

# URBAN YOUTH DECLAR ACTION



Cali, Colombia



Youth DeclarACTION on Sustainable Urbanization, Cali, Colombia

National Urban Forum Youth2030  
 UN-Habitat Meeting  
 Cali; Colombia, March 19, 2022

We, the representatives of youth organizations from Cali and its surroundings, gathered at the first National Urban Youth2030 Forum at the behest of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in the City of Cali, Colombia, on March 19, 2022, in view of our right to the city, and expressing our intention to work with all stakeholders towards the meaningful inclusion of young people in sustainable urbanization, towards inclusive, safe and prosperous cities and communities for generations to come, and,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That young people are an especially important part of urban settlements and that our dynamism, capabilities, skills, and commitment contribute to the construction of a better urban future;

That we have problems and challenges, which at the same time constitute opportunities to improve cities, such as:

**I. Gender equality**

- Violations and undesirable comments;
- Homophobia and judgment for the way you dress;
- Mistreatment, racism, and gender stereotyping;
- Wage-inequality for women;
- Exclusion of women in choosing their own sexuality

**II. Urban development and pedestrian and road safety**

- Poor quality of traffic lights and road safety;
- Lack of respect for pedestrian space;
- Lack of awareness of traffic wardens



Participants of the Youth 2030 Cities SDG localization in Cali, Colombia (March 2022)

### III. Youth governance

Lack of clear communication between government and citizens;  
 We do not have relationships with people who can implement the ideas we would like to make happen;  
 The institutions we seek help from, are not empowered;  
 Poor community support towards developing projects



Participants of the Youth 2030 Cities Forum in Cali, Colombia (March 2022)

### IV. Economic growth, employment options and entrepreneurship

Not enough funds to buy basic necessities;  
 Lack of employment and entrepreneurship opportunities;  
 There are few opportunities for in-depth analysis of options such as solid waste management businesses;  
 Lack of educational opportunities for young people and their families



Youth 2030 Forum in Cali, Colombia (March 2022)

### V. Urban expansion and environment

Environment Pollution;  
 Pollution of water resources;  
 Failure to care for plants;  
 Global warming;  
 Failure to care for animals;  
 Incompetent and corrupt governments



A participant of the SDG training in Cali, Colombia (February 2022)

That it is necessary to strengthen links and alliances between the various actors integral to the development of the city of Cali, as well as around the world to create networks of exchange and action. Such actors include:

1. The Secretariat of Government, Cali
2. The Secretariat of Economic Development, Cali
3. The Sub-secretariat for Disaster Management
4. The Secretariat of Territory & Citizen Participation
5. The Secretariat of Health
6. Mayor's Office of Cali
7. The National Government
8. The Government of Valle del Cauca
9. Prosecutor's Office
10. Police and security guards
11. Universities
12. Business community
13. Local population

That the coordinated involvement of local and national governments to move forward innovative and revolutionary agendas for young people is of fundamental importance;

That the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals is an opportunity to encourage and highlight youth action with the purpose of "leaving no one or any territory behind";

That the New Urban Agenda issued in Cali in 2016 is another pillar towards comprehensive development for young people that can be achieved with their participation;

That for the achievement of the above purposes, it is necessary to enhance the strength of each young person and their organizations, to advance with concrete actions towards a future in which everyone can benefit and prosper, regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic situation;

That we have created this space, the Youth2030 National Urban Forum, to openly discuss crucial issues identified by the young participants and to find sustainable and inclusive solutions.



Participants of the Youth 2030 SDG localization training workshop in Cali, Colombia (February 2022)

WE MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

1. We, as young people in the district, see the need to create healthy, sustainable, clean, and safe public spaces.
2. We will listen carefully to those who help us to act, such as organizations like Vivo Mi Calle.
3. We will learn to recognize and respect the rules and agreements of dialogue spaces.
4. We will work wisely together with our colleagues to train ourselves as well-rounded and professional people.
5. We understand that governance is important for young people and their dreams.
6. We declare that governments should be more open to young people's views.
7. We reaffirm that our actions and statements show our abilities.
8. We are aware of community power, and we will create support networks with families, friends, and neighbors to carry our ideas to fruition
9. We recognize that communication between neighborhoods and institutions is essential to influence other young people to create support networks and be aware of problems.

**RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS:**

To fulfill these commitments, we believe all of society must be united. At the National Urban Forum Youth2030, Cali, we identified what each key stakeholder needs to do to support meaningful youth action towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Young people must:**

1. Not exclude women in sports, work or at home;
2. Call for more and better woman protection;
3. Seek help from public forces for collective actions;
4. Be active for our future and ideas;
5. Deploy actions and activities to support other people;
6. Communicate to influence other young people;
7. Respect authority's issues;
8. Be more aware and assertive of those spaces and topics that allow our participation;
9. Spread respect and tolerance through their actions;
10. Seek solutions, in the community and our city, with respectful dialogue;
11. Raise awareness about road safety in social media and through programs;
12. Raise awareness that change starts with us on road safety; and
13. Strive to be heard and learn how to listen and discuss.

**Local governments must:**

1. Improve communication; meetings and action programs;
2. Make laws that protect young people;
3. Improve quality of life and give young people support with tools to be able to make a better public place to live together;
4. Provide training to be able to have more employment opportunities;
5. Provide education opportunities;
6. Create scholarships for education and/or entrepreneurship;
7. Educate drivers on road safety;
8. Improve traffic lights and add more traffic signals;
9. Listen to the community to improve pedestrians' quality of life;
10. Raise awareness among people to avoid contamination of rainwater channels and other public spaces;
11. Create conversation spaces to encourage citizen participation where all young people have a voice and vote; and
12. Allocate more green spaces in all neighborhoods.



The Youth 2030 Cities SDG localization in Cali, Colombia



A participant speaking at the Urban Youth Forum in Cali, Colombia (March 2022)

**National governments must:**

1. Support young people's opinion to have an adequate present and future;
2. Create education against driving under alcohol influence;
3. Reduce corruption and consider people's opinions;
4. Look for natural alternatives to not cut down our forest and use more solar energy; and
5. Finance sustainable public policies.

**United Nations agency must:**

1. Create networks to allow Cali's youth to meet young people from other countries and exchange ideas;
2. Help create pedestrian, road, and urban development safety efforts;
3. Provide workshops on environmental care;
4. Help young people to be heard; and
5. Highlight programs such as Vivo Mi Calle.

**Intergovernmental organizations should:**

1. Improve public spaces;
2. Provide information and make surveys;
3. Give more financial support to improve road, pedestrian, and urban safety; and
4. Fund programs seeking a better environment.

**Civil society must:**

1. Support Community Leaders;
2. Integrate young people within their development plans;
3. Provide training workshops;
4. Encourage mental health education; and
5. Dialogue to reach an agreement and be able to act.

**Private sector must:**

1. Assist with caring for and maintaining public spaces;
2. Create campaigns that help create awareness of climate change impact;
3. Donate towards sustainable urbanization; and
4. Find solutions to avoid extinction of natural species and habitats.



Participants painting a banner for the Youth 2030 Cities Forum in Cali Colombia

**CLOSURE:**

Above are the recommendations and objectives of young people to locate the Sustainable Development Goals in Colombia. We are ready and willing to partner with our local governments and other stakeholders to join forces towards building more inclusive and sustainable cities and communities. We call on governments and local authorities to take urgent action to ensure that our voices are heard, and actions are taken seriously. As young and responsible citizens who have already been working hard to improve our cities, we pledge to continue to be part of the implementation of the action points outlined in this "DeclarACTION".

**PRESENTED BY:**

The participants of the National Urban Forum Youth2030 in Cali, Colombia.



Participant at the Youth 2030 Forum in Cali, Colombia (March 2022)



YOUTH  
2030  
CITIES  
YOUTH ACTION  
FOR THE SDGs



SCAN ME