prohibition of imprisonment merely on the ground of the inability to fulfill a contractual obligation (Article 11), right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose their habitual residence (Article 12), equality before courts and tribunals (Article 14), right to recognition everywhere before the law (Article 16), prohibition of arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy, family, home or correspondence and unlawful attacks on honour and reputation (Article 17), freedom of thought, conscience and religion (Article 18), right to hold opinions without interference and to freedom of expression (Article 19), right of peaceful assembly (Article 21), and freedom of association (Article 22).

Part II consists of provisions that impose obligations on States Parties to the ICCPR to respect and promote the human rights of their citizens. Article 2 provides that States Parties are under an obligation to respect and ensure the protection of these rights under the ICCPR irrespective of any grounds, “such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.” It further provides that States Parties should take “necessary steps” in accordance with the constitutional processes and the provisions of the ICCPR to adopt laws or other measures as necessary to ensure that States Parties fulfill their obligations under the ICCPR. Article 2 also provides that States Parties have a duty to ensure that the human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the ICCPR and other international human rights instruments are protected. Article 2(3) goes on to provide that individuals have a right to an effective remedy in the event of their rights or freedoms being violated and that their right should be determined by “competent judicial, administrative or legislative authorities, or by any other competent authority provided for by the legal system of the State,” and to develop the possibilities of judicial remedy.

Article 3 imposes a duty on States to “ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all civil and political rights and freedoms without interference and to promote the human rights and fundamental freedoms of men and women to the enjoyment of all civil and political rights and freedoms without interference and to develop the possibilities of judicial remedy of the violation of their rights or freedoms.”
Other rights include the rights to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives (Article 25(a)), to vote and be elected at genuine periodic elections (Article 25(b)), to equal access to public service in their countries (Article 25(c)), to equality before the law, non-discrimination and equal protection before the law (Article 26), and of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities to enjoy their own culture, profess and practice their own religion, or to use their own language (Article 27).

2. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ('ICESCR')

The ICESCR is an international treaty adopted by the UN General Assembly on 16 December 1966. It came into force on 3 January 1976. It obliges States Parties to respect the economic, social, and cultural rights ('ESCR') of all their citizens. It is monitored by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ('CESCR').

Unlike other human rights monitoring bodies, the Committee was not established by the ICESCR. Instead, it was established by the Economic and Social Council following the failure of previous treaty monitoring bodies.

All States Parties are required to submit regular reports to the Committee outlining the legislative, judicial, policy and other measures they have taken to implement the rights affirmed in the ICESCR. The first report is due within two years of ratifying the ICESCR. Thereafter, reports are due every five years subsequently. The Committee examines each report and addresses its concerns and recommendations in concluding observations. These observations are expected to help States Parties improve their implementation of the ICESCR.

The preamble of the ICESCR refers to the UN Charter by recognizing the "inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world." It also refers to the UDHR in recognizing that the "ideal of free human beings enjoying freedom from fear and want can only be achieved if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy, in freedom, access to conditions of economic, social and cultural well-being that will enable him to fully participate in the cultural life of the community of which he is a part.

Other rights include the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives of the community. These include the right to exercise the inherent rights of the human person within the framework of the institutional forms established by the community in accordance with its own particular way of understanding their own political, social, and cultural heritage.
Part II contains provisions that impose obligations on States Parties to the ICESCR. Article 2 obliges States Parties to undertake steps, individually and through international assistance and co-operation, especially economic and technical, to the maximum of its available resources, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the rights in the ICESCR by all appropriate means, including the adoption of legislative measures. States Parties are further obliged to guarantee that the rights in the ICESCR must be exercised without any kind of discrimination. Article 2(3) further provides that developing countries are permitted to determine to what extent they would guarantee economic rights under the ICESCR to non-nationals with "due regard to human rights and their national economy." Article 3 provides that States' Parties must undertake to ensure the gradual realization of the right of men and women to enjoy all ESCR. Article 4 provides that the enjoyment of these rights are subject to limitations that are determined by law only in so far as this may be compatible with the full realization of the rights in the ICESCR by all appropriate means, including the adoption of legislative measures. States Parties must undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to enjoy all ESCR, and the gradual realization of these rights under the ICESCR is non-negotiable with the economic rights under the ICESCR.
(Article 6), right to enjoyment of just and favourable conditions of work, which ensures minimum remuneration for all workers with fair wages and equal remuneration for work of equal value without distinction of any kind and with equal pay for equal work, decent living for themselves and their families in accordance with the ICESCR, safe and healthy working conditions, equal opportunity for promotion in employment (Article 7), right to form trade unions and to join trade unions of one’s choice, subject to the rules of the organization concerned, for the promotion of one’s economic and social interests and right to strike (Article 8), right to social security (Article 9), right to an adequate standard of living for individuals and their families (Article 11(1), right to be free from hunger (Article 11(2)), right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health to be free from disease and injury (Article 12), right to enjoyment of the benefits of scientific progress and its applications and to enjoy the results of any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author (Article 15).

Article 10 contains provisions on the protection of the family, mothers, children and young persons, in particular, Article 10(1) which states: “The widest possible protection and assistance should be afforded to mothers, children and young persons, in particular, in their education, care and protection.” Article 10(2) guarantees the right to an adequate standard of living for individuals and their families, and Article 11(1) provides for the right to education.
under the CRC without discrimination on any grounds. It also
states further that the right to the realization of the
enjoyment of the benefits to which all children are entitled
domestically and internationally under a state’s
Article 1 defines a „child“ as any human being below the age
of 18. Therefore, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child
and the Committee for the Rights of the Child have
been established to monitor the implementation of the
Conventions on the Rights of the Child. The CRC is an international treaty that protects the civil, political,
economic, social, health and cultural rights of children. It came into force on 2 September 1990 after it was adopted by the General
Assembly of the United Nations in 1989. The CRC is
particularly relevant for the present context as it
recognizes the rights of children and seeks to
protect them from exploitation and violence. The CRC
acknowledges the importance of the family as the
fundamental group of society and the natural environment for
the growth and well-being of all its members, particularly
children. It also recognizes the child’s right to
be protected from exploitation and violence, including
child labor and other forms of exploitation. The CRC
also addresses the importance of education for children,
and acknowledges the right of children to
participate in decisions affecting them. It emphasizes the
need for states to take measures to ensure that
children’s rights are respected and protected. The CRC
also addresses the importance of the role of
parents and other caregivers in the development
of children, and recognizes the need for
support and assistance to ensure that children
are able to fully realize their rights. The CRC
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and promotion of children’s rights. It emphasizes the need for
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are protected from exploitation and violence, and
that they are able to fully realize their rights.
obliges States Parties to take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment on the basis of the status, activities, expressed opinions, or beliefs in the child’s parents, legal guardians, or other persons legally responsible for the child. Furthermore, the CRC contains the following sets of rights for the child:

1. Right to life (Article 6).
2. Right to registration for a child (Article 7).
3. Right to acquire nationality (Article 7).
4. Right to know and be cared for by their parents (Article 8).
5. Right to express their views (Article 12).
6. Right to participate in consultation and decision-making in all actions concerning children (Article 12).
7. Right to participate in leisure, cultural, artistic, and sports activities (Article 32).
8. Right to rest and leisure (Article 31).

The realization of ESCR is contingent on the maximum extent of resources available in the States within the framework of international co-operation. Article 4 requires States Parties to undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative, and other measures for the implementation of the rights under the CRC.

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7. Right to participate in leisure, cultural, artistic, and sports activities (Article 32).
8. Right to rest and leisure (Article 31).

The realization of ESCR is contingent on the maximum extent of resources available in the States within the framework of international co-operation. Article 4 requires States Parties to undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative, and other measures for the implementation of the rights under the CRC.
freely in all matters affecting them where their views are given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity (Article 12), freedom of expression (Article 13), freedom of thought, conscience and religion (Article 14), freedom of association and freedom of peaceful assembly (Article 15), prohibition of arbitrary or unlawful interference with his/her privacy, family, or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his or her honour and reputation (Article 16), right to enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health (Article 24), right to a periodic review of the treatment provided to the child and all other circumstances relevant to his/her placement (Article 25), right to benefit from social security, including social insurance (Article 26), right to a standard of living adequate for the child’s physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development (Article 27), right to education (Article 28), right, in community with other members of his or her group, to enjoy his/her own culture, to profess and practise his or her own religion, or to use his/her own language for children belonging to ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities or persons of indigenous origin (Article 30), right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities in line with the child’s age and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts (Article 31), right to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child’s education or to be harmful to the child’s health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development (Article 32), right of a mentally or physically disabled child to enjoy a full and decent life in conditions that ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the child’s active participation in the community (Article 33), prohibition of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, unlawful or arbitrary deprivation of liberty and rights to prompt access to legal and other appropriate assistance, to challenge the legality of the deprivation of liberty before a court or other competent, independent and impartial authority and to a prompt decision on any such action (Article 37), right of children alleged as, accused of, or recognized as having infringed the penal law to be treated in a manner consistent with the promotion of the child’s sense of dignity and worth (Article 40).

Under Article 9, States Parties are obliged to ensure that:

- children have the same rights as children of any other age, including the right to be heard in all matters affecting them where their views are given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity (Article 33), prohibition of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, unlawful or arbitrary deprivation of liberty and rights to prompt access to legal and other appropriate assistance, to challenge the legality of the deprivation of liberty before a court or other competent, independent and impartial authority and to a prompt decision on any such action (Article 37), right of children alleged as, accused of, or recognized as having infringed the penal law to be treated in a manner consistent with the promotion of the child’s sense of dignity and worth (Article 40).

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 20 November 1989 and entered into force on 2 September 1990. It is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history, with 196 parties and 40 non-state parties. The CRC is a comprehensive treaty that sets out the rights of the child and establishes a system of monitoring and reporting to ensure that States Parties fulfill their obligations.

The CRC has 54 articles, covering a wide range of issues, including the rights of the child to survival and development, protection against discrimination and exploitation, and the right to education. It also establishes the right of children to be heard in all matters affecting them, ensuring that their views are given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity.

The CRC is a landmark document that has transformed the landscape of children’s rights. It provides a framework for ensuring that children are treated with dignity and respect, and that their rights are protected and promoted. It has been instrumental in driving positive change in child protection policies and practices around the world.
that such separation is necessary for the "best interests of the child". Article 15 imposes on States to ensure that children have "access to information and material from a diversity of national and international sources, especially those aimed at the promotion of the spiritual, physical and mental health of the child". Article 17 recognizes the importance of mass media. Article 17 commits the States to take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or exploitation or any other form of physical or mental harm. Under Article 17, States must respect the "best interests of the child". Under Article 19, States must take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and economic measures to promote the welfare and development of the child. The basic concern should be the "best interests of the child". The "best interests of the child" is a principle that must guide all actions taken with respect to children.
negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child. Article 20 requires that the State must provide special protection and assistance to children temporarily or permanently deprived from their family environments. Article 21 requires the "best interest of the child" to be the "paramount consideration" when recognizing and/or permitting the system of adoption. Under Article 22, States Parties must take appropriate measures to ensure that a child seeking refugee status or who is a refugee should receive appropriate protection and humanitarian assistance in the enjoyment of applicable rights under the CRC and in other international human rights and humanitarian instruments to which States are Parties. Moreover, under Article 33, States must take all appropriate measures to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances. Article 34 requires States to protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Article 35 requires States to take measures to prevent the abduction/sale of or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form. Article 36 requires States to protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Article 37 requires States to respect and ensure respect for all other international human rights and humanitarian instruments. The preamble of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is monitored by the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The implementation of CEDAW is monitored by the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was established in 1994 to monitor the situation of women worldwide. The Committee is composed of 18 independent experts elected by States Parties to the Convention. The Committee's mandate is to monitor the implementation of CEDAW and to promote its progressive realization. The Committee issues periodic reports on States Parties' compliance with CEDAW. The Committee also examines complaints from individuals alleging violations of CEDAW. The CEDAW is an international treaty that was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979. It is the principal international legal instrument for the protection of human rights of women and girls.

84 [http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/econvention.htm]
85 ibid.
of equality of rights and respect for human dignity, is an obstacle to the participation of women, on equal terms with men, in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their countries, hampers the growth of the prosperity of society and the family and makes more difficult the full development of the potentialities of women in the service of their countries and of humanity. It also states that “the full and complete development of a country, the welfare of the world and the cause of peace require the maximum participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields.”

Article 1 defines “discrimination against women” as “...any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.”

Under Article 2, States Parties are under a duty to take various measures to end discrimination against women in all forms, including incorporating the principle of equality between men and women into their national laws. This includes:

- Taking all appropriate legislative measures to promote the principle of equality between men and women in all their activities in the political, legal and public life of the community and of the family
- Taking all appropriate legislative measures to promote the principle of the equal rights and responsibilities of men and women as parents and the participation of women in the education, training and upbringing of children
- Taking all appropriate legislative measures to promote the principle of equality between men and women in the economic, social and cultural fields
- Taking all appropriate legislative measures to promote the principle of equality between men and women in the field of health

The Convention also requires States Parties to take all appropriate legislative measures to promote the principle of equality between men and women in the field of employment, including the elimination of any discrimination based on sex in the workplace.

In its General Recommendation No. 19, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) stated that “the Convention is a comprehensive instrument that sets out the fundamental human rights and freedoms to which all women are entitled without any discrimination on the basis of sex.”

The Convention also recognizes the importance of women’s participation in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the community and of the family. It states that “women, in their capacity as women, have a right to participate in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the community and of the family.”

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Article 3 requires States Parties to take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women for guaranteeing them equal access to human rights and fundamental freedoms as men. Article 4 provides that the adoption of temporary special measures by States Parties aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women does not amount to discrimination against women. Article 5 requires that States Parties must take appropriate measures to modify social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women to eliminate prejudices and all other practices based on the idea of inferiority or superiority of either sexes or on stereotyped roles of men and women. States Parties must also ensure that family education includes a proper understanding of maternity as a social function and recognition of the common responsibility of men and women in the upbringing and development of their children, given that the interest of children is "the primordial consideration " in all cases. Article 6 requires States Parties to take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women.

CEDAW contains a comprehensive set of rights as follows: right to vote in all elections and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies (Article 7(a)), right to participate in the formulation and implementation of government policy and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government (Article 7(b)), right to participate in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country (Article 7(c)), right to change/retain nationality (Article 9), equal rights in the field of education (Article 10), right to work as an inalienable right of all human beings (Article 11(1)(a)), right to same employment opportunities, including application of same criteria for selection in matters of employment (Article 11(1)(b)), right to free choice of profession and employment, right to promotion, job security and all benefits and conditions of service, and right to receive vocational training and retraining (Article 11(1)(c)), right to equal remuneration and to equality of treatment in respect of work of equal value and in evaluation of the quality of work (Article 11(1)(d)), right to social security, particularly in cases of retirement, unemployment, sickness, invalidity and old age and other incapacity to work (Article 11(1)(e)), right to protection of health and safety in working conditions, including the safeguarding of the function of reproduction (Article 11(1)(f)), right to access health care services, including those related to family planning (Article 12(1)), right to family benefits (Article 13(a)), right to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit (Article 13(b)), right to participation in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life (Article 13(c)), right to equality before the law (Article 15(1)), right to legal capacity and same opportunities to exercise that capacity (Article 15(2)), rights to conclude contracts and administer property (Article 15(2)), right to movement of persons and freedom to choose residence and domicile (Article 15(4)), right to marriage (Article 16(1)(a)), right to freely choose a spouse and to enter into marriage only with their free and full consent (Article 16(1)(b)), rights and responsibilities during marriage and at its dissolution (Article 16(1)(c)), rights and responsibilities as parents, irrespective of their marital status, in matters relating to their children, given that the interest of children is "the primordial consideration " in all cases. Article 6 requires States Parties to take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women.
that their interests should be paramount (Article 16(1)(d)),
rights and responsibilities regarding guardianship, wardship,
trusteeship and adoption of children, or similar institutions where
these concepts exist in national legislation (Article 16(1)(f)),
personal rights as husband and wife, including right to choose
a family name, a profession and occupation (Article 16(1)(g)), and
same rights for both spouses regarding ownership, acquisition,
management, administration, improvement and disposal of
property, whether free of charge or for a valuable consideration
(Article 16(1)(h)).

In the field of education, Article 10 requires States Parties to
take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination on the
grounds of sex. The same applies to non-discrimination on the
grounds of sex in the field of employment. Article 11(2) requires States Parties to
take appropriate measures to prohibit dismissal on the grounds of
pregnancy or maternity leave, and discrimination in dismissals
based on pregnancy or maternity leave.
29. pay or with comparable social benefits without loss of former employment, to encourage provision of necessary supporting social services to enable parents to combine family obligations with work responsibilities and participation in public life and to provide special protection to women during pregnancy in types of work proved to be harmful to them.

5. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination ('CERD')

The CERD is an international convention that commits Member States to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and to the promotion of understanding among all races. It also guarantees basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, and prohibits any form of racial discrimination.

Articles 1-7 of the CERD define and set out the duties of States Parties to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination and to ensure that these rights are enjoyed by all persons, regardless of their race, color, descent, or national or ethnic origin.

Article 5 of the CERD provides the following rights: right to equal treatment before the tribunals and all other organs administering justice, right to security of person and protection by the State against violence or bodily harm, right to participate in elections (both voting and standing) based on universal and equal suffrage, right to equal opportunity in employment, and right to freedom of movement and residence within the border of the State. It also provides for the right to leave any country and to return to one's country, right to nationality, right to marriage and choice of spouse, right to own property alone and in association with others, right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, freedom of opinion and expression, freedom to change one's place of residence, freedom of movement and nationality, right to freedom of association and assembly, and right to education.

89 ibid.
90 ibid.
91 ibid.
expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and association, right to work, right to free choice of employment, right to just and favourable conditions of work, right to protection against unemployment, right to equal pay for equal work, right to just and favourable remuneration, right to form and join trade unions, right to housing, right to public health, medical care, social security and social services, right to education and training, right to equal participation in cultural activities, and right of access to any place or service intended for use by the general public.

6. Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families ('ICRMW')

The ICRMW is an international treaty that governs the protection of migrant workers and families. It entered into force on 1 July 2003. Its implementation and compliance by Member States are monitored by the Committee on Migrant Workers ('CMW'). Under the Preamble, the main objective of the ICRMW is to promote the respect for migrants' human rights. Migrants are not only workers, but they are also human beings. The ICRMW does not create new rights for migrants. Instead, it aims to ensure advancement of law, trade and working conditions, including in cases of temporary work, for migrants and national, guarantee equality of treatment and same working conditions, and protect and promote the respect for migrants’ human rights.

Rights protected by the ICRMW include: right to non-discrimination (Article 7), right to leave any State, including their State of origin (Article 8), right to life (Article 9), prohibition of torture or inhuman, cruel or degrading treatment or punishment (Article 10), prohibition of slavery or servitude (Article 11(1)), prohibition of forced or compulsory labour (Article 11(2)), freedom of thought, conscience and religion (Article 12(1)), right to hold opinions without interference (Article 13(1)), freedom of expression (Article 13(2)), prohibition of arbitrary or unlawful interference with his/her privacy, family, correspondence or other communications, or unlawful attacks on his/her honour and reputation (Article 14), prohibition of arbitrary deprivation of property (Article 15), right to liberty and security of person (Article 16(1)), right to protection by the State against violence, physical injury, threats and intimidation (Article 16(2)), right to be treated with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person and their cultural identity (Article 17(1)), right to equality before courts and tribunals (Article 18(1)), right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty (Article 18(2)), and prohibition of imprisonment merely on the ground of failure to perform an obligation of non-criminal nature (Article 20).

Other human rights treaties

Other human rights treaties that relate to youth include the Convention against Discrimination in Education ('CADE') and the UN Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages.
1. **Convention against Discrimination in Education (CADE)**

The Convention against Discrimination in Education (CADE) was adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on 14 December 1960 in Paris, France. It came into force on 22 May 1962. It is the first convention in the field of the right to education. Thus, it serves the same end as the ICESCR, i.e. the promotion and development of the right to education without discrimination. It was adopted in response to the widespread practice of segregation in education, particularly in the United States. It prohibits any form of discrimination in education, ensuring that all students have access to equal educational opportunities.

2. **Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration for Marriages**

The Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration for Marriages is an international treaty regulating the standards of marriage. It entered into force on 9 December 1964. In conformity with the UN Charter, this Convention has established that men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and found a family. They are equally entitled to marriage, divorce and the right to found a family. This Convention is an important step towards gender equality and the recognition of the rights of all individuals to choose their own partners.

3. **International Labour Standards (ILS)**

The ILS established by the International Labour Organization (ILO) form part of the sources of the "International Law of Youth Rights". In particular, the Minimum Age Convention 1973, the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention 1999 and the Employment Policy Convention are important ILO conventions that relate to youth and form part of the other international human rights instruments. The ILO Committee of Experts is the main body of the ILO that supervises the implementation of these conventions by ratifying Member States on an annual basis. In 2005, the International Labour Conference identified a list of 32 different ILO conventions that are relevant for work and youth. It also identified ILO Recommendations relating to the implementation of these Conventions and in other ways relevant to youth. These ILO Conventions and Recommendations are important sources of international law on youth rights.
admission into employment/work. This Convention replaced previous other ILO Conventions in the area of child labour. It permits countries to specify a minimum age for labour with a minimum of 15 years. A declaration of 14 years is allowed for a specified period of time. Laws may be put in place to allow light work for children aged 13-15 provided that it does not harm their health or school work. The minimum age of 18 years is specified for work, which "is likely to jeopardize the health, safety or morals of young persons". Definitions of the type of work and derogations are only possible after tripartite consultations provided they exist in the country in question.

b. ILO Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999

The ILO Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 is one of the 8 fundamental ILO conventions. It obliges countries to commit themselves to take immediate action to prohibit and eliminate the worst forms of child labour. It came into force on 19 November 2000. The ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) is responsible for assisting countries in monitoring the Convention. One of the methods that IPEC uses is the Time-Bound Programme (TBP) approach for the eradication of the worst forms of child labour. The TBP aims to combat and eliminate the worst forms of child labour by promoting all policies and reforms that contribute to the eradication of the worst forms of child labour. Under the ILO Convention No. 182 concerning the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, the ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) is responsible for assisting countries in monitoring the Convention. One of the methods that IPEC uses is the Time-Bound Programme (TBP) approach for the eradication of the worst forms of child labour. The TBP aims to combat and eliminate the worst forms of child labour by promoting all policies and reforms that contribute to the eradication of the worst forms of child labour.

c. ILO Convention No. 122 concerning Employment Policy, 1964

Under the ILO Convention No. 122 concerning Employment Policy, 1964, the ratifying States must pursue an active policy to promote full, productive and freely chosen employment. It remains the primary mechanism for guiding the ILO's approach to policy coordination and cooperation at the national level. It is supplemented by the ILO Employment Policy Recommendation, 1964 (No. 122) and the Employment Policy (Supplementary Provisions) Recommendation, 1984 (No. 169), which provide the policy approaches to support the Member States' efforts to design and implement effective employment policies and to achieve the objectives of the ILO's Employment Programme. The Convention and Recommendation provide an instrument for guiding the ILO's activities in the field of employment policy, and they are intended to be used by Member States in the formulation and implementation of their employment policies.
The regional charters specific to youth are the Ibero-American Convention on the Rights of Youth ('ICRY') and the African Youth Charter ('AYC').

**Convention on the Rights of Youth ('ICRY')**

In 2005, Member States of the Ibero-American Youth Organization ('IYO') adopted and signed the Convention on the Rights of Youth ('ICRY') (also known as the 'Ibero-American Charter').

The ICRY came into force in 2008. So far, it has been ratified by Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Spain and Uruguay. However, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal and Venezuela have signed it even though they have not ratified it. The ICRY explicitly acknowledges the World Programme of Action of Youth ('WPAY'), the BYAP and the LDYPP as important amendments.

In its Preamble, the ICRY justifies its existence on the need to undertake to develop policies and propose programmes that encourage and promote the participation of youth in discussions leading to development plans and their integration in the implementation of corresponding national, regional and local actions.

Moreover, the ICRY is divided into the following sections:

- Preliminary chapter; general regulations; civil and political rights; economic, social and cultural rights; and mechanisms for promotion.

Chapter I regarding General Regulations contains Articles 4-8 providing for the rights to peace, non-discrimination and gender equality, prominence of the family, and human rights. Chapter II on civil and political rights contain Articles 9-21 providing for the rights to life, personal integrity, protection against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and freedom of expression.

In order to realize the potential of youth as human rights subjects, the ICRY states that they should be considered priority subjects in initiatives undertaken to realize their rights. To that effect, States Parties have the responsibility to adopt the appropriate measures to guarantee the participation of youth in the discussions leading to development plans and their integration in the implementation of the corresponding national, regional and local actions.
sexual abuse, conscientious objection, justice, individual identity and personality, honour, intimacy and personal image, liberty and security of person, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, freedom of expression, assembly and association, rights to form part of a family and to found a family, and youth participation. Chapter III on economic, social and cultural rights contain Articles 22-34 that protect the rights to education, sexual education, culture and art, health, work, conditions of work, social protection, vocational training, housing, healthy environment, leisure and recreation, sport, and development.

Chapter IV on mechanisms for protection concerns youth national organizations and regional monitoring of the ICRY. In addition, the ICRY has created the Ibero-American Tracking System, which is an accountability mechanism through which States parties have to present biannual reports on their compliance with the obligations acquired under the ICRY. The Secretariat of the IYO subsequently analyzes these reports and establishes a dialogue with States parties to further their compliance with the ICRY.

2. African Youth Charter ('AYC')

In 2006, Member States of the African Union ('AU') adopted the African Youth Charter ('AYC'), which constitutes a legally binding framework for African governments to develop youth policies. It seeks to provide a platform for youth to assert their rights and responsibilities towards the development of the African continent. It acknowledges the international instruments and addresses the same issues and rights. Moreover, it distinctly specifies obligations of youth towards their families, their societies, the state and the international community. The duties and responsibilities of youth include the right to education, health, employment, and political participation.

![Image]
d. Soft-law instruments

1. Braga Declaration on Youth (‘BDY’)

In 1998, the Braga Youth Action Plan (also known as the Braga Declaration on Youth (‘BDY’)) was issued as the outcome document of the third World Youth Forum in Portugal, which focused on youth participation, youth policies and youth rights. This development emerged at a time when youth, as an age cohort, felt that they were fluid and indeterminate and not sufficiently protected by human rights legal instruments. Moreover, as a result of the meeting at the World Youth Forum, the idea for an AYC was endorsed.

In particular, at the opening of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, the former UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, stated the following: “No one is born a good citizen; no nation is born a democracy. Rather, both are processes that continue to evolve over a lifetime. Youth must be included from birth. A society that cuts itself off from its youth is cutting itself off from its lifeline; it is condemned to bleed to death.”

The BYAP was designed to empower youth to participate in human development. It recognizes youth “not only as future leaders, but as actors of society today, with a direct stake in the development process” and as “both creators and beneficiaries of development.” In order to attain an effective realization and promotion of the human rights of youth, the BYAP contains a list of thirty policy recommendations. These policy recommendations concern areas, including the formulation and implementation of integrated cross-sectorial youth policies, the enhancement of cooperation of youth-led organizations at the national level, the role of youth in poverty eradication and development, the strengthening of youth participation, the relationship between youth-led organizations and the UN, and the provision of education, employment and health services. Furthermore, it contains a section dedicated to the issue of the role of youth in the promotion of human rights although it does not relate to youth-specific human rights.

Although the BYAP and the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes (‘LDYPP’) were not implemented, they sowed the seeds for what later became the revision of the World Programme of Action on Youth (‘WPAY’) in 2000. It contributed to the creation of the BYAP and the LDYPP, the AYC and the establishment of the UN Commission for Youth. The BDY was significant efforts that contributed to establishing a normative framework for human rights of youth in Africa, Europe and Ibero-America.
2. World Programme of Action on Youth

The United Nations adopted the World Programme of Action on Youth in 1995, to more effectively address the problems of youth and to increase opportunities for their participation in national, regional, and international policies in promoting and protecting the rights of youth and youth organizations. The WPAY aims to increase opportunities for the full and effective participation of youth in national, regional, and international levels in promoting and protecting the rights of youth and youth organizations. The WPAY provides a policy framework and practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of youth. Under the WPAY, key priority areas include education, employment, health, food security, and environment. The WPAY emphasizes the importance of youth participation in decision-making and decision-making processes, including in the formulation of policies and programs affecting youth. The WPAY also promotes the rights of girls and young women, and places a special emphasis on the role of youth in promoting and implementing the WPAY's principles and commitments.
The global normative framework has been seeking to address, through appropriate channels, the critical role of youth in the formulation of national policies and programs. The United Nations (UN) has acknowledged the importance of youth participation in the implementation of international development goals.

UN Resolutions & Millennium Development Goals

The UN General Assembly has declared the year starting on 12 August 2010 to be the second International Year of Youth. This resolution encourages Member States to "further develop and improve the existing international framework on youth..." in order to fully address all current challenges affecting youth. The resolution acknowledges the need for further efforts to promote the interests of youth, including the full enjoyment of their human rights, and calls for increased participation of youth and youth-led organizations in the formulation of local, national, and international development strategies and policies.

In a report concerning the implementation of Resolution 64/134, the UN Secretary-General recognized the second IYY as a success in highlighting the youth's role in achieving the development agenda of the Millennium Development Goals. In his recommendations, the UN Secretary-General suggested that Member States should consider the possibility of undertaking "measures in partnership with relevant stakeholders to develop a youth-centered global development agenda." On this basis, the Secretary-General issued his agenda for his second term in office, which included his commitment to "address the needs of the largest generation of youth the world has ever known by deepening youth focus of existing programmes of employment, entrepreneurship, political inclusion, citizenship and protection of rights, and education, including on reproductive health." In order to do this, he proposed the development and implementation of an action plan, the creation of a youth volunteer programme under UN Volunteers, and the appointment of a new Special Adviser on Youth.

His commitment was reinforced and reiterated in other occasions, including at the forty-fifth session of the Commission on Population and Development, where he stated: "Youth are more than a demographic force; they are a force for progress."
Moreover, other UN bodies have made vital contributions. For example, in its Resolution, the Commission of Population and Development urged governments and Member States to protect "the human rights of adolescents and youth to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexual, reproductive, and procreation health"; to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, especially youth; and to "promote and protect effectively the human rights of adolescents and youth living under foreign occupation." 133

Youth-21 Initiative

UN-Habitat is another UN body that has made significant contributions in this area. Through its Youth-21 Initiative, it has focused on how to enable the realization of youth rights within the UN system by specifically providing them a "seat at the table" and a voice in decision-making. The report, Youth 21: Building an Architecture for Youth Engagement in the UN System, illustrated two ways of engaging youth, which were the appointment by the UN Secretary-General of a Special Envoy position in early 2013 and the creation of a Permanent Forum on Youth. In addition, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues provided a platform for indigenous youth to discuss their concerns. Member States such as Norway strongly supported these developments.

134 Norwegian White Paper on UN policies, September 2012
UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon appointed the first ever Envoy on Youth to the Secretary General Mr. Ahmad Alhindawi in January of 2013.

5. Brundtland Commission Report

In 1987, the Brundtland Commission Report (also known as Our Common Future), signaled to the world the urgency and importance of making progress towards sustainable economic development without depleting natural resources that would harm the environment. This report was published by an international group of politicians, civil servants and experts on the environment and development. It defined sustainable development as: "[Development that] meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." It focused on needs and interests of humans and securing a global equity for future generations by redistributing resources towards poorer nations to encourage their economic growth.

It also envisioned that each country is capable of reaching its full economic potential and enhancing its resource base. However, it acknowledged that in order to achieve equity and sustainable growth, technological and social change would be needed. The environment, the economy, and society were highlighted as three fundamental intersecting dimensions of sustainable development.

In particular, Agenda 21 is an international plan of action to meet the goals and objectives of the Brundtland Commission Report. Agenda 21 was adopted by 172 governments at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 (UNCED). In particular, Chapter 25 of Agenda 21 is titled "Children and Youth in Sustainable Development." Paragraph 25.1 states the following: "Youth comprise nearly 30 per cent of the world's population, and they are essential to sustainable development. They are the future stewards of our Earth and our natural resources."
The involvement of today's youth in environment and development decision-making and in the implementation of programmes is critical to the long-term success of Agenda 21.

Part A of Chapter 25 is dedicated to advancing the role of youth and actively involving them in the protection of the environment and the promotion of economic and social development. This part provides the following in terms of basis for action and objectives:

**Basis for action**

25.2 It is imperative that youth from all parts of the world participate actively in all relevant levels of decision-making processes because it affects their lives today and has implications for their futures. In addition to their intellectual contribution and their ability to mobilize support, they bring unique perspectives that need to be taken into account.

25.3 Numerous actions and recommendations have been proposed to ensure that youth are provided a secure and healthy future, including in environmental policy, improved standards, and the protection of human rights, and should be taken into account in decision-making processes.

Objectives

25.4 Each country should consult with its youth communities to establish a process to promote dialogue between youth and government at all levels and to establish mechanisms that permit youth access to information and provide them with the opportunity to present their perspectives on government decisions, including the implementation of Agenda 21.

25.5 Each country, by the year 2000, should ensure that more than 50 per cent of its youth, gender balanced, are enrolled in or have access to appropriate secondary education or equivalent educational or vocational training programmes by increasing participation and access rates on an annual basis.

25.6 Each country should undertake initiatives aimed at reducing current levels of youth unemployment, particularly where they are disproportionately high in comparison to the overall unemployment rate.

25.7 Each country should support the promotion and creation of mechanisms to involve youth in the formulation of youth policy, and should seek to involve youth in all levels of decision-making processes in which they are disproportionately affected.

25.8 Each country should undertake initiatives aimed at involving youth in the formulation of policies and programmes that affect them, including in the environment and social development.

25.9 Each country should promote the involvement of youth in government decision-making processes in order to present their perspectives on government decisions.

25.10 Each country should promote the involvement of youth in the environment and social development by involving them in the protection of the environment, the promotion of economic and social development, and the promotion of human rights.

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25.13 Each country should promote the involvement of youth in the environment and social development by involving them in the protection of the environment, the promotion of economic and social development, and the promotion of human rights.
The outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (‘Rio+20’) held in Rio de Janeiro on 20-22 June 2012, The Future We Want, sets out a mandate to establish an Open Working Group to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (‘SDGs’) for consideration and appropriate action by the General Assembly at its 68th session. It provided the mandate that the SDGs should be coherent with and integrated into the UN Development Agenda beyond 2015. Poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the main objectives of and are essential for sustainable development. Individual people are integral to the efforts in sustainable development.

In this regard, Rio+20 implied that change begins by acknowledging the importance of youth engagement and participation in decision-making processes and that their “contribution [...] is vital to the achievement of sustainable development.”

Thus, Agenda 21 of the Rio+20 signaled the start of the journey involving youth in working towards attaining sustainable development. Its objectives for countries included the following:

- Establishing a process to promote dialogue between youth community and Government at all levels
- Establishing mechanisms that permit youth access to information and providing them with the opportunity to present their perspectives on government decisions
- Ensuring that more than 50% of its gender balanced youth are enrolled in or have access to appropriate secondary education or equivalent educational or vocational training programmes
- Undertaking initiatives aimed at reducing current levels of youth unemployment, particularly where they are disproportionately high in comparison to the overall unemployment rate
- Support the promotion and creation of mechanisms to involve youth representation in all UN processes in order to influence those processes
- Combating human rights abuses against youth, particularly young women and girls
- Providing all youth with legal protection, skills, opportunities and the support necessary for them to fulfill their personal, economic and social aspirations and potentials

8. Sustainable Development under the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development

The Sustainable Development Goals (‘SDGs’) under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development officially came into force on 1 January 2016 after world leaders adopted in September 2015 at a historical UN summit. The 2030 Agenda is the first universal development agenda. It calls for action by all countries to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. It is a historic agenda for people, planet, peace, prosperity and partnership.

The international community vowed to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities, protect and promote human rights, and ensure the full and free participation of all women and girls. Providing all youth with legal protection, skills, opportunities and the support necessary for them to fulfill their personal, economic and social aspirations and potentials is essential for sustainable development. Individual people are integral to the efforts in sustainable development.

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that would "leave no one behind" and "reach the farthest first". It pledged to provide the means for implementation of the Agenda through a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development based on a spirit of solidarity, focused on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, peoples and stakeholders. Paragraph 11 reaffirms the outcomes of the previous UN conferences and summits that have formed the basis for sustainable development, including the Declaration on the Right to Development, the World Summit Outcome and informed by other instruments such as the rights treaties, the Millennium Declaration, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome. The 2030 Agenda is guided by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, including full respect for international law. It is based on the UDHR, international human rights treaties, the Millennium Declaration, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome. The 2030 Agenda is guided by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, including full respect for international law. It is based on the UDHR, international human rights treaties, the Millenium Declaration, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome.
Specific references to youth have been made in the section, "Our World Today". In particular, paragraph 14 states: "Unemployment, particularly youth unemployment, is a major concern."

Under the "New Agenda" section, Member States undertake to "implement the Agenda for the full benefit for all – for today's generation and for future generations" while vowing to implement the Agenda consistent with rights and obligations of Member States under international law. Paragraph 20 affirms the commitment to ending all forms of discrimination and violence against women, to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment for all women and girls, and engaging men and boys in the project. In paragraph 23, they affirm that people who are vulnerable must be empowered and those whose needs are reflected in the Agenda include all children and youth, disabled people, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced people and address the special needs of people living in areas of complex humanitarian emergencies and those affected by terrorism.

Paragraph 25 commits to providing inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels and that all peoples irrespective of sex, age, race and ethnicities and persons with disabilities, migrants, indigenous peoples, children and youth, especially those in vulnerable situations, must have access to lifelong learning opportunities to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities and participate fully in society. It further goes on to commit to "provide our children and youth with a nurturing environment for the full realization of their rights and capabilities, helping our countries to reap the demographic dividend including through safe schools, cohesive communities and families.

Paragraph 27 commits to building sustainable, strong, people-centered economies promoting youth employment and women's economic empowerment, in particular decent work for all. Paragraph 37 states that sport is an important enabler and contributor to sustainable development, peace, tolerance and respect and "the contribution it makes to the empowerment of women, and girls, disabled people, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons, migrants, and children and youth, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives."
establish, follow-up and review national frameworks and mechanisms for the achievement of the SDGs and hold themselves accountable to the people. The 2030 Agenda contains 17 SDGs and 169 targets that accompany the SDGs. These SDGs and accompanying targets are applicable to all, people-centered, and to be applied in an integrated manner. They are action-oriented, global and universally applicable. They take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respect national priorities and policies. Apart from building upon the foundation set by the MDGs, they seek to respond to new challenges. These SDGs amount to an integrated and indivisible set of global priorities for sustainable development. The goals and targets integrate economic, social and environmental aspects and recognize their inter-linkages in achieving sustainable development in all its dimensions.

The 17 SDGs are the following: (i) ending poverty in all its forms everywhere, (ii) ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture, (iii) ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages, (iv) ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all, (v) achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, (vi) ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, (vii) ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, (viii) promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, (ix) building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation, (x) making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, (xi) ensuring availability and sustainable management of all resources and sustainably managing forests, (xii) combating desertification, and halting and reversing land degradation and halting biodiversity loss, (xiii) promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and (xiv) strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

In addition, these SDGs are accompanied by targets that are relevant and applicable to youth. For the first goal of ending poverty in all its forms everywhere, the following targets apply to all, including youth:

1.1 by 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people
1.2 by 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men and women living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
1.3 by 2030, ensure that all people, including people living in poverty, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, including the right to own and/or inherit property.

In addition, these 2030 Agenda targets are designed to build upon the foundation set by the MDGs, and to respond to new challenges.

The goals and targets integrates economic, social and environmental aspects and recognize their inter-linkages in achieving sustainable development in all its dimensions.
ownership, and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology, and financial services including microfinance.

Under the second goal, i.e. ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture, the following targets are apposite to youth:

"2.1 by 2030 end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

1.5 by 2030 build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations, and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

Under the third goal, i.e. ensuring access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round, the following targets are apposite to young people in particular:

Under the second goal, i.e. ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable food security and control over land and other forms of ownership.
1.2 By 2030 double the agricultural productivity and the incomes of small-scale food producers, particularly women, including through secure and equal access to productive resources and inputs, knowledge, and other productive assets and equal access to financial services, markets, and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.

2.2 By 2030 end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under five years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons.

2.3 By 2030 double the agricultural productivity and the incomes of small-scale food producers, particularly women, including through secure and equal access to productive resources and inputs, knowledge, and other productive assets and equal access to financial services, markets, and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.

3.6 By 2020 halve global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.

3.7 By 2030 ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning.

The third goal, i.e. ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages, also contains targets that apply to youth, given that it concerns health related issues and maternal mortality rates and that a significant portion of youth face challenges related to access to health care, drug use, sexual and reproductive health, and other forms of anti-social behaviour. The relevant targets are:

3.1 By 2030 reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.

3.2 By 2030 end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases.

3.3 By 2030 reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through prevention and treatment.

3.4 By 2030 reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases and other non-communicable diseases.

3.5 Strengthen prevention and treatment of substance abuse, and promote mental health and well-being.

3.6 By 2020 halve global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.

3.7 By 2030 ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and policies.

3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including full and effective coverage of all individuals and families for preventive, curative, and emergency health services.
services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable
essential medicines and vaccines for all.

3.9 by 2030 substantially reduce the number of deaths and
illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil
pollution and contamination.

3.a strengthen implementation of the Framework Convention
on Tobacco Control in all countries as appropriate.

3.b support research and development of vaccines and medicines
for the communicable and non-communicable diseases
that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to
affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance
with the Doha Declaration which affirms the right of
developing countries to use to the full the provisions in
TRIPS agreement regarding flexibilities to protect public
health and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all.

3.c increase substantially health financing and the recruitment,
development and training and retention of the health
workforce in developing countries, especially in LDCs
and SIDS...

Goal 4 - i.e. ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education
and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all - contains targets
that are not only applicable to youth but also refer to youth
explicitly. These targets are significant, given that education
plays a crucial role in the future of youth. The relevant
targets are the following:

“4.1 by 2030, ensure that
all girls and boys
complete primary and
secondary education.

4.2 by 2030 ensure that
all girls and boys
have access to
quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary
education so that they are ready for primary education.

4.3 by 2030 ensure equal access
for all women and men
to affordable quality, technical, vocational and tertiary
education, including university.

4.4 by 2030 increase by x% the number of
youth and adults, both men and women, with relevant and
effective skills for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

4.5 by 2030 eliminate gender disparities
in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and
vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons
with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in
vulnerable situations.

4.6 by 2030 ensure that
all youth
and at least x% of adults,
both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.

4.7 by 2030 ensure
all learners
acquire knowledge and skills
to promote sustainable development, including through
education for sustainable development and sustainable
lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global
citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of
cultures’ contribution to sustainable development.

4.a build and upgrade education facilities that are child,
disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-
violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.

4.b by 2020 expand by x% globally the number of
scholarships for developing countries in particular LDCs, SIDS and
African countries to enrol in higher education, including
vocational training, ICT, technical, engineering and scientific
education and training.

3.3 Strive to increase the proportion of youth
and young adults aged 15-24 who are not in school,
employment or training (out of school); and support
vocational education and training programs.

3.4 Strengthen implementation of the Framework Convention
on Tobacco Control.

3.5 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and
illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil
pollution and contamination.

3.6 By 2030 substantially reduce the number of deaths and
illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil
pollution and contamination.
programmes in developed countries and other developing countries.

The fifth goal - i.e. achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls - also contains targets that are apposite to youth, given that young women and girls face discrimination, violence and other forms of injustice. The relevant targets are:

5.1 end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

5.2 eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

5.3 eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations.

5.4 recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies, and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.

5.5 ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life.

5.6 ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources in accordance with national laws.

5.7 increase the use of enabling technologies in particular and enable women and girls to promote women’s empowerment.

6.1 by 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

6.2 by 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls.

6.3 by 2030, improve water hygiene by reducing pollution.

The sixth goal - i.e. ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all - contains the following targets relevant to youth:

6.b support and strengthen the participation of local communities for improving water and sanitation management.

The fifth goal - i.e. achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls - also contains targets that are apposite to youth, given that young women and girls face discrimination, violence and other forms of injustice. The relevant targets are:

5.1 end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

5.2 eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

5.3 eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations.

5.4 recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies, and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.

5.5 ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life.

5.6 ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources in accordance with national laws.

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6.3 by 2030, improve water hygiene by reducing pollution.

The sixth goal - i.e. ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all - contains the following targets relevant to youth:

6.b support and strengthen the participation of local communities for improving water and sanitation management.
The targets of the seventh goal - i.e. ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all - applies to all - countries. The targets for youth and persons with disabilities include the following:

- Goal 8 - i.e. promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for youth and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

- Goal 8.5 by 2030 achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for youth and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

- Goal 8.6 by 2030 achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for youth and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

- Goal 8.7 by 2030 ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy services for all.
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8.8 protect labor rights and promote safe and secure working environments of all workers, including migrant workers, particularly women migrants, and those in precarious employment.

The tenth goal - i.e. reducing inequality within and among countries - contains targets that apply to youth among various groups as follows:

10.1 by 2020 empower and protect the vulnerable.

10.2 by 2030 empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnic origin, religion, economic or other status.

155 ibid.

Jobs Pact

For youth employment and implement the ILO Global Jobs Pact.

8. b) by 2020 develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the ILO Global Jobs Pact.
10.7 facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies...

Goal 11 - i.e. making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable - contains applicable targets for youth as follows:

"11.1 significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere... 11.3 promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and ensure equal access to justice for all. These include the following:

11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and upgrade slums.

11.4 strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage.

11.5 By 2030 significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of affected people and decrease by y% the economic losses relative to GDP caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with the focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

11.7 by 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities..."
In this section, youth law and legislative framework will be examined in various countries. The regions covered in this section are as follows: Americas, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia, Middle East, Africa and Oceania.

1. North America

1.1. Mexico

In 2013, according to the Commonwealth Youth Programme, multiple projects and measures were conducted to improve youth conditions. In Mexico, young people and adolescents are the main focus of government and society. The Mexican Institute of Youth (IMJUVE) is the main federal governmental agency responsible for youth, established by the Law of the Mexican Institute of Youth (2006). Its main responsibilities include defining and implementing youth policy, proposing special programmes to the Federal Executive concerning indigenous youth, and promoting coordination between different departments and agencies in the area of youth. The law also mandates a Monitoring Board for Projects and Programmes, composed of ten Mexican youth, who will monitor projects and make recommendations.

In 2013, according to the Commonwealth Youth Programme, Mexico's rank is 30 out of 170 countries in the Youth Development Index. In 2015, youth literacy rates of both sexes (15-24) is 99.04%. The young male literacy rate is 98.87% and the young female literacy rate is 99.21%. In 2012, the net enrolment of youth in secondary school is 67.88%, where the net enrolment rate of the male youth is 66.42% and of the female youth is 69.38%. In 2013, it was found that the prevalence of HIV was estimated at 0.1%. The age of heterosexual marriage for young men and women is 18 without parental consent, by contrast, for marriages of consensual union, the age of the man is 16 without parental consent. By contrast, for marriages of consensual union, the age of the woman is 14 without parental consent. According to research, the annual growth rate of the population in Mexico is 0.67%. In 2012, the net enrolment of youth in secondary school is 99.21% and the young female literacy rate is 98.87%. The young male literacy rate is 99.04%. In 2015, youth literacy rates of both sexes (15-24) is 99.04%, the young male literacy rate is 99.04% and the young female literacy rate is 99.04%.
The age of candidacy is 21 in the Lower House and 25 in the Upper House. The minimum age of criminal responsibility is 11. The majority age is 18. The voting age is 18.

According to the National Youth Programme 2014-2018, youth are defined as those between the ages of 12 and 29 years under the Law of the Mexican Institute of Youth (2006). In April 2014, Mexico’s National Youth Programme 2014-2018 was released after a comprehensive consultation through public forums, an online survey, mobile consultation units, a video submission contest, roundtable discussions with stakeholders and online discussion boards. The programme identifies four main objectives: i.e. prosperity (education, employment & housing), welfare (physical, emotional and social development), participation and inclusion. The programme includes several success indicators, containing both a baseline measurement from 2013 and a goal for 2018. The Mexican Institute of Youth (2006) also mandates a Monitoring Board for Projects and Programmes, comprised of ten youth selected by IMJUVE involved in monitoring and providing feedback. The programme’s budget for 2013 was MXN 340.8 million (USD 25.5 million).

According to the World Bank, Mexico spent 21.59% of its government expenditure on education provision in 2007, and 5.28% of its GDP in 2010. However, according to the survey on domestic violence (INEGI), 1.7% of the female population and 1.5% of the male population were victims of violence in the past year. Mexico has no national and/or regional youth councils and no apparent permanent structures for youth involvement in decision-making. However, youth participation was emphasized in the consultation processes in the development of the National Youth Programme 2014-2018. According to the National Youth Programme 2008-2012, 2.2% of the Mexican population is aged 10-14, and 24% is aged 15-24. According to the Law of the Mexican Institute of Youth (2006), the Mexican Institute of Youth (IMJUVE) is the main federal governmental agency responsible for youth. Its main responsibilities include defining and implementing youth policy, proposing special programmes to the Federal Executive, coordinating underfunded youth and providing coordination and resources to indigenous youth. The Law of the Mexican Institute of Youth (2006) also mandates a Monitoring Board for Projects and Programmes, composed of ten Mexican youth, who will monitor projects and make recommendations.

According to the National Youth Programme 2014-2018, 2.2% of the Mexican population is aged 10-14, and 24% is aged 15-24. According to the National Youth Programme 2008-2012, although there are no accurate estimates concerning the needs of the youth in the area of justice, the issues that youth face the most are drugs and alcohol (70.9%), family relationships and family (1.7%), and violence (1.5%). The likelihood of being a victim of crime is greater between 20 and 29 years old. 6% of youth in the age of Justice face the issue of justice. The Mexican Institute of Youth (2006) is the main governmental agency responsible for youth. It was established under the Law of the Mexican Institute of Youth (2006).
Moreover, youth participation rates in the political arena is attributed to disinterest. For example, in 2005, according to the National Youth Survey (ENJ 2005), less than 2% of youth between 12 and 29 participated in any political organization. However, this discourse limits its participation to political parties. Instead, decreasing interest in elections and solidarity action reflects youth overlooking politics and their ignorance of their rights and the resources at their disposal to influence the policy and political process. Decreasing levels of participation in political parties and their influence on political decisions and policy outcomes are also noted. Decreasing rates of participation in political parties are also highlighted.

The overall unemployment rate in 2013 was 7.2% among female youth. The rate of prevalence of HIV is 0.6% for both male and female youth.

According to the Belize National Youth Development Policy, youth are defined as an individual between the ages of 15 and 29 years old, "who has passed through the dependent stage of childhood and transitioning from adolescence to adult maturity." The minimum age for marriages that do not require parental consent is 18 for both young men and women. However, in order to get parental consent, the minimum age for marriage under 18 is dependent on the marital status of the parents. Legal age in Belize the minimum age for marriage is 18 for both young men and women. 9 is the minimum age for criminal responsibility. Between the ages of 9 and 12, the State must provide criminal liberty of the accused in that age range. Belize is a member of the Pan-Commonwealth Youth for the Future initiative. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport is the national agency responsible for youth. Within the Ministry, the Department of Youth Services lists three core units that are aligned with the Pan-Commonwealth Youth for the Future initiative: Governance (aims to increase youth participation and leadership capacity), Enterprise (supports youth entrepreneurship and productivity), and Sexual Reproductive Health (promotes positive choices in sexual behavior).

The overall unemployment rate in 2013 was around 15% and the unemployment rate for female youth was higher than for male youth (42% vs. 22%).
In June 2012, Youth-IN reported that the Department of Youth Services held a meeting of student council representatives nationwide to begin the development of a National Youth Council of Belize. In February 2013, as reported by Plus TV, Minister of State for Youth and Sports Herman Longsworth reiterated that a youth council "will be formed" and would be responsible for holding the government accountable on youth issues. However, there has been no indication so far that a youth council has been created.

In Costa Rica, the General Law on Young Persons (2002) defines youth as those aged between 12 and 35. The minimum age of marriage is 18 for both young men and women if they wish to marry without parental consent. For marriages requiring parental consent, the minimum age is 15 for both young men and women. 12 is the minimum age of criminal responsibility in Costa Rica. 18 is the majority age and the minimum age for compulsory voting.

Costa Rica ranks 0.74 (i.e. 29 out of 170 countries) in the Youth Development Index. Its overall literacy rate of youth is 99.32%. The net enrolment rate for secondary school is 72.91%. The prevalence of HIV has been estimated at 0.1%. The overall unemployment rate for secondary school is 7.29%. The female youth unemployment rate (i.e. 25%) is lower than the male youth unemployment rate (i.e. 15%).

Youth issues, however, remain an important concern for the government's own policies on education, health, and social security. The National Youth Policy (2010) aims to make young people feel valued and respected in public life and to improve their overall conditions. The principles of Costa Rica's youth policies are embedded in the Constitution, which guarantees the rights of all persons to be treated with respect and dignity.

The principles of Costa Rica's youth policies are also reflected in the National Council of Young Persons, which is involved in the implementation of youth policies and programs. The council's main public institution is the Ministry of Culture and Youth, which oversees youth policies and programming. The deputy minister of youth coordinates the national system of youth, which comprises a network of organizations and institutions. The council is a representative body of youth organizations and institutions. The principles of Costa Rica's youth policies are also reflected in the National Council of Young Persons, which is involved in the implementation of youth policies and programs.

In Costa Rica, 18 is the majority age and the minimum age for female women and men. The minimum age of criminal responsibility is 15 for both females and males. The minimum age for compulsory voting is 18 for both males and females. The minimum age for secondary school is 72.91%. The prevalence of HIV has been estimated at 0.1%. The overall unemployment rate for secondary school is 7.29%. The female youth unemployment rate (i.e. 25%) is lower than the male youth unemployment rate (i.e. 15%).

Costa Rica has a National Council of Young Persons, which is a representative body of youth organizations and institutions. The council is involved in the implementation of youth policies and programs. The council's main public institution is the Ministry of Culture and Youth, which oversees youth policies and programming. The council is a representative body of youth organizations and institutions. The principles of Costa Rica's youth policies are also reflected in the National Council of Young Persons, which is involved in the implementation of youth policies and programs.
provides statistics on education, work, family life, health and perceptions of rights among youth.

3. El Salvador

In El Salvador, the national youth policy defines youth as those between 15-24 years. However, this definition of youth is currently targeted at "the entire population that currently is under 30 years of age." The minimum age of marriage without parental consent is 18 for both the young male and female population. But, in order to require consent for marriage, the minimum age would be 15 for the male youth and 14 for the female youth. There is no legislation concerning same-sex marriages. The minimum age of candidacy in the Lower House is 25. However, no data exists on the minimum candidacy age in the Upper House. The minimum age of criminal responsibility is 12 in El Salvador. 18 is the majority age and the minimum age for voting.

According to the youth Development Index, El Salvador ranks 0.68 (i.e. 69 out of 170 countries) in 2013. The literacy rate overall is 97.53%. The net enrolment rate for secondary school is 61.60%. The prevalence of HIV is 0.2% for the male youth and 0.3% for the female youth. The overall youth unemployment rate in 2013 for the male youth was 6.1%. The unemployment rate for the female youth was 6.0%. The overall youth unemployment rate in El Salvador is 6.09. The net enrolment rate for secondary school is 61.60. The

The national youth policy (2011-2024) offers long-term, medium-term and short-term goals. It details six priority areas of intervention: education (access, equity and quality); employment, productive development and entrepreneurship; healthcare, sport and physical activity; culture, entertainment and creative industries; environmental protection and promotion of healthy lifestyles; and participation in decision-making and political processes. The national youth policy also sets the framework for the Youth Development Index, which measures the quality of youth policy in 170 countries. The index is based on indicators such as enrolment in education, employment opportunities, and political participation. The national youth policy also provides for the establishment of a National Council on Youth (CONAPEJ), which is responsible for the design, implementation and evaluation of youth policies. The CONAPEJ is composed of members from various government agencies, youth organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector. The index is published annually and provides a benchmark for assessing the effectiveness of youth policies around the world.
4. Guatemala

According to Guatemala’s national youth policy, youth are defined as those between the ages of 12 and 30 years. The minimum age for marriage without parental consent for both the male and female population is 21. The marriageable age requiring parental consent is 18 for female youth and 16 for male youth. The minimum candidacy age is 18 in the Lower House. Under the Childhood and Youth Protection Law of Guatemala (2003), the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 13. The majority age and minimum age for voting is 18.

In the Youth Development Index, Guatemala ranks 0.35 (i.e., 150 out of 170 countries). Its literacy rate is 95.37%. Its net enrolment rate in secondary school is 46.43%. Its prevalence of HIV is 0.3% for both the young male and female population. The overall youth unemployment rate in Guatemala is 3%. The unemployment rate is higher for the female youth (i.e., 9%) than for the male youth (i.e., 3%).

The national youth policy (2012-2020) replaces the previous national youth policy (2010-2015). Its vision is to “empower youth and build an inclusive, prosperous, democratic and equitable country.” The policy serves to “guide the activities, resources and efforts of the public sector, private agencies and youth and civil society organizations, professional, democratic and political leaders to ensure the rights of youth and strengthen the implementation of youth legislation.”

The national youth policy (2012-2020) provides the following priorities:

- Education
- Work and Productivity
- Health
- Recreation, Culture & Sport
- Violence Prevention
- Housing
- Environment
- Gender Equality
- Multiculturalism
- Participation & Citizenship

The national youth policy (2012-2020) establishes the National Youth Council (CONJUVE) as the governing body of public youth policies. It coordinates youth affairs across government, national and international institutions. A Youth Cabinet consists of representatives from each ministry for the purposes of improved inter-ministerial coordination. Networks of regional and municipal youth offices exist for improved coordination of youth policies. The National Youth Council (CONJUVE) is the governing body of the national youth policy (2012-2020). It provides the strategic framework for policy actions. It is not an implementation body. The national youth policy (2012-2020) also establishes a Youth Advisory Committee as a space for youth and national youth organizations to engage in dialogue with the Youth Cabinet.
parental consent for both sexes is 18. However, according to the US Department of State (2012), females can marry as young as 16. There is no specific legislation regarding same-sex marriages in Honduras. The minimum candidacy age in the Lower House of Parliament is 21. Pursuant to the Code of Children and Adolescents of Honduras (1996), the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 12. The majority age is 21. Honduras has a compulsory voting system and the minimum age of voting is 18.

Honduras ranks 0.67 (i.e. 70 out of 170 countries) on the Youth Development Index. The overall literacy rate is 97.17% with the female literacy rate (98.15%) being higher than the male literacy rate (96.23%). The prevalence of HIV among both the male and female youth aged 15-24 is 0.2%.

Furthermore, the National Youth Policy (2007) (translated from Spanish) states the following: "The country ranks third among Latin American countries with higher educational inequality. In the urban areas there is an illiteracy rate of 9.5% with 6.8 average years of schooling, while in rural areas this rate is 26.5% [..."]

The National Youth Policy of Honduras was adopted in 2007, which covers the period 2007-2021. In this policy, there are six strategic guidelines, which are: (i) digital inclusion and multilingual citizen engagement; (ii) empowering youth and six strategic guidelines; (iii) access to social and productive development; (iv) access to health and reproductive health services; (v) access to education and educational attainment; (vi) access to family and economic empowerment. These strategies encompass a wide range of actions and initiatives to address various issues affecting youth in Honduras, including the provision of educational opportunities, access to healthcare, and economic empowerment.

The prevalence of HIV among both the male and female youth aged 15-24 is 0.2%.

The UNDP Human Development Report: Honduras 2008/2009 reveals that the male literacy rate was 96.33% (88.1% for those aged 15 and older), while the female literacy rate was 97.2% (89.3% for those aged 15 and older). The overall literacy rate is 97.17%, with 70 out of 170 countries. The country ranks 0.67 out of 170 on the Youth Development Index.

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Under the national youth system, outlined in the Youth Law, which identifies a "national youth system" composed of the National Youth Institute, the National Commission of Youth, national youth sector councils and municipal level offices. The National Youth Institute is the governing body of youth policy. It reports to the President and provides intersectional coordination. Its responsibilities include monitoring and evaluating laws and policies that may limit the rights of youth, and promoting joint initiatives in social policy. The institute also plays a role in the National Youth Commission which coordinates the link between government and civil society. Its role is derived from the Youth Law. There is no singular national youth council in Honduras. Instead, there are regional/municipal level councils or councils representing specific youth sectors. Under the Youth Law (No. 260-2005), representatives from various youth groups participated in the formation of the national youth policy.

6. Nicaragua

In Nicaragua, youth are defined as those between 18 and 30 years under the National Youth Policy (2004). The minimum marriageable age without parental consent is 21 for males and 18 for females. The minimum marriageable age requiring parental consent is 15 for males and 14 for females. No specific legislation regarding same-sex marriages exist. Homosexuality is legal in Nicaragua. The minimum candidacy age in the Lower House of Parliament is 21. Under the Childhood and Adolescents Code of Nicaragua (1998), the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 13. Between the ages of 13 and 14, children are subject to educational measures. However, those between 15 and 16 may be imprisoned. The minimum voting age is 16. The majority age is 18.

On the Youth Development Index, Nicaragua ranks 0.62 (i.e. 91 out of 170 countries). The overall literacy rate is 91.62% with the female literacy rate being higher (i.e. 93.61%) than the male literacy rate (i.e. 89.65%). The overall net enrolment rate is 45.44% with the female net enrolment rate (i.e. 48.54%) being higher than the male net enrolment rate (i.e. 42.42%). The prevalence of HIV is 0.1% for both male and female youth aged 15-24. Furthermore, 40% of young Nicaraguans are unemployed or forced to work in the informal sector. Women are more likely to be unemployed or work in the informal sector with 50% of young women working in the informal sector while only 40% of young men do. The primary education system is 10-12 years, with an emphasis on primary education. The dropout rate is 4.9%.

Participative budgeting has been implemented since 2003. It is a bottom-up approach whereby local communities are involved in decision-making processes at the local level. This has been achieved through the creation of local councils and the participation of youth in decision-making processes. This has led to the implementation of several youth-oriented projects. The Ministry of Social Development and the National Youth Commission have worked together to ensure that the voices of young people are heard in decision-making processes. The Ministry of Social Development has also provided funding for youth-oriented projects. This has led to the implementation of several youth-oriented projects.

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young Nicaraguans enjoy increased access to technology and, on average, have received nine years of education, which is a marked contrast to their parents who only received eight years. In addition, many young people face domestic violence even though many value family as a fundamental unit for a support space. Adolescent girls are the victims of almost half of the reported domestic violence cases. The rate of teenage pregnancies is high, and many of these pregnancies result from domestic violence. The rate of teenage pregnancies is high, and many of these pregnancies result from domestic violence.

Despite the overall reduction in the birthrate, women aged 10-19 contributed to 27.5% of all births in 2009, which is one of the highest adolescent fertility rates in the world. In Nicaragua, youth are defined as those between the age of 15 and 29 years. There is currently limited information about the National Youth Policy. The National Youth Policy was adopted in 2004 and is valid for the period 2005-2015. The National Youth Policy aims “to improve the quality of life of youth, social inclusion, the acquisition of their emancipation, the development of potential and contribution to the advancement of the country.”

Nicaragua adopted the National Youth Policy in 2004. It is valid for the period 2005-2015. The National Youth Policy aims “to improve the quality of life of youth, social inclusion, the acquisition of their emancipation, the development of potential and contribution to the advancement of the country.”

The policy has priority areas under six key objectives, namely Employability, Education, Health, Participation, Culture & Sports, and Prevention of Violence. The guiding principles of the policy are youth participation, gender equality, equity & rights, and inter-generational relations. The 2014 policy is closely integrated with the National Development Plan 2012-2016, which focuses on economic development, empowerment, and social protection. The National Youth Policy also includes policies for social mobility, employment & enterprise, and rights & responsibilities.

In Panama, youth are defined as those between the age of 15 and 29 years. Under the National Youth Policy, there is currently limited information about the National Commission on Youth (CNJ). The National Commission on Youth is responsible for the implementation of the National Youth Policy. However, the current status of the CNJ is unknown. The National Youth Policy was adopted in 2004.

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According to the Youth Development Index, it ranks 0.69 (i.e. 65 out of 170 countries). The overall literacy rate is 98.13%, where the male literacy rate (98.26%) is higher than the female literacy rate (98%).

The overall net enrolment rate for secondary schools is 76.39%, where the rate is higher for females (79.32%) than males (73.57%).

Youth of Panama have expressed concerns about the lack of spaces for youth participation and the disappearance and/or reduction of youth associations, organizations and government programs as they have become inactive, abandoned, in crisis or have changed their goals or priorities. Moreover, these challenges are further exacerbated by the unresolved tensions and conflicts resulting from criminal activities and risky behaviours resulting from criminal activities and risky behaviours, such as the prevalence of HIV, single mothers or a rupture from the school system ('drop-outs'), unemployment and employment in the informal sector, and consumption of highly destructive drugs, and negative stereotypes in the media.

The Public Policy for Youth of Panama (2004) is designed as a tool for youth to realize their potential and become responsible citizens. It aims to affirm the rights of youth who are vulnerable, marginalized or subject to discrimination. The policy is based on six principles including: (i) a holistic perspective of youth development; (ii) participation of youth in society; (iii) decision-making and policy implementation; (iv) inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups; (v) taking a cross-sectoral approach to youth policy. It focuses on 12 areas, namely Life & Liberty; Safety & Justice; Participation; Health; Education & Scientific and Technological Development; Family; Equality & non-discrimination; Work; Housing & Access to Assets; Environment; Art & Culture; Sports & Recreation.

The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) is responsible for the implementation of the Public Policy for Youth of Panama. The MSD works with the National Youth Council (CONAJUPA) and coordinates the National Youth Service. The National Youth Service focuses on two services, namely literacy classes and working with the social actions of government agencies and working with social organizations. Through these services, an estimated 841,000 youth have become active volunteers throughout Panama. The National Youth Council of Panama (CONAJUPA) is active on Facebook even though there is no information about its current activities and work. The National Youth Council of Panama (CONAJUPA) is also active on NGS. Through these services, an estimated 841,000 youth have become active volunteers throughout Panama. The National Youth Council (CONAJUPA) is also active on Facebook. The national youth council of Panama (CONAJUPA) is also active on NGS. Through these services, an estimated 841,000 youth have become active volunteers throughout Panama. The National Youth Council (CONAJUPA) is also active on Facebook. The national youth council of Panama (CONAJUPA) is also active on NGS. Through these services, an estimated 841,000 youth have become active volunteers throughout Panama.

Youth also face challenges relating to health, such as HIV/AIDS and consumption of highly destructive drugs, and negative stereotypes in the media.

According to the Youth Development Index, the female literacy rate (98.26%) is higher than the male literacy rate (98%). The overall literacy rate is 98.13%.
In Brazil, youth are defined as those between the ages of 15 and 29 under the Youth Statute (2013). The minimum marriageable age without parental consent is 18 for both males and females. The minimum age of marriage requiring parental consent is 16 for both males and females. Civil unions and partnerships are legal in Brazil. The minimum age of candidacy in the Lower House of Parliament is 21 and 35 in the Upper House of Parliament. Under the Statute of the Child and Adolescent of Brazil (1990), the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 18. The Statute confirms the provision of the Brazilian Constitution that requires that minors under 18 are not criminally chargeable. Under the Civil Code (2002), the majority age is 18. Brazil has a system of compulsory voting, which has set the minimum voting age as 30. For those aged 16-18 and over 70 years, voting is optional.

In Brazil, the Youth Development Index ranks 0.64 (i.e. 85 out of 170 countries). The overall literacy rate is 98.91%, where the female literacy rate (99.22%) is slightly higher than for males (98.60%).

The prevalence of HIV is higher for males aged 15-24 (0.4%) than for females in the same age group (0.2%). Moreover, the overall prevalence rate is 0.6%.

Brazil has about 50 million youth aged 15-29 years who are determined to fight for their rights and occupy a prominent place in the development process of the country. Despite this progress, challenges remain in terms of lack of access to basic rights to health, education, work, and culture. Juvenile demands have only been recently entered into the public policy agenda. The policy has been recently created to address this gap. The policy has been recently created to address this gap.

In Brazil, youth also face challenges regarding the access to land. Sao Paulo has been one of the cities where civil society has been playing an important role in organizing itself after the state of Brazilian re-democratization and where many important national social movements were born, including the national movement for urban reform. However, territorial and social inequalities still persist. The city's population is 11,244,369 people out of which 25.83% are youth. 99.1% of the city is urban whereas the remaining 0.9% is rural. The city of Sao Paulo, where the violence rate is 0.9%, is the city of Sao Paulo. For example, there are 25 public cultural facilities in 6 districts, but one district has 24 facilities. The other 6 districts have 0 facilities. Inequality increases in the case of sports facilities. There are 25 districts with no facilities and 25 districts with facilities. The overall access to public cultural facilities is 9.6%. For example, there are 25 public cultural facilities in 6 districts, but one district has 24 facilities. The other 6 districts have 0 facilities. Inequality increases in the case of sports facilities. There are 25 districts with no facilities and 25 districts with facilities. The overall access to public cultural facilities is 9.6%.
YOUTH LAW & LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS

EFFECTING URBAN YOUTH

face social vulnerability. Access to land is linked to the rural struggle. It is widely perceived in this region that access to land means access to public space. It is only after scratching the surface that it is discovered that it means the right to the city. Thus, all these issues are connected to the process of urbanization itself.

The housing issue also affects other services, such as education, work and purchase of consumer goods. Without housing, there is "lack of address" to access other services. According to many homeless families, having a house and an address symbolizes dignity and a "prerequisite" for other rights. Due to intensive exploitation of land and buildings, many families sell their houses and move to the periphery of the city. Others cannot buy or keep their houses in the neighbourhoods in which they live or want to live. Therefore, this impacts upon existing policies. The Minha Casa Minha Vida, the main Brazilian federal government housing program, sometimes cannot be implemented in Sao Paulo because of the cost of land. Given high land prices, it is not possible to build housing units according to maximum prices set by the program. This also means that many youth cannot afford to buy a property even though access to land and, consequently, properties, is not just contingent upon financial conditions. In fact, it is also the nature of the transitional stage that many youth are in which prevents them from buying properties. Other social factors also play a role, such as the influence of different forms of prejudice - be it generational, racial, gender, etc. Rental guarantees are higher for youth than for adults as many property owners prefer elders and/or families with children as they usually associate youth with disorder, lack of trust, and other forms of anti-social behaviour. In addition, it is not only difficult for youth to access credit but the housing policies do not really consider youth.

215 In 2010, the new National Youth Policy was adopted. In the same year, the Constitution of Brazil was amended to include and protect youth in "The Family, Child, Adolescent, Youth and Elderly" chapter. The National Youth Policy contains details of case-studies of all major youth programming. Youth Statute (2013) contains principles and guidelines for public policies on youth, youth rights and the legal establishment of a National System of Youth and Youth Councils. According to the National Youth Secretariat (SNJ), a ten-year National Youth Plan is awaiting a vote in the House of Representatives. One of the major priorities of the SNJ is "inclusion". Specific programs have been established, such as the National Youth Inclusion Programme, which promotes "education, professional initiation, professional development, entrepreneurship, social inclusion, welfare, health, etc.". The SNJ is responsible for the implementation of the national youth policy and for the coordination of all national youth policies. The SNJ also facilitates the inter-ministerial Committee for Youth Policy, which is the "permanent body for management and monitoring of public policies of the Federal Government for youth."
The minister responsible for the National Youth Secretariat is also a member of the National Council of Youth Affairs, which is responsible for formulating and coordinating the implementation of the National Youth Policy.
YOUTH LAW & LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS EFFECTING URBAN YOUTH

Studies and research on the socioeconomic reality of youth in Colombia have identified several key areas that require focus. To address these issues, the Youth Statute (2013) allows for the creation of youth councils and participation and representation of youth through government agencies. The Youth Citizenship Act (2013) establishes district, municipal, and departmental youth councils, with the aim of promoting the exercise of youth citizenship. "It has 60 members, 20 government representatives, and 40 from civil society. The Youth Statute (2013) allows for the creation of youth councils and participation and representation of youth through government agencies."

In Colombia, youth are defined as those between the ages of 14 and 26 under the National Youth Policy (2005). The minimum marriageable age without parental consent is 18 for both males and females. The minimum marriageable age requiring parental consent is 14 for both sexes. In Colombia, both civil unions and partnerships are legal. A constitutional court had ruled, recognizing same-sex couples and giving a legislative deadline before all marriage rights would be automatically granted. This deadline lapsed in 2013.

The minimum candidacy age is 25 in the Lower House of Parliament and 30 in the Upper House of Parliament. Under the Juvenile Penal Code of Colombia (2006), the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 14. The majority age is 18. The minimum voting age is 18.

According to the Youth Development Index, Colombia is ranked 0.67 (i.e., 74 out of 170 countries). The overall literacy rate is 98.66%, with the female literacy rate (99.10%) being higher than the male rate (98.23%).

The overall net enrolment rate in secondary schools is 73.6%, where the rate for females (76.6%) exceeds those for males (70.7%). The prevalence of HIV for males aged 15-24 is 0.3%, which is higher than for females in the same age group (0.2%).

According to the National Youth Policy (2005), the National System of Youth (SNJ) is the set of institutions, organizations, entities, and individuals that work with and for the benefit of youth. Colombia's cultural policies are integral to the national economy, social, and economic development. The National Youth Policy (2005) is the basis of the plan for youth policies. It "sets out the commitments and tasks of the National Government" and reflects current priorities. The National Youth Policy (2005) has three main objectives, namely youth participation in public life; access to good public services; and the broadening of social, economic, and cultural opportunities. The Youth Citizenship Act (2013) provides an "institutional framework" covering citizenship, domestic and internationally recognized human rights, public policies affecting youth, and youth participation in the "social, economic, cultural and democratic life of the country."
The problems affecting youth, such as demand for skilled labour, impact of trade liberalization, widening wage gap between skilled and unskilled, and labour relations becoming casual, are becoming more significant and are demanding more attention. The weakness of institutions and lack of coordination between them are contributing factors for a lack of policies.

The problems affecting youth, such as demand for skilled labour, impact of trade liberalization, widening wage gap between skilled and unskilled, and labour relations becoming casual, are becoming more significant and are demanding more attention. The weakness of institutions and lack of coordination between them are contributing factors for a lack of policies.

Moreover, 27.2% of Ecuador’s population is occupied in the labour market, with most young people in low-skilled work. However, no youth council has been created thus far. Colombia Youth is also tasked with engaging with youth organizations in relation to youth and public policy.

In Ecuador, under both the National Youth Policy (2012) and Youth Law (2011), youth are defined in the age group of 18-29 years old. The minimum marriageable age without the requirement of parental consent for both sexes is 18. There is no minimum age for opposite sex marriage requiring parental consent. Civil unions/partnerships are legal. The minimum candidacy age in the Lower House of Parliament is 30. Under the Code of Children and Adolescents of Ecuador (2003), the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 12. Adolescents (i.e., aged 12-18 years) are not imputable under the criminal law even though they are held for their actions. The majority age is 18. The minimum voting age is 16. Compulsory voting is from 18-65 years. Voting is voluntary from 16-18 years and over 65 years. The overall literacy rate is 98.83% with the rate being higher for females (98.82%) than males (98.83%) aged 15-24.

According to the Youth Development Index, Ecuador ranks 0.44 (i.e., 113 out of 170 countries). The overall net enrolment rate for secondary schools is 74.03% with the rate being for females (74.99%) than for males (73.10%). Moreover, 72.7% of Ecuador’s population is occupied in the labour market, with most young people in low-skilled work. However, no youth council has been created thus far. Colombia Youth is also tasked with engaging with youth organizations in relation to youth and public policy.

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In 2010, youth unemployment rate for those aged 15-29 was 9.8%. However, their under-employment rate was 54.9%. Many youth have migrated from Ecuador in search of better opportunities. These youth represent 57.7% of migrants according to the latest living conditions survey by the Ecuadorian Institute of Statistics.

The Ecuadorian Youth Law (2011) aims to protect the rights of youth aged 18-29. It also aims to ensure the full development of youth as strategic actors in the country. The law is founded on the principles of equality, non-discrimination, participation, favourable treatment, responsibility (state, society and family).

The National Youth Policy (2012) focuses on nine policy areas including education, work, health, housing, culture, and participation. Each of these areas are associated with indicators and performance measures. Article 39 of the Ecuadorian Constitution (2008) states that the government will guarantee and promote youth rights (for example, health, housing, and freedom of expression and association) through policies, programmes, institutions and resources. The National Plan for Good Living - 2013-2017 aims to reverse the growing trend of youth unemployment.

The Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion ('MIES') led the inter-ministerial committee that formulated the National Youth Policy (2012). Although it focuses on the whole life cycle, the MIES has the primary responsibility for youth and youth policy. The Minister of MIES is president of the National Council for Children and Adolescents (to become National Council for Equality between Generations). The National Council for Children and Adolescents is an inter-ministerial and inter-agency body, which ensures that youth obtains the rights enshrined in the constitution.

Youth are entitled to participate in all matters which concern or affect them, especially in the design and evaluation of policies, actions and programmes. Article 69 of the national youth law (2012) provides for the right of youth to participate in all matters which concern or affect them, especially in the design and evaluation of policies, actions and programmes (2012).

In Venezuela, youth are defined as those aged 15-30 years under the 2009 national youth law. The minimum marriageable age is 18 for both sexes. The minimum marriageable age without parental consent is 16 for males and 14 for females. Under the Civil Code (1982), a minor cannot marry without parental consent. The minimum marriageable age is 15 under the 2009 national youth law. Article 39 provides for the right of youth to participate in all matters which concern or affect them, especially in the design and evaluation of policies, actions and programmes. Article 69 of the national youth law (2012) provides for the right of youth to participate in all matters which concern or affect them, especially in the design and evaluation of policies, actions and programmes (2012).

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The Youth Development Index ranks Venezuela 0.66 (i.e. 78 out of 170 countries)..

The overall literacy rate is 98.90% with the rate being higher for females (i.e. 99.04%) than for males in the same age group (i.e. 98.76%).

The overall net enrolment rate for secondary schools is 74.34% with the rate for females (i.e. 77.61%) exceeding that for males (i.e. 71.20%).

The prevalence of HIV is higher for males (i.e. 0.3%) than for females (i.e. 0.2%) aged 15-24.

Venezuela's national youth law came into force in 2009. Its youth policy was launched in 2013. Its national youth policy is contained in Mission: Young People of the Homeland (2013), which aims to foster full development, mobilization and social inclusion of youth in areas of culture, science, sports and production. It has four objectives, namely educational, occupational, social, political and cultural inclusion; mobilize training in recreation, culture and sports sectors; support youth-driven projects of social and economic value, which aid in national development; and reduce risk factors that can hinder the capacities and potential of youth.

The Minister of Popular Power for Youth is the governmental body responsible for youth in Venezuela. It seeks to promote the comprehensive development of youth through effective coordination with other governmental organs. Within the Ministry, the National Institute of Popular Power for Youth was created through the 2009 youth law. It is the policy arm of the youth ministry responsible for the stewardship, formulation, and evaluation of policies that affect youth. It is advised by an inter-agency council to ensure coordination of policies.

The 2009 national youth law provides a description of the national youth council (i.e. National Council of Popular Power for Youth). The council would have the authority to represent youth in the design, monitoring and evaluation of policies, plans and programs. It is under the duty to report irregularities in the delivery of public services that may threaten the rights of youth. While state- and city-level youth councils have been created, for example, Tachira and Catia, it is unclear if a national-level youth council has been created.

In the Dominican Republic, the Ministry of Youth defines youth as those aged 15 to 35. The National Youth Law (2000) refers to youth aged 10 to 35. The national youth council is under the duty to report irregularities in the delivery of public services that may threaten the rights of youth.

The overall literacy rate is 98.90% with the rate being higher for females (i.e. 99.04%) than for males in the same age group (i.e. 98.76%).

The overall net enrolment rate for secondary schools is 74.34% with the rate for females (i.e. 77.61%) exceeding that for males (i.e. 71.20%).

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The overall net enrolment rate for secondary schools is 74.34% with the rate for females (i.e. 77.61%) exceeding that for males (i.e. 71.20%).

The prevalence of HIV is higher for males (i.e. 0.3%) than for females (i.e. 0.2%) aged 15-24.

The overall literacy rate is 98.90% with the rate being higher for females (i.e. 99.04%) than for males in the same age group (i.e. 98.76%).
age is 15. The voting age is 18 although individuals who are married under 18 are also eligible to vote. Voting is compulsory in the Dominican Republic.

The Youth Development Index ranks the Dominican Republic 0.69 (i.e. 66 out of 170 countries). Its overall literacy rate is 97.93%, where the rate for females (i.e. 98.61%) is higher than for males (i.e. 97.26%) aged 15-24.

The overall net enrolment rate for secondary schools is 62.09%, where the rate is higher for females (i.e. 66.50%) than for males (i.e. 57.80%). The prevalence of HIV for both sexes aged 15-24 is 0.2%.

Problems persist for youth of the Dominican Republic. These problems include high rates of unemployment, school and university drop-out, social inequality and political violence. In particular, the main reasons for leaving school tend to be earning money, early marriage or pregnancy, and a perceived irrelevance of the education. The Ministry of Education is seeking to tackle these issues to attain an overall improvement and progress in the education system.

Youth also face issues related to, including multiple sex partners, unsafe sexual practices, teen pregnancies, and use of drugs and alcohol. The Dominican Republic formally approved a national youth policy in January 1998 and enacted a General Youth Law (Ley 49-00) in August 2000. Youth law is monitored by regular youth policy reports. According to a report by the RED Nacional de Acción Juvenil (2011), the General Youth Law is the main legislative tool and framework for youth. It was introduced in order to promote the comprehensive development of young people and to strengthen the country's education and social policies.

The National Program for the Formation of Youth Councils (PNCCJ) aims to strengthen the development and implementation of the national youth policy. It focuses on the formation of youth councils in the region of national youth councils, the creation of municipal and regional youth councils, and the coordination of youth activities at the municipal and local level. The national youth policy of 1998-2009 outlined policies in seven priority areas, namely culture, education, training, community participation, legislation, sports and recreation, and health. It sets out strategies for achieving the goals of policies. It also refers to the national public policy for the development of the Dominican Youth (2008-2015). The aim of the Ministry of Youth ('MJ') was established under the General Youth Law (Ley 49-00) (2000). The MJ seeks to promote the development of youth aged 15-35 through effective coordination and involvement of youth in decision-making. It is also responsible for defining, monitoring, and evaluating national youth policies.

The National Program for the Formation of Youth Councils aims to strengthen the development and implementation of national youth policies. The General Youth Law (Ley 49-00) (2000) provides for the creation of municipal, regional, and national youth councils. The National Program for the Formation of Youth Councils ('PNCCJ') aims to strengthen the development and implementation of the national youth policy. The Ministry of Youth ('MJ') seeks to promote the development of youth aged 15-35 through effective coordination and involvement of youth in decision-making. It is also responsible for defining, monitoring, and evaluating national youth policies.
cooperation. In addition, the coordination of funding comes in youth services may also be produced by local authorities in youth associations and supported on youth work. It is essential that youth work and youth policy are part of the local authorities’ responsibilities. The implementation of youth policy programmes is a key priority for the government. The Advisory Council for Youth Affairs, which is an expert body for youth work and policy, is responsible for the evaluation of youth policy programmes. The Ministry of Education and Culture is also responsible for the Ministry of Education and Culture for the implementation of youth policy programmes. The Youth Development Index ranks Finland as 0.75 (i.e. 22 out of 170 countries).

There is no data on literacy rates. Nor is there any data on the prevalence of HIV.

The overall net enrolment rate for secondary school is 92.38% with the rate being higher for females (i.e. 92.68%) than for males (i.e. 92.09%).

Youth policy of Finland is based on The Youth Act (72/2006), Youth Decree (2006) and a 2012-2015 youth programme. The Youth Act (72/2006) seeks to: “support youth’s growth and independence, to promote youth’s active citizenship and empowerment and to improve youth’s growth and living conditions.” Under the Youth Act, the Ministry of Education and Culture is responsible for youth policy. The government is responsible for the coordination of youth work and youth policy (2006) sets the scope for the programme. The programme 2012-2015 under the Youth Act sets the scope for the implementation of youth policy programmes. The Ministry of Education and Culture is involved in collaboration with other ministries, the system of education and culture and regional and rural development. The Child and Youth Policy Programme 2012-2015 is responsible for youth policy and youth work and youth policy (2006) sets the scope for the programme. The Government is under a duty to adopt a programme. The Ministry of Education and Culture is responsible for youth work and youth policy and the Advisory Council for Youth Affairs, which is an expert body for youth work and policy, is responsible for the evaluation of youth policy programmes. The Ministry of Education and Culture is also responsible for the youth policy. Youth policy of Finland is based on the Youth Act (72/2006) and the Decree on Youth Work and Youth Policy (2006). The Youth Division of the Department for Cultural, Sport and Youth Policy of the Ministry of Education and Culture is responsible for youth policy in Finland. The Ministry of Education and Culture is also obliged to appoint the Advisory Council for Youth Affairs, which is an expert body for youth work and policy, which is responsible for the annual evaluation of youth policy programmes.

Furthermore, Part 3 of the Youth Act concerns youth work and youth policy. It states that “youth work and youth policy are part of the local authority’s responsibilities. The implementation of youth work shall be the responsibility of local authorities, youth associations and other organizations doing youth work. Youth services may also be produced by local authorities in youth associations.”
both sexes aged 15-24 years.

For secondary schools, the prevalence of HIV is 0.1% for male students.

There is no data on literacy rates and the net enrollment rate among youth.

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**Index**

- **The Youth Development Index**
  - Germany ranks 0.8 out of 170 countries on the Youth Development Index.

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2. **Germany**

Much of the legislation and policies around youth development in Germany is governed by federal and state laws and regulations. Under the Social Code - Volume 8 (1991) on child and youth welfare services, the minimum age for child and youth welfare services is 12 years of age. The minimum age for participation in extracurricular activities is 10 years. The minimum age for employment is 16 years, but work permits are required. The minimum age for driving a car is 18 years.

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2.5. **Economic Development and Urban Planning**

The National Youth Plan (NYP) is implemented by the Ministry of Education and Culture. The NYP aims to promote youth policies and initiatives, and to ensure that young people have access to opportunities for education, training, and employment.

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2.6. **International Cooperation**

Germany is a member of the Council of Europe and the European Union. The German government actively participates in international youth cooperation projects and initiatives, promoting the exchange of best practices and fostering mutual understanding.

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2.7. **Regional Development**

Regional development in Germany is managed by the federal government, with responsibilities delegated to the state and local governments. The government invests in infrastructure, education, and youth services to support economic growth and social inclusion.

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2.8. **Health and Welfare**

The government is committed to improving health outcomes and welfare services for young people. The National Health Plan (NHP) focuses on ensuring access to healthcare, mental health support, and social services for all young people.

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2.9. **Crime and Juvenile Justice**

The government is committed to reducing youth crime and promoting a culture of respect and responsibility. The Youth Protection Act (YPA) provides legal frameworks to address juvenile delinquency and ensure the rights of young people.

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2.10. **Youth Policy and Legislation**

The government has implemented numerous policies and legislation to support youth development, including the National Youth Plan, the Youth Protection Act, and the National Health Plan. These policies are designed to promote education, health, and social inclusion.

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2.11. **Youth Organizations**

There are over 300 youth organizations in Germany, including the German Youth Council (Deutscher Jugendrat) and the German Youth Council for Disabled (Deutscher Jugendrat für Behinderte). These organizations work to promote the rights and interests of young people.
Germany's youth legislation rests upon its Social Code - Volume 8, which specifically addresses child and youth welfare along with the Protection of the Young People Act. An English overview highlights the importance of the Social Code to the youth policy system of Germany. Based on the legislation, youth policy is currently being implemented at the federal level through the Federal Child and Youth Plan ('KJP').

Moreover, Germany just concluded a large-scale participative process to design a new federal youth policy framework for 2015-2018, "Acting for a youth-adequate society", which was released in July 2015. The guidelines and principles were published in an ongoing process that started in 2011 with a governmental concept paper. The guidelines for a new youth policy provide that the new youth policy would refer to all adolescents and young adults, have preventive and balancing effects, promote suitable methods and structures, involve all relevant stakeholders from the start, and uncover the potential of youth in and for society.

The new youth policy will focus on the interests and needs of youth, promote sustainable youth participation, call for space and time for personal development, be designed and implemented as a common task, promote reforms of existing public policies, and have a European dimension. The principles of a new youth policy specify that a new youth policy shapes the future and opens up new prospects for society, and that it must perceive the phase of youth holistically.

In Sweden, youth are defined as those between the ages of 13 and 25 under Youth Law (2004). This definition is maintained under the updated Youth Act (2015). The minimum marriageable age without parental consent is 18 for both sexes. There is no data for the minimum marriageable age requiring parental consent. Same-sex marriage is legal in Sweden and the minimum marriageable age for same-sex marriages is 18. The Youth Law (2004) imposes 18 as the majority age. 18 is the voting age as well. Sweden ranks 0.72 (i.e. 45 out of 170 countries) according to the Youth Development Index. There is no data on literacy rates and the rate of HIV prevalence.

However, the overall net enrolment rate is 92.76% with the male rate (i.e. 92.88%) being higher than the female rate (i.e. 92.63%). The Youth Law reinforces the systems of coordination between policy areas to ensure the objectives of the national youth policy is achieved. The updated Youth Act provides a new youth policy framework and action plan for 2014-2017. The Swedish Government's Youth Policy Fact (2009) notes that there is no single youth policy document that exists. However, the youth perspective is "mainstreamed in relevant policy areas". Targeted areas include education, employment, culture and leisure, participation, health and security. Policy is supported by evidence with an annual review and analysis of "80 indicators of development".
The Ministry of Education and Research is obliged to coordinate youth policy and youth organizations. It is also obliged to cooperate on youth issues. The Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society is the government agency that "works to ensure that young people have access to influence and welfare". The Agency produces reports, which inform the development of youth policy. These include an annual compilation of 80 indicators of youth development, an annual analysis of a priority topic, and a study of youth attitudes and values conducted every four years. The National Council of Swedish Youth Organizations ('LSU') is an umbrella organization of 81 national youth organizations in Sweden that aims "to collectively improve the conditions for youths' organizations". Through their national and international programmes, LSU aims to "ensure that young people are involved in decision-making, in Sweden and the world". LSU is a full member of the European Youth Forum. Its main findings include the Swedish Inheritance Fund and Sida. They also receive a grant from the government and members pay an annual fee.

4. **Switzerland**

Switzerland has many definitions of youth. The Youth Law (2011) defines childhood and youth as kindergarten age to 30 years. The Youth Policy Strategy (2008) identifies youth promotion measures in cantons as being aimed at youth aged 16-25 years. The minimum marriageable age is 18 for both sexes. The minimum marriageable age requires parental consent is 16 for both sexes. The minimum candidacy age is 18 for the Lower House of Parliament. Under the Federal Law Governing the Criminal Status of Minors (2003), the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 10. Under the Civil Code (1907), the majority age is 18. According to the Youth Development Index, Switzerland ranks 0.8 (i.e. 7 out of 170 countries). There is no data on literacy rates. The overall net enrolment rate for secondary school is 81.02% for both sexes with the rate being higher for males (i.e. 82.19%) than females (i.e. 79.98%).
including coordination of the "Youth and Violence" prevention programme, provision of financial support to organizations working with youth, and as an organizing partner of the annual Federal Youth Session. The Swiss National Youth Council ('SNYC') is an umbrella organization of 65 youth organizations. They seek "to generate possibilities for youth to participate in society as a whole and to develop into socially conscious, active citizens." It coordinates projects including a training programme on physical and mental health, a project supporting migrant minors, and the "Youth Rep" scheme, which sends three young representatives to the UN. It also engages in political advocacy work on policy positions determined by members.

2.69 ii. Eastern & Central Europe

1. Belarus

Under Belarus' Law on Youth (2009), youth are defined as those between 14 and 31 years of age. The minimum marriageable age without parental consent is 18 for both sexes. Civil registration offices may authorize marriage in special circumstances. The age of candidates is determined by the Penal Code of Belarus (1999). The majority and voting age is 18.

According to the Youth Development Index, Belarus ranks 0.47 (i.e. 124 out of 170 countries). The overall literacy rate is 99.84% for both sexes with the female rate (i.e. 99.86%) being slightly higher than the male rate (i.e. 99.82%) in the age group of 15-24. The overall net enrolment rate for secondary school is 95.61% for both sexes with the female rate (i.e. 95.83%) being slightly higher than the male rate (i.e. 95.40%). The rate of prevalence of HIV is 0.3% for males aged 15-24 and 0.5% for females aged 15-24. Belarus exists in a transitional regime, with authoritarian elements and civil liberties limited. The national democratic governance rating remains unchanged at 6.75. In 2012, Belarusian activists and civil society organizations faced repression from the authorities. The NGOs faced legal harassment, which resulted in the closure of several organizations. The government has taken steps to improve the situation, but independence remains limited.

In addition, there is a high rate of youth crime in Belarus. The majority of all convicted criminals were minors.

In 2002, the office of the national human rights ombudsman, which is located in the Council of NGOs, received 1,270 complaints regarding human rights violations and corruption. In 2012, Belarus was ranked among the countries with the lowest human rights scores on a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 is the highest and 7 is the lowest. The overall rating for human rights in Belarus is 4.5, indicating a significant number of violations.

The local and national authorities have taken steps to improve the situation, but independence remains limited. The government has taken steps to improve the situation, but independence remains limited. The overall rating for human rights in Belarus is 4.5, indicating a significant number of violations.
The rise in youth crime rates is attributed to a deep crisis in the family unit as many adults are failing to perform their parental duties. It is also attributed to a growing inequality in wealth distribution. Gang crime and recidivism are part of youth crime. Around 90% of youth report being members of some informal youth group, most of which have nothing to do with crime. However, when dominated by individuals with criminal backgrounds, some of these groups begin to encourage criminal activity among their members. Anti-social youth groups also promote heavy drinking, drug abuse and other deviant behaviours.

The state law on youth policy (2009) provides the contours of youth policy. Its aims are to support comprehensive education, to support spiritual, moral and physical development, creation of conditions for free and effective participation in political, social, economic and cultural development, to provide social, material, legal and other support, and to extend opportunities for choosing one's life path. The Constitution guarantees these aims as rights and emphasizes on the role of the state to provide conditions for these to be achieved. According to the 2011 briefing, from 2006 to 2010, a state youth program called "Youth of Belarus" was implemented. This program has not been mentioned on the official website on youth policy of the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Education is responsible for youth affairs. In particular, it is in charge for the following areas: civic and patriotic education of youth, healthy lifestyles, support for young families, youth in education and for talented youth, promotion of the right to work and the rights of youth to associate, promotion of socially significant initiatives of youth, and international youth cooperation. The Belarusian Committee of Youth Organizations (BCYO) is the state recognized National Youth Council (NYC). However, the organization was dissolved by the presidential decree in 2004.

2. Bulgaria

Youth are defined as those aged 15-29 years according to "international and European standards for youth work" under the National Youth Strategy (2010-2020). The minimum marriageable age without parental consent for both sexes is 18. The minimum marriageable age requiring parental consent for both sexes is 16. The minimum marriageable age is achieved for both sexes from 2010 (2010-2020). The minimum age without parental consent for both sexes is 16. The minimum marriageable age is achieved for both sexes from 2010 (2010-2020). The minimum age for voting is 18. Under the Penal Code of Bulgaria (2005), the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 14. The majority age and voting age are 18. The youth development index ranks Bulgaria as 0.69 (i.e. 62 out of 170 countries).

The overall literacy rate is 98.00% with the male rate (i.e. 98.21%) being higher than the female rate (i.e. 97.78%).
enrolment rate is 85.29% with the rate being higher for males (i.e. 86.06%) than for females (i.e. 84.47%). In addition, youth unemployment is a major challenge in Bulgaria. Youth unemployment is owed to structural constraints, which include insufficient qualifications, skills, experience and social capital. Youth also suffered a major blow from the recession as well as the economic crisis.

Bulgaria’s youth law was adopted in 2012. The youth law (2012) “determines the main principles, management and financing of the activities conducted for implementation of the state youth policy.” It covers youth work, youth organizations, volunteering, youth policy and information. The National Youth Strategy (2010-2020) outlines the situation for youth and has nine strategic aims, including economic activity and career development; improving the access to information and quality services; promoting healthy lifestyle; social exclusion; volunteering; participation; rural development; intercultural dialogue; and crime prevention. The youth policy aims to be the “…establishment of favourable conditions to complete personal growth of youth and their participation in social and economic life…”

The Youth Directorate of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports is responsible for the implementation of the national youth policy and youth programmes. Since 2012, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports has been in charge of youth policy. Inter-ministerial working groups are established around different issues, including youth employment, professional qualifications, and the EU Structured Dialogue process. Under the youth law, the dialogue with youth at national, regional, district and local level on matters affecting them is not structured yet unlike the established European models of representation through national, regional and local youth councils. The ‘Implementation and Monitoring’ section (2.9) notes that participation in public policy “could be structured through youth councils”. Although the membership of the Bulgarian National Youth Council in the European Youth Forum was terminated in 2002 due to inactivity, subsequent attempts have been made to establish a national youth council.

3. Estonia

Youth are defined as those aged 7-26 under the Estonian Youth Work Act (2010) and 2006-2013 Youth Work Strategy. The minimum marriageable age without parental consent is 18 for both sexes. The minimum marriageable age requiring parental consent is 15 for both sexes. There is no specific legislation governing same-sex marriages. The minimum candidacy age is 21 for the Lower House of Parliament. Under the Penal Code of Estonia (2001), the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 14. The majority and voting ages are 18.

The Youth Development Index ranks Estonia as 0.7 (i.e. 52 out of 170 countries). The overall literacy rate is 99.97% for both sexes aged 15-24, with the rate for females (i.e. 99.97%) being higher than for males (i.e. 99.96%).
The overall net enrolment rate for secondary schools is 90.65% with the rate being higher for females (i.e. 90.94%) than for males (i.e. 90.38%). The rate of HIV prevalence is 0.8% for males aged 15-24 and 0.5% for females aged 15-24.

According to the Estonian Youth Work Strategy 2006-2013, youth policy is all "coordinated and purposeful activities concerning the life of a young person". Thus, the Youth Work Strategy integrates the general area of youth policy with the narrow area of youth work, setting goals, measures and indicators of efficiency. Indicators include the number of youth participation in councils, the accessibility of hobby education, the range and accessibility of youth information and the size of youth research network. The Youth Work Act (2010) provides the legal basis for youth work, which is defined as "the creation of conditions to promote the diverse development of young persons". It sets out which institutions are responsible for youth work, its financing and the liability of those who work with youth.

As argued in Youth and Public Policy in Estonia (2012), the creation of one central coordinating unit (for example, a Ministry of Youth) was not the goal of youth work strategy. Instead, it was an integrated youth policy based on information exchange between various actors. This exchange is coordinated by the Youth Affairs office in cooperation with the Estonian Youth Development Centre, the Estonian Youth Work Centre (EYWC) and the national youth council (ENL), who provide the legal and administrative framework for the youth work strategy. The Estonian National Youth Council (ENL) is the representative body for youth and an umbrella organization for non-profit groups that deal with youth issues. As per the Youth Work Strategy, the ENL delegates representatives from youth associations to the Council of Youth Policies (COP), a governmental-civil society council that advises the Ministry of Education and Research, which is responsible for the implementation of the strategy. The COP is chaired by the Youth Affairs office and includes representatives from the ENL, the Estonian Youth Work Centre (EYWC), local governments and youth organizations.

Kosovo's population is increasingly dominated by youth. Men and women below 25 years old represent 49% of the population, whereas 19.1% of youth are between 15 and 24 years old. The voting age is 18. The majority age is 18 under the Family Law, whereas 21 years old is the minimum age of criminal responsibility. The minimum age of marriage is 18. Under the law on the protection of minors (2004), the minimum age of marriage is also 18. The minimum age of majority is 21 under the Family Law (2004), whereas 18 years old is the minimum age of marriage. The minimum age of majority is 18 under the Family Law (2004), whereas 18 years old is the minimum age of majority.
The Law on Empowerment and Participation of Youth (2009) defines the rights, responsibilities and obligations of governmental authorities and youth organizations in Kosovo. Youth Strategy 2013-2017 and Action Plan 2013-2015 has a vision for youth “...to become active, healthy, educated citizens, who enjoy a good and qualitative life and prepare to face all challenges of life as responsible members of local, regional, European and world community.”

The Youth Strategy focuses on youth participation, non-formal education, employment and entrepreneurship, education, health, security, sports, culture, recreation, and social integration. It also seeks integrated approaches to social, economic and political participation of youth in society in decision-making processes. Formal and non-formal education in accordance with the demands of labor market, health services for youth, higher security, employment and recreational activities for them.

The Youth Department of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport is responsible for youth affairs and policy in Kosovo. It is under the duty to implement the Youth Strategy and Action Plan, conduct analysis of youth sector, develop programs for identified groups of youth, coordinate with departments, municipalities and organizations to develop and implement policies, programs and organizations to develop and implement policies, programs and initiatives for youth. It also seeks integrated approaches to social, economic and political participation of youth in society in decision-making processes.

14. Under the Civil Law of Latvia (1993), the marriageable age of women is 18. Under the Criminal Law of Latvia (1998), the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 16. Under the Civil Law of Latvia (1997), the minimum marriageable age for both sexes is 16. There is no requirement of parental consent for both sexes is 16. The minimum marriageable age for both sexes is 16. The minimum marriageable age for both sexes is 16.

The National Youth Policy (2009) of Latvia defines youth as those aged 13-25. The minimum marriageable age is 18. Under the Criminal Law of Latvia (1998), the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 14. Under the Civil Law of Latvia (1997), the minimum marriageable age requires parental consent for both sexes. There is no requirement of parental consent for both sexes. There is no requirement of parental consent for both sexes.

The Youth Development Index ranks Latvia 0.7 (i.e. 50 out of 170 countries). The overall literacy rate is 99.83% with the female rate (i.e. 99.87%) being slightly higher than the male rate (i.e. 99.79%). Latvia has a positive integration of youth into society. Security, employment and educational activities for them are given equal importance. The youth are encouraged financially and other support for youth sector.

Latvia and Moldova are included in the Europe and world community.

The law on empowerment and participation of youth encourages the cooperation of civil society organizations and associations of local, regional, and international level. The law aims to promote the active participation of young people in policy and decision-making processes. Young people have the right to participate in policy and decision-making processes. Young people have the right to participate in policy and decision-making processes.

The Youth Cultural Centre of Kosovo, (CYAC) organizes a variety of services and programs. The Centre provides information for youth about services and programs.
Its overall net enrolment rate for secondary schools is 83.60% with the female rate (84.37%) being higher than the male rate (82.86%). Latvia's Youth Act (2008) seeks to improve the quality of life of youth by promoting their priorities and encouraging patriotism and participation. It also aims to support those working with youth. The basic youth principles include participation, equal opportunity, addressing youth issues, integration, mobility, and cooperation.

The Youth Policy Guidelines 2009-2018 aim to facilitate the implementation and coordination of youth policy by identifying areas of action and creating a vision for the improvement of youth's quality of life. The guidelines also provide the key challenges for youth and policy objectives and targets for the decade. The National Youth Policy Programme 2009-2013 outlines measures to achieve the aims of the Youth Act.

The Sports and Youth Department within the Ministry of Education and Science has the primary responsibility for youth policy and issues. Its major tasks include promoting cooperation and implementing youth measures, organizing trainings for youth workers, and enabling access to information. Municipalities are responsible for implementing youth policy through the creation of local youth policy planning documents. A Youth Advisory Council exists to promote a coherent youth policy and encourage youth participation in decision-making and public life. The Latvian Youth Council ('LYC') was founded in 1992. Its mission is to represent the interests of youth and to improve the quality of their lives. The LYC promotes the importance of youth organizations and encourages the development of cooperation and public participation in political processes.

Besides the national level and outside the privileged areas of Riga and other major cities, youth policy delivery is inadequate in Latvia. The concentration of resources is still high, and there is considerable availability of youth activities. The centre of youth policy-making seems to underestimate the actual capacities of municipalities.

Lithuania

Lithuania's Youth Policy Law (2003) defines youth as those between 14 and 29 years. The minimum marriageable age without parental consent is 18 for both sexes. The minimum marriageable age with parental consent is 14 for both sexes. The minimum marriageable age between 14 and 19 years is 16 for both sexes. The minimum voting age is 18 years. The minimum voting age in EU elections is 18 years.

The government's main goal is to ensure the active participation of youth in decision-making and to promote the development of youth organizations. The government also aims to support the development of youth organizations by increasing access to information and government funding. The Council of Europe, Youth policy in Latvia (2008) [http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/lithuania/] provides key challenges for youth policy and goals for the improvement of youth policy.
The Youth Development Index ranks Lithuania 0.67 (i.e. 75 out of 170 countries).

The overall literacy rate is 99.91% for both sexes aged 15-24 with the female rate (i.e. 99.92%) being slightly higher than the male rate (i.e. 99.90%).

The overall net enrolment rate for secondary schools is 96.82% with the male rate (i.e. 97.18%) being slightly higher than the female rate (i.e. 96.45%).

Youth face daunting challenges, such as lack of opportunities, unemployment, inability to compete in the labour market, and issues related to economic, physical and psychological security.

The Youth Policy Law (2003) contains four general provisions of youth rights, namely enjoyment of all youth rights and freedoms, equal rights and protection from discrimination, a proper social environment, and an all-round education. The National Youth Policy Development programme for 2011-2019 aims to create conditions that meet youth needs in order to become active youth citizens.


Moldova's National Youth Law defines youth as "young people, citizens of the Republic of Moldova, aged 16 to 30". A 2011 review of youth policy states that the official statistics of the Republic of Moldova define youth as those aged 15-29. The minimum marriageable age without parental consent for each gender is 15-16.

Youth are engaged in social policy and in organizations such as sports and cultural associations. They are also involved in youth work programs.

The Department for Youth Affairs ('DYA') within the Ministry of Social Security and Labour is responsible for youth affairs, including policies, programmes, youth research and coordination of activities across sectors and municipal institutions. The Department for Education, Youth Affairs and Sport ensures the implementation of the Youth Policy Law of the Republic of Lithuania, which establishes the main objectives for the development of youth policy.
both sexes is 18. There is no data for marriage with parental consent. Nor is there any specific legislation governing same-sex marriages. Homosexuality is legal in Moldova. The minimum candidacy age is 18 in the Lower House of Parliament. Under the Criminal Code of Moldova (2009), the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 14. Between the ages of 14 and 16, children are criminally responsible in cases of minor or other criminal misconduct. The minimum age of criminal responsibility is 14. Between the ages of 14 and 16, children are criminally responsible in cases of minor or other criminal misconduct. The minimum age of criminal responsibility is 14. Between the ages of 14 and 16, children are criminally responsible in cases of minor or other criminal misconduct.

The Youth Development Index ranks Moldova as 0.73 (i.e. 36 out of 170 countries). The overall literacy rate is 100% for both sexes aged 15-24 in Moldova. The overall net enrolment rate for secondary schools is 77.91% with the female rate (i.e. 78.33%) being slightly higher than the male rate (i.e. 77.50%). The prevalence of HIV is 0.5% for males aged 15-24 and 0.4% for females aged 15-24.

According to the 2011 review, the aims of Moldova's youth policy efforts is to ensure the social, economic, political and juridical social guarantees for the development of a developed personality. The main objectives in this area are to improve (self-) employment; increase access to education, health and personal development; promote active citizenship; ensure access to information, services and leisure; stimulate involvement of youth in decision-making by creating local youth councils and other forms of participation; and facilitate access to information, services and leisure. The Youth Strategy 2009-2013 established the following priorities: i.e. access to information and services; participation in public life and promotion of human rights; promotion of youth in decision-making; and promotion and protection of human rights, participation of youth in community development, promotion and implementation of policies and programs that are aimed at the rights of young people, the space for dialogue and cooperation of young civil society, the space for dialogue and cooperation among young organizations, and in intermediate organizations. Youth work has mainly focused on issues of information, education, and sports. The main aims of the Youth Council of Moldova (CNTM) are to enhance the development of young people's skills, to ensure access to information and services, to promote active participation in public life, and to promote the implementation of policies and programs that are aimed at the rights of young people. The main objectives of the Youth Council of Moldova are to: i.e. ensure access to information, services and leisure; stimulate involvement of youth in decision-making; and promote active citizenship. The main objectives of the Youth Council of Moldova are to: i.e. ensure access to information, services and leisure; stimulate involvement of youth in decision-making; and promote active citizenship. The main objectives of the Youth Council of Moldova are to: i.e. ensure access to information, services and leisure; stimulate involvement of youth in decision-making; and promote active citizenship. The main objectives of the Youth Council of Moldova are to: i.e. ensure access to information, services and leisure; stimulate involvement of youth in decision-making; and promote active citizenship.
programs oriented towards the development of all aspects of youth’s life, free access of each young person to information and social services, and creation of adequate conditions for harmonious development and full affirmation of youth. The Government engages with multiple stakeholders, including the World Bank, UNICEF, and European youth agenda in order to implement different programs in the area of youth policy framework.

In the Republic of Serbia, youth are defined as those aged 15-30 years under the Youth Law (2011). The minimum marriageable age without parental consent for both sexes is 18. The minimum marriageable age requiring parental consent is 16 for both sexes. There is no specific legislation governing same-sex marriages in Serbia. Under the Criminal Code of Serbia (2005), the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 14. The majority age is 18 pursuant to the Charter on Human and Minority Rights and Civil Liberties (2003). The voting age is 18.

The Youth Development Index ranks Serbia as 0.7 (i.e. 55 out of 170 countries). The overall literacy rate is 98.50% with the male rate (i.e. 98.59%) being slightly higher than the female rate (i.e. 98.40%) for those aged 15-24.

The HIV prevalence rate is 0.1% for both sexes aged 15-24. Moreover, the youth of Serbia have faced daunting challenges, given the post-communist and post-conflict transition that the country has undergone. Youth continue to be excluded from decision-making processes and are not given a voice in decisions that affect their lives. Although the government and media consider youth as a resource, youth do not perceive themselves as a resource, which can be explained by the inter-sectoral laws and regulations that do not place youth in the center of social policies and programs. The Youth Law (2011) established a new youth policy framework that focuses on the development of a coherent and comprehensive youth policy, taking into account the needs and interests of young people.

The Youth Law (2011) regulated activities involving youth, their needs, and interests. The National Youth Strategy (2008) is “the first step towards a systematic solution to the problem of...young people in the different spheres of social life.” The Strategy should determine the attitude of the state towards young people, a possible role of youth in society and the modes of establishing a partnership between the state and young people. It identifies opportunities, responsibilities, and institutional mechanisms for youth. It is supported by the Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Youth Strategy 2009-2014 and by guidelines for the implementation at the local level (2012). Consultations are currently under way for the process of amending the Youth Law.
The Department of Youth of the Ministry of Youth and Sport is responsible for youth affairs and policy in Serbia. It works in multiple areas, including the development and implementation of youth policy, strategy and programs, encouraging youth participation, supporting volunteering, cooperation with youth organizations, supporting youth groups and networks at the local level. The department is responsible for youth affairs and policy in Serbia.

In Romania, the 2006 youth law defines youth as those aged 14-35. It also identifies different age groups 14/15-19, 20-24, 25-29, and 30-34/35 to target policies better. The minimum marriageable age with and without parental consent for both sexes is 18. There is no legislation for same-sex marriages. Homosexuality is legal in Romania. The minimum candidacy age for the Lower House of Parliament is 23 and 33 for the Upper House. The minimum legal age for the purchase of tobacco is 25-27, and 30-34/35 for alcohol. The minimum voting age is 18.

Projects have included mobilizing youth votes, training on youth policy and advocacy, awareness campaigns, youth research and participation at events. KOMS is a member of the European Youth Forum. The Youth Development Index ranks Romania at 0.73 (i.e. 34 out of 170 countries).

The overall literacy rate is 99.29% for both sexes aged 15-24, with the HIV prevalence rate being 0.1% for both sexes aged 15-24.

The Youth Development Index ranks Romania at 0.73 (i.e. 34 out of 170 countries).
One of the causes of the school drop-outs is the difficult access to educational institutions, such as 15 km, the average distance to their school premises.

The 2006 youth law first created a legal framework for youth policy in Romania. A draft National Youth Strategy 2014-2020 was launched for public debate in the summer of 2013. However, it is not clear whether it has been finalized and approved. The draft National Youth Strategy focuses on four key pillars, namely culture and informal education, employment and entrepreneurship, participation and volunteering, and health, sport and recreation. Key objectives of the policy include programmes to decrease youth unemployment, especially in rural areas, and promoting healthy lifestyles. A section focusing on the socially marginalized youth recognizes the need to better understand the conditions that influence social exclusion.

In 2013, the government founded the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The Directorate for Youth Programmes and Projects works with actors in the youth field to organize, implement, and monitor government policies. It includes a Department for Camps and Recreation, which coordinates activities of leisure centres and youth tourism, and a Department of Programmes and Activities for Students, promoting students’ participation in cultural and civic activities as well as combating the marginalization of students. The Romanian Youth Council (‘CTR’) is the government’s main partner in the youth field. It advised the drafting of the youth strategy and provides training and support to its members. However, the CTR’s governance structure is unclear. Two other representative structures are the Consultative Council on Youth Issues (‘CCPT’), a government consultative body that includes representatives from youth organizations, local government, and NGOs, and the Romanian Youth Council (R.J.C.), a government consultative body that includes representatives from youth organizations, local government, and NGOs. The overall legal age is 18 years old to vote and take part in consultative activities. The minimum marriageable age is 15 years old with parental consent. Civil unions/partnerships are legal. The minimum candidacy age is 18 years old for both Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament. Under the Criminal Code of Romania (2008), the maximum age of criminal responsibility is 14. The minimum age of criminal responsibility is 14. The overall literacy rate is 99.86% with the female rate (i.e. 99.91%) than the male rate (i.e. 99.81%).

In Slovenia, youth are defined as "young people and young adults of both genders aged between 15 and 29 years". The overall legal age is 18 years old to vote and take part in consultative activities. The minimum marriageable age is 18 years old without parental consent and 15 years old with parental consent. The minimum marriageable age is 18 years old without parental consent and 15 years old with parental consent. Civil unions/partnerships are legal. The minimum candidacy age is 18 years old for both Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament. Under the Criminal Code of Slovenia (2008), the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 14. The overall literacy rate is 99.86% with the female rate (i.e. 99.91%) than the male rate (i.e. 99.81%).
The overall net enrolment rate for secondary schools is 93.30%, with the female rate exceeding the male rate (i.e., 93.83%).

The Youth Sector Act (2010) defines the youth sector, the status of youth organizations, national awards, the role of the National Programme for Youth and the activities of youth centers. It is the first time the law was enacted concerning youth sector as only the Youth Council Act existed previously. It provides the basis for the first National Youth Programme 2013–2022.

The National Youth Programme 2013–2022 is the thematic guide to policy and programmes in Slovenia. It focuses on five key areas, such as employment and entrepreneurship, housing, health and wellness, society and youth sector, culture, creativity, heritage and the media. According to the Programme for Young People page on the Ministry's website, youth work is an important work area of youth programmes. Youth and NGOs conducting youth work programmes on non-formal education, training, youth work, voluntary youth work, information and advice for youth, participation, active citizenship, human rights, international youth work, and research can access financing.

The Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport monitors the situation of young people and implements the measures in the field of non-formal education, leisure time and participation of young people in society. Youth work is an important area of youth programme. Youth and NGOs conducting youth work programmes on non-formal education, training, youth work, voluntary youth work, information and advice for youth, participation, active citizenship, human rights, international youth work, and research can access financing.

The Council of the Government for Youth advises the government and suggests new initiatives or changes to policy. The National Youth Council of Slovenia ('MSS') was established in 1990. It acts as a non-partisan umbrella supporting national youth organizations to promote youth autonomy and integration into democratic society. Its priorities are participation, autonomy, information, youth work and international cooperation. It conducts educational, promotional and cultural activities and issues publications and policy papers. M55 was established in 1999. It is a non-governmental organization to promote intercultural youth mobilization in Slovenia. It focuses on the key areas such as employment and entrepreneurship, housing, health, and education. Throughout the Programme, extensive emphasis is placed on the role of youth work and the Programme's effect on youth work. The Programme 2013–2022 is the thematic guide to policy and programmes for young people. The Programme 2013–2022 is the thematic guide to policy and programmes for young people. The Programme 2013–2022 is the thematic guide to policy and programmes for young people. The Programme 2013–2022 is the thematic guide to policy and programmes for young people. The Programme 2013–2022 is the thematic guide to policy and programmes for young people. The Programme 2013–2022 is the thematic guide to policy and programmes for young people. The Programme 2013–2022 is the thematic guide to policy and programmes for young people. The Programme 2013–2022 is the thematic guide to policy and programmes for young people. The Programme 2013–2022 is the thematic guide to policy and programmes for young people.

In Ukraine, youth are defined as those aged 14-35. Youth work is an important area of youth programme. Youth and NGOs conducting youth work programmes on non-formal education, training, youth work, voluntary youth work, information and advice for youth, participation, active citizenship, human rights, international youth work, and research can access financing.

The Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport monitors the situation of young people and implements the measures in the field of non-formal education, leisure time and participation of young people in society. Youth work is an important area of youth programme. Youth and NGOs conducting youth work programmes on non-formal education, training, youth work, voluntary youth work, information and advice for youth, participation, active citizenship, human rights, international youth work, and research can access financing.

11. **Ukraine**

In Ukraine, youth are defined as those aged 14-35. Youth work is an important area of youth programme. Youth and NGOs conducting youth work programmes on non-formal education, training, youth work, voluntary youth work, information and advice for youth, participation, active citizenship, human rights, international youth work, and research can access financing.
liable for specific crimes, including murder, rape, and bodily harm. The majority and voting ages are 18.

According to the Youth Development Index, Ukraine ranks 0.73 (i.e., 35 out of 170 countries). Its overall literacy rate is 99.76% with the female rate (i.e., 99.81%) being slightly higher than the male rate (i.e., 99.72%) in the age group 15-24.

The overall net enrolment rate is 85.65% with the rate for males (i.e., 85.49%) exceeding the rate for females (i.e., 85.82%).

The HIV prevalence rate is 0.1% for males aged 15-24 and 0.4% for females aged 15-24.

The Youth Development Law (1993) outlines the contours of the implementation of youth policy and includes key organizational, socio-economic, legal and political principles for the socialization of young citizens of Ukraine. The 2013 youth policy strategy, which was adopted by the decree of the Ukrainian President, states that its main objective is to establish an enabling environment for the 'intellectual, moral and physical' development of youth. It also seeks to ensure the participation of youth in the development and implementation of youth policy from national through local levels and to increase the labour market competitiveness of Ukrainian youth. The priorities of youth strategy are affordable education, healthy lifestyles, employment, housing, participation and access to European programmes.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports has the responsibility for youth policy. According to the Decree 390 of the President of Ukraine of 2013, the Ministry's youth-related tasks include the development of measures to promote healthy lifestyles, youth employment, conditions for the intellectual and creative self-development of youth, social development of children and youth, humanistic values and patriotism among youth. It is also in charge of state support to youth and children's associations in the area of youth and sports, social and educational development of the social, cultural, and educational activities of mother's and father's council, youth exchange, development of youth and cultural, youth recreation, youth benefits, and participatory management of youth policies. According to the 2013 Council of Europe Review of Youth Policy, the Ministry of Youth and Sports is responsible for the implementation of youth policy and includes key organizational, socio-economic, legal and political principles for the socialization of young citizens of Ukraine. The Ministry of Youth and Sports is responsible for youth policies, including measures to promote healthy lifestyles, youth employment, participation and access to European programmes, housing, employment, and access to social and educational development of the social, cultural, and educational activities of mother's and father's council, youth exchange, development of youth and cultural, youth recreation, youth benefits, and participatory management of youth policies.

In Azerbaijan, the Law on Youth Policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2002) defines youth as those aged 14-29. This age range is also applicable to the implementation of the law. According to the Law, the minimum marriageable age for both males and females is 18.

The Decree No. 9 of the President of Azerbaijan on the government's action plan for 2011-2015 defines youth as those aged 15-29. The minimum marriageable age for both males and females is 18.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports is responsible for youth policies, including measures to promote healthy lifestyles, youth employment, participation and access to European programmes, housing, employment, and access to social and educational development of the social, cultural, and educational activities of mother's and father's council, youth exchange, development of youth and cultural, youth recreation, youth benefits, and participatory management of youth policies.

According to the European Programme, the age range for youth is 14-29. The minimum marriageable age for both males and females is 18.

YOUTH LAW & LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS

EFFICIENT URBAN YOUTH

YOUTH LAW & LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS

Azerbaijan

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and 17 for females. There is no data for marriages without parental consent. There is no specific legislation governing same-sex marriages. The minimum candidacy age is 25 for the Lower House of Parliament. Under the Criminal Code, 14 is the minimum age of criminal responsibility. At 16, children are subject to criminal liability even though from the age of 14 onwards, they are subject to criminal liability even though from the age of 14 onwards, they are subject to criminal liability even though from the age of 14 onwards, they are subject to criminal liability even though from the age of 14 onwards, they are subject to criminal liability even though from the age of 14 onwards, they are subject to criminal liability even though from the age of 14 onwards, they are subject to criminal liability even though from the age of 14 onwards, they are subject to criminal liability even though from the age of 14 onwards, they are subject to criminal liability even though from the age of 14

The Youth Development Index ranks Azerbaijan as 0.69 (i.e. 69 out of 170 countries). The overall literacy rate is 99.94% with the male rate (i.e. 99.95%) slightly exceeding the female rate (i.e. 99.92%). The overall net enrolment rate for secondary schools is 86.82% with the male rate (i.e. 87.62%) slightly exceeding the female rate (i.e. 85.92%). The HIV prevalence rate is 0.1% for both sexes.
In Kazakhstan, the national youth policy (2004) defines youth as those aged 14-29. The national youth policy (2013) does not specify a particular age group. The minimum marriageable age without parental consent is 18 for males and 17 for females. The minimum marriageable age requiring parental consent is 16 for both sexes. There is no specific legislation governing same-sex marriages. The minimum candidacy age is 25 for the Lower House of Parliament and 30 for the Upper House of Parliament. Under the Criminal Code of Kazakhstan (1997), the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 14. The majority age is 18 under the Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Marriage and Family. The voting age is 18.

According to the Youth Development Index, Kazakhstan is ranked as 0.74 (i.e. 27 out of 170 countries). The overall literacy rate is 99.84% with the female rate (i.e. 99.87%) slightly exceeding the male rate (i.e. 99.81%). The overall net enrolment rate for secondary school is 86.31%.

There is a 2004 youth policy law, a 2013 national youth policy, and a 2012 implementation report. In 2013, the new national youth policy (2013) was approved. It replaced the previous national youth policy (2004). An action plan is in the process of being developed. However, the Implementation Plan (2012) exists. The youth policy focuses on six problem areas, namely the pressures of globalization on traditional values system, non-dominant status of labour values, paternalism and social infantilism, the cult of consumption, risk youth radicalization environment, and marginalization of youth. Action points are specified in connection with patriotism, unity of the nation, ICT, tolerance, education, industry, science and innovation, family, health and fitness, economy, environmental ethics and law abiding.

The youth programmes are under the charge of the Ministry of Education and Science. A Committee on Youth Policy supports the development of youth policy. According to the Implementation Plan (2012), the Committee on Youth Policy “consists of representatives of government agencies, national youth organizations, scientific centers and regional youth organizations.” The advisory Coordination Council on Youth Policy supports the development of youth policy. The Ministry of Education and Science is a Committee on Youth Policy.

The overall literacy rate is 99.84% with the female rate (i.e. 99.87%) slightly exceeding the male rate (i.e. 99.81%). The overall net enrolment rate for secondary school is 86.31%.
neighboring to support the work of the mayoral committee official workers. Young persons, who feel city the national stadium to 10% Produce free. Equal young citizens in the enhancement level. The number of young politicians in Romilly, and young women at the center of their party government, are central to their work. Although young people consider themselves younger than 35, a fourth of young people in government. Embracing that no less than 15% of young people feel not easy and many other issues. While some may feel that their views and ideas are not valued by the government, others express a desire to make a change in the current political landscape. According to the Youth Development Index, Kyrgyzstan ranks 0.75 (i.e., 18 out of 170 countries). The overall literacy rate is 99.75% (i.e., 99.80% female, 99.69% male). The net enrolment rate for secondary schools is 80.37% (i.e., 80.79% male, 79.95% female). The HIV prevalence rate for males (i.e., 0.3%) aged 15-24 exceeds that for females (i.e., 0.1%). Furthermore, young people's political involvement is closely associated with a sense of political efficacy. The situation in Kyrgyzstan shows a significant decrease in young people's political participation, which is reflected in the low number of young politicians in government. It is evident that young people in Kyrgyzstan find it difficult to engage with political issues, but the rise of young activists provides hope for the future.
The national youth law (2009) sought to address these concerns. However, in response to the April 2010 uprisings, the formation of the Ministry of Youth Affairs (now the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Youth) similarly lacked the coordination and strategy of previous youth policies. The report identified factors compounding the effectiveness of youth policies and Ministries as follows:

“...Foundational youth policy documents adopted since 2009 contain contradictions and lack concreteness; responsibility for implementation continues to be diffuse; data collection and procedures for evaluating and monitoring policy are extremely weak; policy coherence, cross-sectoral cooperation, and creative approaches to engaging young people are missing. Overall, Kyrgyzstan's youth policy fails to focus on young people's needs or future roles in society.”

The Kyrgyzstan Constitution guarantees free public school education through 11th grade and makes it mandatory through 9th grade. The Law On Education (1992), which was amended in 1997 and 2003, reiterates these provisions and guarantees all citizens an equal right to education. The law on Kyrgyz Republic on Youth Policy highlights six priority areas for youth, namely spiritual, moral, civic, and patriotic development of young people; state support for young families; protection of health; economic independence, vocational guidance and labour rights for young people; and state support of young people in difficult conditions through social services and rehabilitation. The Ministry of Youth Affairs, which was established in 2010 in response to youth involvement in a popular uprising against the government, was merged with another government department to form the Ministry of Youth, Labour and Employment. In 2013, in a review of the Kyrgyz Government structure, it became the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Youth. Although the national youth policy explicitly prioritizes commitment to youth participation, there is no national youth council or forum that exists in Kyrgyzstan. The number of youth organizations is increasing. Yet, youth involvement in decision-making remains limited.

Tajikistan

Tajikistan's national youth law, The Youth and Youth Policy (2004), defines youth as those aged 14-30. The minimum marriageable age without parental consent is 18 for both sexes. The minimum marriageable age with parental consent is 16 for both sexes. The minimum marriageable age without parental consent is 18 for both sexes. There is no specific legislation governing the minimum marriageable age without parental consent.

The Kyrgyz government guarantees free public school education through 11th grade and makes it mandatory through 9th grade. The Law On Education (1992), which was amended in 1997 and 2003, reiterates these provisions and guarantees all citizens an equal right to education. The law on Kyrgyz Republic on Youth Policy highlights six priority areas for youth, namely spiritual, moral, civic, and patriotic development of young people; state support for young families; protection of health; economic independence, vocational guidance and labour rights for young people; and state support of young people in difficult conditions through social services and rehabilitation.
The minimum age of criminal responsibility is 14 under the Criminal Code in Tajikistan, which sets the minimum age for labor recruitment to 16. The minimum age for marriage without parental consent is 16 for both sexes. The minimum marriageable age without parental consent is 16 for both sexes.

The Youth Development Index ranks Tajikistan as 0.52 (i.e. 114 out of 170 countries).

The overall literacy rate is 99.88% with the female rate (i.e. 99.89%) being more than the male rate (i.e. 99.86%).

The national youth policy (2006) assigns the Committee of Youth Affairs to be the government agency responsible for the implementation of the policy along with other ministries, agencies, and local authorities. According to a 2010 book on Tajikistan’s youth policy, the main objectives of the committee are to provide legal and normative assistance in the formation of state policy, developing measures to evaluate the implementation of youth policy, and cooperating with international and foreign youth organizations.

There is no national level youth council in Tajikistan. Instead, various initiatives exist to create provincial or local youth councils with foreign or international assistance. For example, in 2012, the United Nations Democracy Fund provided funding to create a youth council in the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast and the US-based National Endowment for Democracy has pledged funding for the establishment of various local youth councils.

5. Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan's national youth policy (2013) defines youth as citizens between 14 and 30 years. The minimum age of criminal responsibility is 14 under the Criminal Code, which sets the minimum age for labor recruitment to 16. The minimum marriageable age without parental consent is 16 for both sexes. The minimum marriageable age is 16 for both sexes. Male homosexual acts are illegal whereas female homosexual acts are legal. The minimum candidacy age is 25 for the Lower House of Parliament. The minimum age of criminal responsibility is 14.

The overall literacy rate is 99.86% for both sexes. Male homosexual acts are illegal whereas female homosexual acts are legal. The minimum candidacy age is 25 for the Lower House of Parliament. The minimum age of criminal responsibility is 14.
The overall literacy rate is 99.84% with the female rate (i.e. 99.91%) exceeding the male rate (i.e. 99.76%) aged 15-24.

Among the main aims of the national youth policy ('NYP') (2013) is the "creation of legal, social, economic and organizational conditions and guarantees for development and realization of Turkmenistan's youth in personality, society and State." The NYP has 15 key policy areas including participation, rights and freedoms, education, health, sports and healthy lifestyles, creative activity, vulnerable youth, young families, talented youth, physical and spiritual development, labour and youth employment, youth entrepreneurship, cultural entertainment, recreation, youth associations and international youth cooperation. The Law on Guarantees of the Rights of the Child (2002) provides the rights of children up to 18 in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Makhtumkuli Union of Youth of Turkmenistan ('MUYT') is responsible for the implementation of the NYP (2013) and is a "government-financed organization." It is also described as a membership organization that includes youth organizations. It is not clear whether it is a ministry or youth representation with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In Uzbekistan, the definition of youth is not within a specific age range under the Youth Policy Law (1991). But, the Youth Policy Law applies to "citizens aged 14" and refers to an upper age of 30 years for specific programmes. The minimum marriageable age is 17 for both sexes. However, male homosexual acts are illegal whereas female homosexual acts are illegal whereas female homosexual acts are illegal whereas female homosexual acts are illegal whereas female homosexual acts are illegal whereas female homosexual acts are illegal whereas female homosexual acts are illegal whereas female homosexual acts are illegal whereas female homosexual acts are illega...
According to the Youth Development Index, Uzbekistan ranks 0.45 (i.e. 128 out of 170 countries). Its overall literacy rate is 99.95% for those aged 15-24 with the females rate (i.e. 100%) exceeding the male rate (i.e. 99.90%). The HIV prevalence rate is 0.1% for both sexes aged 15-24.

Furthermore, youth make up a considerable part of Uzbek society. In particular, there are more than 10 million youth up to the age of 18 or about 40% of the Uzbek population and more than 17 million people at the age of up to 30 or 64% of the population. The youth of Uzbekistan certainly do have aspirations in their education and career. In particular, every second young Uzbek would like to raise his/her educational level. 81.6% of them are students of schools, lyceums and colleges. 55.4% of them are students of higher educational institutions. 61.5% of them have secondary specialized education. 47.7% of them have secondary education. 70.1% of youth select for themselves the higher education as a desirable educational level.

According to the Youth Policy Article (2011), the Law on State Youth Policy (1991) “fixes the purposes and tasks of a youth policy, provides the legal and social protection of young people, and the youth’s direct participation in formation and implementation of society development policy and programmes.” The Youth Policy Law (1991) is not a comprehensive policy programme for young people. But, it refers to youth entrepreneurship, youth funds, youth organizations, and youth social services. In addition, policy priorities have included education, youth social services, youth unemployment and support of young families. According to the law, the implementation of the youth policy lies with the State Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Youth and other specific executive bodies. However, no State Council nor Ministry or Department responsible for youth affairs can be found in the Uzbekistan Government Portal.
has encountered problems, which became widely known among Uzbek youth and has been accused of corruption and embezzlement.

ii. South Asia

1. Nepal

Nepal's 2010 National Youth Policy defines youth as "women, men and third gender persons aged 16-40 years old. This definition was very controversial with civil society members advocating for lowering the upper age, for example, 29. The minimum marriageable age without parental consent is 20 for both sexes. The minimum marriageable age requiring parental consent is 18 for both sexes. There is no specific legislation governing same-sex marriages in Nepal. The minimum candidacy age is 25 for the Lower House of Parliament. But, no minimum candidacy age is stated for the Upper House of Parliament. Under the Children's Act of Nepal (1992), the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 10. The majority and voting age is 18. The Youth Development Index ranks Nepal as 0.39 (i.e. 142 out of 170 countries). Its overall literacy rate is 86.90% for those aged 15+. The female rate (i.e. 91.06%) exceeds the male rate (i.e. 83.08%).

2. The female rate (i.e. 83.08%) exceeding the male rate (i.e. 91.06%) according to the 1996 Census (1.94% of those aged 15-29). The overall net enrolment rate for secondary schools is 59.81% with the female rate (i.e. 61.15%) being higher than the male rate (i.e. 58.51%). The HIV prevalence rate is 0.1% for both sexes aged 15-24. Nepal's national youth policy (2010) aims "to make qualitative the role of youth and capacity inherent in them for building prosperous, modern and just Nepal, while integrating the youths in the mainstream of national development through meaningful participation, capacity and leadership development."

It lists 16 working policies that "shall be adopted in harmony with the sectoral policies of the state." It includes education, health and family welfare, control of trafficking in and sale of human beings, and participation of youth in peace-building and conflict resolution. The policy is developed in the context of the Interim Constitution of Nepal 2063 (2007), which provides that the state "shall pursue a special policy to mobilize youth human resources for the development of the country.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports ('MoYS') is responsible for the development of the youth policies. The MoYS was formed in 2009. A 2011 youth survey conducted by the British Council Nepal showed that a majority of the youth population surveyed was not aware of the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The report recommends the creation of district level offices may help to address this problem. According to the youth policy, "an autonomous and executive national youth council shall be formed", consisting of "representatives of the concerned bodies [...], youth organisations and office-bearers appointed by the government."
Council’s aims include employment training and campaigning against discriminatory acts in society. The Youth NGO Federation Nepal is a non-profit, national umbrella organization of youth NGOs. It is also "autonomous and politically impartial" and lists MoYS as a partner/supporting organization.

MoYS launched programs for youth welfare, including the Local Youth Partnership Program of 2009/2010. The Ministry of Finance allocates a portion of the annual budget to youth development activities, such as the Youth Self Employment Program, the Grand Youth Sports Competition, and the Youth Mobilization Program.

iii. South-East Asia

1. Malaysia

In Malaysia, youth are defined in the age range of 15-40 under the 1997 National Youth Development Policy. The Policy specifies that youth development programs and activities shall be focused on youth aged 18-25. The minimum marriageable age without parental consent is 18 for males and 16 for females. The minimum marriageable age requiring parental consent is also 18 for males and 16 for females. Without parental consent, the minimum marriageable age for male and female non-Muslims is higher at 21 years of age. Homosexuality is illegal in Malaysia. The minimum candidacy age is 21 for the Lower House of Parliament and 30 for the Upper House of Parliament.

The Youth Development Index ranks Malaysia as 0.7 (i.e. 52 out of 170 countries). The overall literacy rate is 98.42% for those aged 15-24, with the female rate (i.e. 98.50%) being higher than the male rate (i.e. 98.42%).

The overall net enrolment rate for secondary schools is 66.32% with the male rate (i.e. 67.09%) being higher than the female rate (i.e. 65.60%). The HIV prevalence rate is higher for males aged 15-24 (i.e. 0.2%) than for females in the same age group (i.e. 0.1%).

Under the Penal Code of Malaysia (2006), 10 is the minimum age of criminal responsibility. The majority and voting age is 18.

The national youth policy (1997) is under review. It seeks "to establish a holistic and harmonious Malaysian youth force imbued with strong spiritual and moral values." Its strategies include developing a knowledge base on youth and focus on skill development. The Youth Societies and Youth Development Act 2007 (Act 668) defines the National Youth Consultative Council, chaired by the Minister of Youth and Sport. The National Youth Consultative Council is made up of state representatives, ministers and major national youth societies. It is a forum for both government and NGOs to meet and discuss issues relating to youth development. The Act also contains provisions applicable to registered youth societies and the framework for their development and NGOs to meet and discuss issues relating to youth development. The Act also contains provisions applicable to registered youth societies and the framework for their development.

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Under the Penal Code of Malaysia (2006), 10 is the minimum age of criminal responsibility. The majority and voting age is 18.
The Ministry of Youth and Sports ('MOYS') was established in 1964. The Ministry seeks "to champion the empowerment of a superior youth and sports development and inculcate sports culture within the society by the year 2015." It is responsible for the development and implementation of Malaysia's national youth policy. The Malaysian Youth Council ('MYC') was formed in 1948. It is a non-governmental voluntary organization that is the sole coordinating body for youth and student organizations in Malaysia. It participates in the National Youth Consultative Council, which is a forum for governmental and non-governmental actors to meet and discuss issues relating to youth development. It plays an active role in the implementation and monitoring of the national youth policy.

Malaysia's development plan, also known as the Vision 2020, aims to develop all aspects of the country, including national unity, social cohesion, economic growth, political stability, and quality of life. The development process of the National Youth Development Policy was comprehensive, involving all of the major national youth development organizations and engaging youth groups throughout the country.

In Thailand, youth are defined as those aged 18-25 under the Youth Development Act (2007) and the Youth Development Plan (2012). The minimum marriageable age is 20 for both sexes without parental consent. The minimum marriageable age with parental consent is 17 for both sexes. Opposite sex marriages require parental consent for minors aged 17-20 years. There is no specific legislation regarding same-sex marriages. However, homosexuality is legal in Thailand. The minimum candidacy age is 25 for the Lower House of Parliament and 40 for the Upper House of Parliament. Under the Penal Code of Thailand (1956), the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 7. The majority age is 20 under the Civil and Commercial Code (2008). The voting age is 18.

According to the Youth Development Index, Thailand ranks 0.66 (i.e. 77 out of 170 countries). Its overall literacy rate is 98.24% for those aged 15-24, with the male rate (i.e. 98.30%) being marginally higher than the female rate (i.e. 98.17%). The overall enrollment rate for secondary schools is 79.47%.

2. Thailand
2012-2016 was developed under the Act. Its aim is that youth "lead secured, happy, healthy and creative lives." The plan includes 17 indicators, such as a requirement that 80% of youth councils function in a standardized way. It also provides four strategies, for example, increase life immunity of children and youth, associated objectives, measures, and the ministries responsible for attaining them.

The Office of Promotion and Protection of Children, Youth, the Elderly and Vulnerable Groups ('OPP') is the governmental body responsible for youth. It is the author of the 2007 Youth Development Act and the 2012 Youth Development Plan. Within the office is the Bureau of Youth Promotion and Protection, which is in charge of promoting measures that protect and uphold youth's rights. The 2007 Act also obliges the creation of a national commission. Members include the Prime Minister and young representatives elected by the Child and Youth Council of Thailand. There are two prominent representation structures in Thailand. The first is a National Children and Youth Council, which was set up by the OPP in 2009. There are 954 councils mainly at district and provincial levels. The second is the National Council for Child and Youth Development (NCYD), which coordinates youth groups, schools and ministries according to the 2008 profile.

Vietnam

Youth are defined as those aged 16-30 years under Vietnam's Youth Law, which is appended to its 2011 Youth Development Strategy. The minimum marriageable age without parental consent is 20 for males and 18 for females. There is no data for marriageable ages with parental consent. There is no specific legislation that regulates same-sex marriages. Homosexual acts are legal. The minimum candidacy age is 21 for the Lower House of Parliament. Under the Penal Code of Vietnam (1999), the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 14. Between the ages of 14 and 16, children shall bear penal liability for very serious crimes internationally committed. The Law on Child Protection, Care, and Education (2004) imposes 16 as the majority age. The voting age is 18. The Youth Development Index ranks Vietnam at 0.63 (i.e. 56 out of 170 countries), with the male rate at 98.06% and the female rate at 97.96%. The overall literacy rate is 98.15%. Health risks include drug abuse, HIV/AIDS, and school dropout.

The HIV prevalence rate is 0.1% for both sexes aged 15-24 years. Vietnam's youth also encounter significant challenges, including high school drop-outs, health risks like drug abuse, HIV/AIDS, and child marriage. The minimum marriageable age is 18. The Youth Development Plan and Strategy includes four strategies aimed at improving life immunity of children and youth, associated objectives, measures, and the ministries responsible for attaining them.
AIDS, unwanted pregnancies and abortions, traffic accidents, migration, and unemployment.

The Youth Law (2005) provides the legal framework for the rights of youth. It obliges the State to develop policies for youth in areas, such as education, employment, health and recreation. The law directly informs the Vietnamese Youth Development Strategy 2011-2020. Its goals include developing a highly patriotic generation and creating a young workforce that meets the needs of modernization. The Strategy contains measurable key targets, namely (i) 100% of young men and women in uniformed services annually; (ii) 600,000 new jobs created for youth each year and unemployment rate to be reduced to more than 7% for urban youth and less than 6% for rural youth; (iii) by 2020, 80% of young people to complete senior secondary education and 70% of the young workforce being skilled workers.

Under the 2011 youth strategy, the Ministry of Home Affairs is responsible for being the lead agency in implementing the strategy. It ensures relevant agencies incorporate the youth strategy’s objectives in the design of programmes and plans. It is required to conduct a mid-term review of the strategy by 2015, and a final review by 2020. The National Committee on Youth of Vietnam is comprised of representatives from relevant ministries and departments, to advise the prime minister on issues relating to youth and to coordinate their operations. Under the 2005 Youth Law, there are two key youth organizations, namely the Vietnam Youth Federation (VYF) and the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union. The VYF has a broad based membership of youth and addresses the needs of youth above the minimum age of 15. The National Youth Committee on youth, age 0 to 30, the National Youth Development Policy further defines youth as follows: “Youth refers to the period when, in accordance with their mental and physical development, youngsters grow from being children to being adolescents. In this period, while experiencing various troubles and emotional conflicts, adolescents establish their livelihood bases, the standard-bearers of society, contribute to the state’s economic and cultural development, and play an important role in social affairs and public affairs, both domestically and internationally.”

According to Japan’s National Youth Development Policy (2008), Japan’s National Youth Development Policy (2008) and the White Paper on Children and Young People (2015), the minimum marriageable age is 20 for both sexes. The minimum marriageable age requiring parental consent is 18 for males and 16 for females. There is no specific legislation governing same-sex marriages. The minimum candidacy age is 25 for the Lower House of Parliament and 27 for the Upper House. In Japan, 70% of young people aged 15-29 are in school, and 60% are employed. Youth in Japan also engage in a variety of extracurricular activities, such as sports, clubs, and voluntary work.
The Youth Development Index ranks Japan 0.79 (i.e. 9 out of 170 countries).

The overall net enrolment rate for secondary schools is 99.14% with the female rate (i.e. 99.53%) being higher than the male rate (i.e. 98.78%).

It is also important to note that Japanese society and international community has undergone significant changes and developments. In particular, the birthrate has decreased. Populations are aging along with the advancement of information society, the increase of nuclear families, the disparities between cities and non-metropolitan regions, the diversification of employment patterns, and globalization of the economy.

The Vision for Children and Young People (2010) outlines the 2009 Act on the Promotion of Development and Support for Children and Young People. It replaces the National Youth Development Policy (2008). Principles include treating youth as partners with adults and providing support to youth to become active members of society, focusing on the promotion of core values such as respect for others, self-control, and responsibility. Emphasis is placed on promoting happy and active living, supporting youth facing difficulties, and ensuring the health and safety of youth.

In South Korea, the youth law (2008) defines youth as those between the ages of 9 to 24 years. The minimum marriageable age without parental consent is 18 for both sexes. There is no specific legislation governing same-sex marriages.

The minimum candidacy age is 25 for the Lower House of Parliament.

South Korea
The Republic of China (Taiwan) imposes the voting age as 20. The Constitution of Taiwan defines the majority age as 18, under the protection of children. The minimum age of criminal responsibility is 14. Article 18 of the Criminal Law of Taiwan stipulates that children who have not attained the age of 14 will not be punished for their acts. The minimum age of criminal responsibility is 12. The Youth Law (2008) contains the legal and social provisions for young people, youth organizations, youth centres, activities and welfare, youth leaders and funding. The vision of the national youth policy is to enable “dreaming youth, family with hope, and a bright future of society.” Its goal is to “reinforce the competence of the youth and to build a sound environment for the youth.” Its three main functions are promoting diverse hands-on youth activities, expanding and improving youth welfare outcomes, and providing sound environment for youth. It outlines specific measures to strengthen youth policy, youth participation, youth welfare and safety and protecting youth from violence.

Since 2010, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family is responsible for youth affairs. It purports to foster welfare and protection of youth. According to the 2007 report, a National Youth Commission was established in 2006 under the Office of the Prime Minister. A 5-year plan for 2008-2012 was developed and implemented at national and local government levels. However, the National Youth Commission could not be located on the government organizational chart. The National Council of Youth Organizations in Korea (NCYOK) is a membership organization founded in 1965. The work of NCYOK includes informal exchange, mutual cooperation among youth organizations and joint research on youth, connecting the government, schools, social organizations and international youth organizations. NCYOK represents the Korean youth at the Asian Youth Council and international youth events.

Taiwan’s 2007 Youth Policy Launching and Promotion Act defines youth as those aged 12-24. The minimum marriageable age is 18 for both sexes under the Civil Code (2012). Females under 18 require parental consent to marry as minors “must have the consent of his statutory agent” to process a marriage. There is no specific regulation governing same-sex marriages. Homosexual acts are legal. The minimum candidacy age is 23 for the lower house of the parliament. The minimum age of criminal responsibility is 12. The majority age is 18. The minimum marriageable age for young people is 12. The voting age is 20 under the Civil Code (2011). The Constitution of the Republic of China (Taiwan) imposes the voting age as 20. The Constitution of Taiwan defines the majority age as 18, under the protection of children. The minimum age of criminal responsibility is 14. Article 18 of the Criminal Law of Taiwan stipulates that children who have not attained the age of 14 will not be punished for their acts. The minimum age of criminal responsibility is 12. The Youth Law (2008) contains the legal and social provisions for young people, youth organizations, youth centres, activities and welfare, youth leaders and funding. The vision of the national youth policy is to enable “dreaming youth, family with hope, and a bright future of society.” Its goal is to “reinforce the competence of the youth and to build a sound environment for the youth.” Its three main functions are promoting diverse hands-on youth activities, expanding and improving youth welfare outcomes, and providing sound environment for youth. It outlines specific measures to strengthen youth policy, youth participation, youth welfare and safety and protecting youth from violence.

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The objective of Taiwan’s national youth policy focuses on developing the potential of youth, supporting career development, encouraging an understanding of Taiwan and involvement in public affairs. The strategy seeks to mainstream youth. Implementation principles include encouraging youth to participate in public forums and hold forums to allow youth to participate in decision-making, establishing integrative mechanisms for youth policies like seeking collaboration with non-governmental affairs to develop youth, and reinforcing inter-departmental collaboration and the development of youth organizations. The Protection of Children and Youths Welfare and Rights Act (2011) regulates the welfare and health for children and adolescents aged 18 years and younger. The Youth Development Administration (‘YDA’) of the Ministry of Education is the main agency responsible for youth. The overall policy of the YDA is to establish “multiple learning platforms” and encourage youth to generate “innovation and reform”. Its three main tasks are to promote career counseling and enhance employability, to encourage participation in volunteer services and involvement in public affairs, and to reinforce diverse learning and extend international perspectives of young people. Taiwan does not have a national youth council. Instead, it has government-initiated activities that encourage participation of youth. The Youth Policy Union, which is part of the Youth Development Administration, organizes events such as the Youth Policy Forum held in September 2013. According to an Executive Yuan website press release, the forum joins researchers and youth within government to discuss policy recommendations. When speaking about the forum in 2012, Premier Jiang Yi-huah claimed that “[o]ver 80 percent of the policy recommendations proposed [...] were adopted.”

In Turkey, the national youth policy (2013) is focused on youth aged 14-29. Youth are recognized as a heterogeneous group with different needs. A quarter of the Turkish population is aged 15-29 according to the Turkish population and housing census (2000). The minimum age of criminal responsibility is 12. There is no register regarding same-sex marriage. There is no law on same-sex marriage. The minimum age of marriage is 18 for both sexes without parental consent. The minimum age of marriage with parental consent is 16 for both sexes. The minimum age of marriage is 12 according to the Turkish Population and Housing Census (2000). A quarter of the Turkish population is aged 15-29 according to the Turkish Population and Housing Census (2000). The overall education is the main responsibility for the Ministry of Education. The voting age is 18. According to the Youth Development Index, Turkey ranks 0.69 (i.e. 64 out of 170 countries). Its overall literacy rate is 99.25% with the male rate (i.e. 99.68%) being higher than the female rate (i.e. 98.81%). The overall net enrolment rate for secondary schools is 82.11% with the male rate (i.e. 83.78%) exceeding the female rate (i.e. 80.39%).
The national youth policy (2013) comprises 13 themes, including education, improvement of professional skills, protection, and organization of youth. According to the national youth policy, youth are considered a human resource that needs to be trained in various areas of social life to develop an environment of mutual trust, cooperation, and mutual understanding. The policy aims to ensure that youth can participate actively in social life, make use of fundamental rights and freedoms, and contribute to the development of the environment. The policy also emphasizes the importance of education, which is seen as a way to enhance the "quality of the state and a group."
Africa

1. Algeria

An international study by Euro child on youth policy in Algeria (2009) defines youth as those aged 15-29 years old. However, it provides different definitions among government institutions. It acknowledges that in Algeria, “most policy makers refer to youth as those under the age of 30.” The minimum marriageable age without parental consent is 19 for both sexes. There is no data for marriageable age requiring parental consent. Homosexuality is illegal in Algeria. The minimum candidacy age for the Lower House of Parliament is 28 and 40 for the Upper House of Parliament. These are defined as those aged 15-17. The minimum age of marriage without parental consent is 18 for males and 15 for females. There is no data on marriages of opposite sex. The Ministry of Youth and Sport has Directorates in each of the provinces that are responsible for local youth centers, youth hostels, village halls, youth camps, and sport facilities. The Ministry of Employment and Social Security and the Ministry of National Solidarity both offer programmes and incentives supporting the hiring of school and university graduates. The Ministry of Youth and Sports was established in 1965. It is headed by a Cabinet Minister and supported by the “Secretary of State in charge of youth.” A “Higher Council of Youth” works together with the youth Ministry. However, there are no further details found on the council. 

2. Democratic Republic of Congo

In Africa, the Ministry of Youth and Sport is often focussed on sports rather than youth. Many countries in Africa, including the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), have a national youth policy, but the Ministry of Youth and Sport is often considered to be more focused on sports than youth. The national youth policy (2009) defines youth as those aged 15-35. The minimum age of marriage without parental consent is 18 for males and 15 for females. There is no data on marriages requiring parental consent. Homosexuality is legal in the DRC. The minimum candidacy age is 25 for the Lower House of Parliament and 30 for the Upper House of Parliament. The minimum age of employment is 25 and for the age of voting it is 18. According to the national youth policy (2009), the Ministry of Youth and Sport is responsible for the implementation of the national youth policy. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the coordination of youth programmes and projects. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth groups and associations. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the provision of training and support for youth workers. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth culture and creativity. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth participation in decision making. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth solidarity. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth entrepreneurship. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth sports and physical activity. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth volunteerism. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth media and communication. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth research and development. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth international cooperation. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth internships. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth volunteering. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth tourism. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth cultural events. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth leisure activities. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth social enterprises. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth social businesses. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth social innovation. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth social entrepreneurship. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth social investment. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth social leadership. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth social action. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth social impact. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth social innovation. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth social entrepreneurship. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth social investment. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth social leadership. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth social action. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is also responsible for the promotion of youth social impact.
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16. Under the Family Code (2003), the majority age is 18. The voting age is 18.

According to the Youth Development Index, the DRC ranks 0.17 (i.e., 170 out of 170 countries). The overall literacy rate is 68.71% with the male rate (i.e., 79.95%) being higher than the female rate (i.e., 57.45%) for those aged 15-24.

The HIV prevalence rate is 0.3% for males aged 15-24 and 0.5% for females in the same age group.

Furthermore, set against the context of a humanitarian crisis and armed conflicts in the DRC, the DRC has a young population of over 68% of people aged below the age of 25, most of whom live in rural areas, namely 60%. The median age decreased from 21 in 1984 to 15.5 in 2009. This reflects a high degree of dependence of those responsible for creating the inability of workers to save and causes a lot of pressure on social and health infrastructure and the environment. In addition, youth of the DRC encounter multiple challenges, including job insecurity and an unemployment rate at 90%, especially among young women in the informal sector. Most households cannot provide the minimal food, healthcare and schooling for their children.

According to the Ministerial Order MJS/CAB/2011/024/99 (1999), the National Youth Council ('CNJ') coordinates activities of all youth. It advises on youth policy to the Ministry of Youth and Sports as a member of the Board. The CNJ is not present online. The national youth policy (2009) stipulates that the CNJ informs youth about its implementation and evaluation and promotes youth ownership in the process. It also states that all responsibilities of youth in education and social protection are coordinated by the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The youth policy (2009) is the policy of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Education. It is coordinated by the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Education and is implemented by the Ministry of Youth.

The national youth policy (2009) seeks to develop patriotic, responsible, competitive and educated youth citizens. It covers fifteen areas, including education, HIV/AIDS, employment, sports, rural development and gender. It stresses on its transversal and decentralized framework where the responsibility for its implementation lies with the various ministries, for example, education and social protection. But, it is coordinated by the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

The national youth policy (2009) is a crucial step to ensure education and health care. It is a critical step to ensure education and health care. It is a critical step to ensure education and health care. It is a critical step to ensure education and health care. It is a critical step to ensure education and health care. It is a critical step to ensure education and health care. It is a critical step to ensure education and health care.
CNJ member organizations must have democratic structures with elected officials.

Liberia

Under Liberia’s Revised National Youth Policy (2012-2017), youth are defined as those aged 15-35. It is recognized that this definition of youth is based on a cultural and social construct. The minimum age of marriage without parental consent is 21 for males and 18 for females. The minimum marriageable age requiring parental consent is 16. Homosexual acts are illegal. The minimum candidacy age is 25 for the Lower House of Parliament and 30 for the Upper House of Parliament. Under the Penal Law of Liberia (1976), the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 16. The majority and voting ages are 18.

According to the Youth Development Index, Liberia ranks 0.53 (i.e., 111 out of 170 countries). Its overall literacy rate is 54.47%, with the male rate (i.e., 64.66%) being higher than the female rate (i.e., 43.79%). The HIV prevalence rate is 0.2% for males aged 15-24 and 0.4% for females in the same age group.

The youth are severely impacted upon by the civil conflict and youth were severely impacted upon by the civil conflict.

Many of them are ex-combatants who are still struggling to properly re-integrate into society. The Liberian youth also face challenges related to education, unemployment, economic fragility and poverty. In particular, there is a lack of relevant formal education and inadequate short-term training programs in Liberia, which do not provide a proper platform for earning a living.

Liberia’s Youth Policy 2012-2017 was renamed the Liberia Youth Act, which was passed by the House of Parliament on 5 September 2013. Since then, it was sent to the Senate. Key areas of intervention concern employment, education, sexual and reproductive health, justice and governance, and youth in peace-building processes. The Ministry of Youth and Sports (MOYS) is responsible for developing the National Youth Policy Implementation Plan (NYPAP), which was the guiding policy document from 2009-2012. It aims to develop programs to address the needs of around 1 million youth in the Federation. MOYS provides support to the National Youth Policy Implementation Committee, which was established in 2009. The MOYS is responsible for developing the Strategy for National Youth Development (2012-2017). The priorities of the MOYS are youth training, empowerment, and employment for youth.

The Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY) is a "broad-based democratic, pluralistic organization". It provides a platform for expressing the needs and concerns of its members. FLY was formed in 2008 to address the needs of youth in Liberia. It is a non-governmental organization (NGO) and is registered with the Ministry of Youth and Sports. FLY has a membership of around 300,000 youth from different regions of Liberia.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports (MOYS) was established in 1982. Its priorities include youth training, empowerment, and employment. The MOYS is criticized for lacking capacity with only 25 professional staff to address the needs of around 1 million youth in the Federation.

The Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY) is a "broad-based democratic, pluralistic, non-governmental organization", which provides a platform for expressing the needs and concerns of its members. FLY was formed in 2008 to address the needs of youth in Liberia.

According to the Youth Development Index, Liberia ranks 0.33 (i.e., 111 out of 170 countries). Its overall literacy rate is 54.47%, with the male rate (i.e., 64.66%) being higher than the female rate (i.e., 43.79%). The HIV prevalence rate is 0.2% for males aged 15-24 and 0.4% for females in the same age group.

The youth are severely impacted upon by the civil conflict.
YOUTH LAW & LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS

Enacting Urban Youth

1. Nongovernmental and nonpartisan youth organization. It was enacted into law as FLY in 1978. It became inactive during the civil conflict. Thus, it was re-organized in 2002. In June 2013, FLY helped to conduct a nation-wide consultation to revise youth policy.

4. Libya

Libya has no specific age range to define youth because it has no youth policy and youth programming. According to Islamic law in Libya, marriage requires parental consent and the minimum age for that is 18. Homosexual acts are illegal. The minimum candidacy age is 21 for the Lower House of Parliament. The minimum age of criminal responsibility is 14.

The majority age is 18. The voting age is 18.

The overall literacy rate is 99.95% with the rate being slightly higher for males (i.e. 99.97%) than for females (99.93%) aged 15-24.

Youth still face political marginalization among different forms of marginalization in Libya. Women still face barriers to participate politically even though they benefitted from the 2011 revolution. There has been improved social cohesion. Youth are not equipped with sufficient information in enabling them to participate politically and socially. Civil society emerged more after the revolution when it was pretty much non-existent before the revolution.

Youth unemployment was at a high rate of around 30% after the revolution, given that many of youth are not sufficiently prepared to meet the demands of the labor market in a globalized world.

The Labor Market in Libya

The labor market in Libya is a globalized workforce. Youth are insufficiently prepared to meet the demands of the labor market. The Labor Market in Libya has been impacted by the revolution of 2011. The Labor Market in Libya has undergone significant changes since 2011. The Labor Market in Libya has been transformed. The Labor Market in Libya has been transformed. The Labor Market in Libya has been transformed. The Labor Market in Libya has been transformed.
5. Somalia

In Somalia, there is no specific age range to define youth, and youth even though there is not enough information on young people’s civil liability and recognition. The minimum marriageable age without parental consent is 18 for both sexes. There is no data for the marriageable age for males requiring parental consent. The minimum marriageable age for females requiring parental consent is 16. Homosexual acts are illegal and consequently punishable by death in the southern parts of Somalia. The minimum candidacy age is 25 for the Lower House of Parliament. Under the Penal Code (1962), the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 14.

The HIV prevalence rate is 0.2% for both sexes aged 15-24. Most of the Somali youth are under the age of 30 and have faced blocked transitions to adulthood due to multiple social, economic and political exclusions that are related to clan and cultural affiliations, gender, age, illiteracy, and poverty. These exclusions have consequently limited capabilities and opportunities, and constrained the contribution of youth to peacebuilding and development. They have been reinforced by dominant social attitudes and prejudiced cultural practices and perpetuated by violence. These exclusions have consequently limited capabilities and opportunities, and constrained the contribution of youth to peacebuilding and development. They have been reinforced by dominant social attitudes and prejudiced cultural practices and perpetuated by violence.

In particular, Somalia has one of the highest unemployment rates in the world—14.2% among youth aged 14-29 and overall 54% among those aged 15 to 64. In Somalia, there is no specific age range to define youth, and youth even though there is not enough information on young people’s civil liability and recognition.

The majority of unpaid family workers were young women who were mostly forced to take traditional occupations due to entrenched/ingrained traditional gender roles. An estimated 66% of labour force participation rate for youth reflects the lost opportunities for many who might otherwise attend school and acquire skills and education that could raise their future productivity and potential earnings. These problems are further compounded by a lack of employment opportunities. Given the ongoing conflict in Somalia since the 1990s, there have been a series of national policies on youth, but there is no youth policy at the national level.

The Federal Government of Somalia, which was installed in 2012, was the first formal parliament of Somalia, which was installed in 2012. It was the first formal parliament of Somalia, which was installed in 2012, to provide a series of youth policy instruments. These include a national youth policy (2007), the national education policy (2002), and the national youth law (2012). The national youth law (2012) provides a series of legal and policy frameworks that can create conditions for youth to become more active citizens and contribute to the development of the country.

The Somali Youth Charter, which was developed by youth groups involved in the production of the UNDP’s Human Development Report 2012, seeks to provide principles for the design of youth programmes, including policy and institutional reform, social empowerment, economic empowerment, political empowerment, peace-building, and participatory and deliberative practices and perspectives. The Somali Youth Charter was developed by youth groups involved in the production of the UNDP’s Human Development Report 2012, seeks to provide principles for the design of youth programmes, including policy and institutional reform, social empowerment, economic empowerment, political empowerment, peace-building, and participatory and deliberative practices and perspectives.
The newly created UN Youth Strategy for Somalia provides an enthusiastic future for youth engagement and empowerment, where youth are recognized as agents of peacebuilding.

The youth of South Africa are defined as those aged 14-35 under the National Youth Policy, the National Youth Commission Act and its Integrated Development Strategy (Draft 1, 2). The minimum marriageable age without parental consent is 18 for both sexes. The minimum marriageable age requiring parental consent is 18 for males and 15 for females. 18 is the minimum marriageable age for same-sex marriages for both sexes. The minimum candidacy age is 18 for both the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament. Under the Child Justice Act (2008), the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 10. From 10 to 14 years old, the state must prove criminal capacity. The majority and voting ages are 18.

According to the Youth Development Index, South Africa is ranked 0.58 (i.e., 100 out of 170 countries). The overall literacy rate is 99.02% with the female rate (i.e., 99.39%) being higher than the male rate (i.e., 98.65%) for those aged 15-24.

In South Africa, the demand for youth work in the public sector is increasing. There are institutions for higher learning that offer education and training for youth workers. However, the qualification is just academic since this field is not yet recognized as a profession. There is no uniform curriculum due to a lack of uniform unit standards. As a result, those doing youth work do not have similar qualifications and competencies. Hence, youth-serving organizations are not well-equipped with resources to facilitate total development of youth and improving the skills and capabilities of youth workers. More research is needed to establish local and national policies that address youth-serving organizations to meet the needs of youth work. South Africa's National Youth Policy (2009) has a separate section on youth work.

For females (i.e., 13.1%) the mean age (± standard deviation) is 15.74 years, whereas for males (i.e., 14.9%) the mean age (± standard deviation) is 15.24 years.
YOUTH LAW & LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS

EFFECTING URBAN YOUTH

National Youth Policy. It is also linked with the National Youth Service Policy Framework, which promotes youth volunteering as a way for youth to contribute to development, build skills and develop their abilities. Both the NYP and IYDS (draft 1, 2) are influenced by the National Youth Development Policy Framework.

The NYDA is the main government agency concerning youth. It advocates for the mainstreaming of youth development in all government spheres at the policy level, and delivers services; implementing and facilitating youth development programmes. The National Youth Policy provides that the Youth Desk in The Presidency coordinates youth development. However, it is not listed on the website of The Presidency.

The South African Youth Council ('SAYC') was founded in 1997. It is an autonomous, non-partisan umbrella association for youth organizations. It is governed by a National Executive Committee that consists of Provincial Chairpersons and Secretaries. SAYC represents youth in forums including the National Economic Development and Labour Council ('NEDLAC'), the South African National AIDS Council ('SANAC'), and the National Skills Authority ('NSA').

Zimbabwe's definition of youth is within the age range of 15 and 35 under the 2013 national youth policy, the new Constitution and the AYC. The minimum marriageable age is 18 for both sexes. The minimum marriageable age requiring parental consent is 16 for both sexes. Male homosexual acts are illegal whereas female homosexual acts are legal. However, there is no legislation regulating same-sex marriages. The minimum candidacy age is 21 for the Lower House of Parliament and 40 for the Upper House of Parliament. Under the Criminal Law of Zimbabwe (2005), the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 7. From 7 to 14 years old, the state must provide criminal care. Under the Criminal Law of Zimbabwe (2005), the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 7.

The overall literacy rate is 91.73% with the female rate (i.e. 93.49%) being higher than the male rate (i.e. 89.96%). The overall net enrolment rate for secondary schools is 35.40% with the male rate (i.e. 36.74%) being higher than the female rate (i.e. 34.06%).

The political situation in Zimbabwe has been very polarized. Notably, youth organizations are perceived as threatening to the ruling political party. Thus, the surveillance of youth organizations and control mechanisms have been established through legislation and regulations of existing laws to control the right to freedom of expression and assembly. Many CSOs have been concerned about the government's plans to revive the national youth development policy framework. National Youth Policy. It is also linked with the National Youth
controversial National Youth Service (‘NYS’), which have been marked by militaristic and partisan attitudes. Youth militias were active in the 2008 electoral violence. Both the CSOs and youth engaged in a forum leading to the 2013 referendum on Zimbabwe’s new constitution and expressed that there is “no representative body for youth; The draft fails to institute representation of young women; the failure to mention youth in the bill of rights”.

The revised version of youth policy emphasizes more on mainstreaming youth through all ministries. Its guidelines are based on existing national and international frameworks, namely the AYC and the WPAY. Other youth legislation includes the Decent Work Country Programme for Zimbabwe (‘DWCP’), which was launched in 2013 by the Ministry of Labour and Social Services and the Social Partners. It aims to combat the high levels of youth unemployment through initiatives like the Skills for Youth Employment and Rural Development programme. The Department of Youth of the Ministry of Youth, Indigenization and Economic Empowerment is in charge of “mainstreaming youth in all national development policies and programmes” and to oversee the implementation of the national youth policy. Its three main areas of responsibility are vocational skills training, programming and National Youth Service. The Zimbabwe Youth Council (‘ZYC’) assists the government in devising youth policies and supervises their implementation. It also supports youth organizations and clubs across the country. It also supports youth organizations and clubs across the country. It is responsible for registering youth organizations, clubs and trusts. The National Association of Youth Organizations is an umbrella body currently comprising 83 youth organizations. It promotes the role of youth in community and development processes. The minimum marriageable age of marriage ranges from 12 to 15 years, depending on the province. The minimum marriageable age of marriage ranges from 12 to 15 years, depending on the province. The minimum marriageable age of marriage ranges from 12 to 15 years, depending on the province. The minimum marriageable age of marriage ranges from 12 to 15 years, depending on the province. The minimum marriageable age of marriage ranges from 12 to 15 years, depending on the province. The minimum marriageable age of marriage ranges from 12 to 15 years, depending on the province.
According to the Youth Development Index, Papua New Guinea ranks 0.49 (i.e., 122 out of 170 countries). Its overall literacy rate is 72.35% for those aged 15-24, with the rate for females (i.e., 78.79%) exceeding the rate for males (i.e., 66.30%).

The HIV prevalence rate is higher for females (i.e., 0.2%) than for males (i.e., 0.1%) aged 15-24.

The National Youth Policy identifies key policy areas, including improving the quality of youths’ lives, accessing integrated education, nurturing sustained livelihoods, promoting healthy lifestyles, and building stronger communities. Initiatives include youth-led enterprises and counseling through "youth-friendly" service centers. In his endorsement of the policy in February 2008, former Prime Minister Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare announced that the policy would require PGK 21 million (i.e., USD 7.6 million in February 2008) over ten years for its implementation.

Parliament approved the National Youth Development Authority Act 2013, which replaced the previous National Youth Commission Act 1999. The 2013 Act is intended to reform youth work delivery mechanisms and to complement the 2007-2017 youth policy.

The National Youth Commission ('NYC') is the central government agency responsible for youth development in Papua New Guinea and is part of the Ministry for Religion, Youth and Community Development. Established in 1980, its focus is on three core ideas, namely "mobilization", "participation" and "productiveness" of youth. Its Policy, Development, Coordination & Research Division is responsible for the coordination and development of the national youth policy. The Division assists provinces in the development of five-year youth plans.

The NYC has been criticized by some stakeholders for its poor transition from policy development to implementation. Implementation has been weak due to a lack of political will from government resulting in a lack of resources and insufficient coordination. For example, the NYC has funding for the establishment of Youth Friendly Service Centers throughout Papua New Guinea. However, to date, there have been only two established with a third under construction as of June 2010. For some key proposed programmes, there is no budget available for implementation. In addition, the Annual Work Plans and Action Plans are not always measurable, and are not always measurable, and are not always achievable. The annual Work Plan and Action Plan for 2010 is not available.

According to the Pacific Youth Council, a regional organization of youth councils in the Pacific, Papua New Guinea had a national youth council in 1985, which participated in a series of regional meetings leading to the formation of regional youth councils. The current list of national youth council members does not include Papua New Guinea. Nor is there any current online presence for a Papua New Guinea youth council.

The HIV prevalence rate is higher for females (i.e., 0.2%) than for males (i.e., 0.1%) aged 15-24. The rate is 72.35% for those aged 15-24, with the rate for females (i.e., 78.79%) exceeding the rate for males (i.e., 66.30%).
In Kiribati, the national youth policy recognizes the importance of youth engagement and participation in various sectors. The national youth policy contains the main legislative and policy frameworks forming part of the policy's underlying rationale. It refers to the Constitution of the Republic of Kiribati (1980) as the "supreme law of the country." In Chapter II, the Constitution guarantees the respect of "fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual." These rights and freedoms apply to women, including women's rights. The Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the Individual (1980) are recognized by the Constitution. In Chapter II, the Constitution of the Republic of Kiribati enshrines the principle of non-discrimination. The national youth policy contains the main legislative and policy frameworks forming part of the policy's underlying rationale.

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6. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

This study examined the various issues that youth face across the economic, social and political spheres around the world. The issues include high unemployment rates, lack of access to education, training, skills development, essential infrastructure and services, productive assets and resources in both cities and rural areas, especially in developing countries. The double-edged sword of ICT, general exclusion, lack of participation in decision-making processes, violence, drug abuse, and other forms of anti-social behaviour. These issues are compounded by the fact that youth are not a homogeneous group. They exist and operate in the multiple intersectionalities of their identities. They often face compounded and multiple discriminations as youth as well as belonging to poverty-stricken areas.

The other important context is that youth are not a heterogeneous group. They exist and operate in the multiple intersectionalities of their identity. They often face compounded and multiple discriminations as youth as well as belonging to poverty-stricken areas.
The rights of youth.

Youth, women and other young people, are often excluded from political and economic decision-making processes. Young people are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, both in rural and urban areas. Young women are subjected to gender-based violence and discrimination, while young men are subjected to forced labor and trafficking.

The existing "International Law of Youth Rights" provides a framework for protecting the rights of youth. However, its implementation is often hindered by cultural and religious norms and values, which can act as barriers to the protection of youth rights.

The regional charters that specifically protect the rights of youth are only in a few regions and sub-regions at a time of intense political and economic regionalization, where the AYC and the ICRY are the only exceptional stars in the regional youth law universe. Other regions like Europe, Asia, North America, Oceania and the Middle East do not have such charters.

The development and enforcement of policies and practices that promote positive religious and cultural orientation can motivate youth towards constructive and productive engagement with the society, economy and politics, and lead to the protection of the rights of youth.

The "International Law of Youth Rights" is a commendable departure point for providing some legitimacy for youth rights. However, it is often invisible and inferred rather than visible and explicit. The international human rights treaties and conventions provide the framework for the protection of youth rights, but their implementation is often hindered by cultural and religious norms and values, which can act as barriers to the protection of youth rights.

The development and enforcement of policies and practices that promote positive religious and cultural orientation can motivate youth towards constructive and productive engagement with the society, economy and politics, and lead to the protection of the rights of youth.
There is a significant opportunity for generation of soft-law and political-normative commitments at the international level, building on the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, its SDGs, and the forthcoming adoption of the New Urban Agenda, which must put youth as a major beneficiary and driver. The other soft-law instruments that concern youth comprise the BDY, the WYAP, the Rio+20 outcome document, the Earth Summit, the Brundlandt Report, and UN Resolutions. These instruments are instructive and informative in further understanding the challenges that youth face as well as the goals that countries and the international community have to work towards in realizing the human rights of youth in an integrated and holistic manner.

Moreover, there is no model law on youth rights and responsibilities that countries can follow and use as a template. Despite the existence of national youth laws and legislative frameworks in a number of countries, there is a lack of uniformity in the definitions of youth, differing scope and depth of coverage of rights and responsibilities, and lack of standardization. Variations are naturally based on social, cultural, and political constructs of the countries and societies concerned.

Although the international, regional, and national frameworks examined in this study are comprehensive and well-articulated, they are not sufficient on their own. Existing legal and normative frameworks at the global level are too fragmented and dispersed. They are not aligned with the core elements of sustainable development and the human rights of youth. The human rights of youth are often overlooked and not adequately protected in national law. There is a need for a comprehensive and integrated framework of laws and policies that addresses the challenges faced by youth and ensures their rights are realized.

The current legislative frameworks, while important, are not sufficient in themselves. There is a need for a concerted effort to establish a comprehensive and integrated framework of laws and policies that addresses the challenges faced by youth and ensures their rights are realized. This framework should be based on the principles of sustainable development and encompass all relevant international instruments, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families.

Although the international, regional, and national frameworks examined in this study have contributed to the advancement of the legal framework on youth, they are not sufficient on their own. Existing legal and normative frameworks at the global level are too fragmented and dispersed. Youth rights and empowerment are not sufficiently protected in national law. There is a need for a comprehensive and integrated framework of laws and policies that addresses the challenges faced by youth and ensures their rights are realized.

The current legislative frameworks, while important, are not sufficient in themselves. There is a need for a concerted effort to establish a comprehensive and integrated framework of laws and policies that addresses the challenges faced by youth and ensures their rights are realized. This framework should be based on the principles of sustainable development and encompass all relevant international instruments, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families.
The Dispersed Model of Youth Law and Legislation in the Human Rights Universe
Hence, an international convention on the rights of youth is imperative. It should integrate all key issues, rights and responsibilities affecting youth and involving their agency. This 'Big Bang' approach to establishing a 'Galaxy of Youth Law' in the wider 'Universe' of human rights instruments requires the SDGs, the SPGs, the MDGs, the Agenda 2030, the human rights treaties, the rights-based policies, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). It should model the soft-law instruments, namely the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the UN General Assembly's resolutions on the rights of youth, and the human rights treaties. The 'Universe' of human rights instruments must include the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), and the Convention on the Rights of the Elderly. The convention should also acknowledge the importance of youth in the context of sustainable development, peace and security, human rights, and humanitarian response.

All regional and sub-regional groupings should adopt regional frameworks and policies to address the rights of youth in their countries. These regional frameworks should be consistent with the global convention and should provide a platform for dialogue and collaboration. The convention should be adopted by the UN General Assembly, and its implementation should be monitored by the treaty monitoring bodies. The convention should be reviewed every five years to assess its effectiveness and to ensure that it remains relevant to the evolving needs of youth.

As a result, creating new legislative mechanisms and international conventions is crucial. Such mechanisms should be designed to address the specific needs and challenges faced by youth in different contexts. They should be inclusive and participatory, involving youth in the decision-making process. The convention should also address the needs of marginalized and vulnerable youth groups, including indigenous peoples, refugees, migrants, and persons with disabilities.

In conclusion, creating new legislative mechanisms and international conventions is essential to address the rights of youth. Such mechanisms should be designed to address the specific needs and challenges faced by youth in different contexts. They should be inclusive and participatory, involving youth in the decision-making process. The convention should also address the needs of marginalized and vulnerable youth groups, including indigenous peoples, refugees, migrants, and persons with disabilities.
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In the new “Galaxy” of youth law, legislation and policy, youth are the key players in working towards the realization of the rights of the young as enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and all other key international and national frameworks that protect the rights of youth. The Youth 21 Initiative and the One Stop Youth Centres represent ways in which youth are empowered and engaged in decision-making and the urbanization processes that shape their lives. Therefore, it should take the lead in advocacy and contribution to the “Big Bang” process of “Galaxy” formation.

In designing this convention, more inputs should be obtained from different international organizations besides UN-Habitat, such as United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), UN Women, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organization for Migration (IOM), the World Bank, and the International Development Law Organization (IDLO). The UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth & Development (“IANYD”) should be the crucible for developing the concept and proposals for such a convention within the UN General Assembly and be drawn from all regions and represent a diversity of experiences. The new Secretary General should prioritize this as one of his or her deliverables as he or she takes office in 2017.

The UN System Wide Action Plan (UNSWAP) on youth development and empowerment should complement and support the Youth Convention, while taking into account the contributions and mainstreaming of youth development and empowerment in all other relevant areas. The new Secretary General should ensure that this process is an integral part of the overall agenda of the UN, both at the global and regional levels. The regional bodies that monitor and ensure compliance with the conventions should also be established at the national level to ensure that the rights of youth are protected.

Furthermore, the regions that have not yet adopted regional charters should consider adopting regional instruments to protect and promote the rights of youth. They should also establish regional bodies that monitor and ensure compliance with these charters. There is also a need for a common template or model law and policy at national and city level for youth empowerment and development. This work could be undertaken under the auspices of UN-Habitat. The countries that have adopted youth laws should continue to strengthen, implement, and enforce them. They should mainstream youth rights across different sectors, such as health, education, employment, justice, environment, technology, economic, political and social. There should be a focus on developing mechanisms to engage young people in these areas, as well as ensuring their rights are protected.

It is also important for the international community to consider the momentum and potential of youth and to expand their participation in other contexts. The good practices need to be highlighted, while the bad practices need to be prohibited. The Youth 21 Initiative and the One Stop Youth Centres represent ways in which young people are empowered and engaged in decision-making and the urbanization processes that shape their lives. Therefore, it should take the lead in advocacy and contribution to the “Big Bang” process of “Galaxy” formation.

In this way, it is clear that the role of the UN in promoting the rights of young people is crucial. The new Secretary General should ensure that this process is an integral part of the overall agenda of the UN, both at the global and regional levels. The regional bodies that monitor and ensure compliance with the conventions should also be established at the national level to ensure that the rights of youth are protected.
Harnessing the Potential of Youth Law and Policy for Sustainable Development

While the time horizon over which this process will occur is difficult to assess, there is value in raising awareness on youth empowerment and human rights. It would take advantage of the (i) new political vision for “transforming our world” and commitment embodied in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to leave no one behind, which means leaving no youth behind; (ii) the ambitious and multi-sectoral economic and social resolve as well as determination for ecological sustainability of the SDGs; and (iii) the recognition of the indispensability of realizing the demographic dividend of the largest generation of youth in the history of human development. We need to set our sights on a new youth strategy by the international community to adopt and implement a Comprehensive Framework for the Realization of the Full Potential of Youth Empowerment and Human Rights. It would leverage their potential to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals—and contributions that must be recognized and protected—and rights—themselves the key ingredients for unlocking youth potential and committing to realizing the demographic dividend of the largest generation of youth in the history of human development.

The nine vectors of the implementation of such a framework, which is drawn from the letters of the word, POTENTIAL:

- **Political Commitment/Power of Partnership**
- **Institutions/Inclusive**
- **Education, Employment & Economic Empowerment**
- **Tracking, Data, Indicators & Monitoring Mechanisms**
- **Technology & S.T.E.M.**
- **Investment**
- **Accountability**
- **Leadership**

Climbing the steps towards realizing the pinnacle of the “POTENTIAL” of the world’s youth.
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Political commitment, Power of Partnerships - governments, private sector, civil society with youth and for youth empowerment

Organizations and institutions of, by and for youth development created, strengthened, resourced and capacitated

Tracking through systematic age disaggregated data, indicators to measure progress, establishment of monitoring

Education, Employment and Economic Empowerment and skills development value chain prioritized for youth by all actors

Norms, standards, laws, protocols and promoting youth rights and development and policies and special measures to implement

Technological and scientific education and training and empowerment of youth, including in ICT, prioritized and used as a co-deliverer and co-beneficiary of the demographic dividend

Investment of political, social, financial, and capital significantly increased on an unprecedented scale and scope from all sources

Leadership, voice and participation of youth in all aspects and levels of decision-making that affects them, especially at local government level as the nucleus of governance - "nothing about youth, without youth" - and this is the heart of sustainable implementation and in all aspects of youth empowerment agenda and its co-delivery and co-beneficiary of the demographic dividend

A - Accountability of all actors, institutions and stakeholders, and an "All of government", "All of society", "All of community", "All of private sector", "All of civil society", and "All of youth", and an Accountability of all actors, institutions and stakeholders, and

N - Norms, standards, laws, protocols and promoting youth rights and development and policies and special measures to implement
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