

Youth DeclarACTION on Sustainable Urbanization

Cucuta; Colombia, August 21,22, 2024

We, the representatives of youth organizations from Cucuta and its surroundings, gathered at the behest of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in the City of Cucuta, Colombia, on August 21 and 22, 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:

1. Informality - Economy

- Lack of industry
- Lack of productive sectors
- Lack of implementation of public policies
- Lack of Social Security
- Lack of schools focused on work.
- No stimulation of the economy

2. Updating of planning instruments

- Need to reevaluate the current needs of the Municipality.
- Inclusion of population growth (migration) in urban issues.
- No urban approaches to climate change adaptation.
- Lack of updating of public policies and planning instruments.

3. Security

- Improve border proximity.
- Expand presence of illegal groups.
- Drug consumption, manufacture and disposal.
- Social inequality
- Increase in urban poverty and street dwellers.

4. Education

- Socioeconomic Inequality
- Lack of Access to education (general)
- Sociocultural Factors that generate violence
- Poor implementation of public policies in the educational system.

5. Governance

- Lack of youth participation in decision making.

Limited information from the entities to govern sectoriality
Adult-centeredness in political dynamics
Concentration of power in political elites

WE MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

1. To create Citizen Oversight Instances.
2. Promote emerging leaderships.
3. Generate spaces for youth participation.
4. Demand compliance with the Youth Law (1622 of 2013) (Nod 1885 of 2018).
5. Propose to government entities programs that promote entrepreneurship.
6. Promote activities linked to art, culture, education and sports.
7. Articulate with the different youth and departmental organizations, to generate social and community programs in the different communities and municipalities.
8. To seek support strategies with international organizations.
9. Promote spaces for conflict resolution.
10. Participate in space in a resilient manner committed to defend our rights and ensure more opportunities and spaces for participation, reactivating the subsystem of youth participation.
11. Create spaces for youth orientation and training

ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

To fulfill these commitments, we believe all of society must be united. At the Workshop Youth 2030 Cucuta we identified what each key stakeholder needs to do to support meaningful youth action towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Young people should:

1. Participate in the spaces in a resilient manner, committed to defending rights and opportunities.
2. Actively participate in projects involving children to ensure generational change.
3. To be more active in the improvement of Cúcuta's problems.
4. Promote healthy activities to mitigate drug use.
5. Reconstruct the stories of local communities
6. Improve knowledge of the SDG targets and the NAU.

National governments should:

1. Speak clearly and precisely with youth.
2. Seek international assistance to address areas with serious human rights violations.

Local governments should:

1. Increased control by the Office of the Procurator General

2. Implement checklists for the action plans of the ministries and departments evaluating compliance with the SDGs.
3. A good harmonization of institutions
4. Better information and communication channels to publish their management and compliance with government plans.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme should:

1. To have an impact on youth and social organizations' bets.
2. Replicating these projects in educational institutions and with children.
3. Implement and open spaces in small municipalities and rural areas.
4. Continue promoting the consolidation of sustainable cities.

Intergovernmental organizations should:

1. Expand visits to the states to issue concepts and national support routes.
2. Articulate actions of community action boards, associations and social leaders for the implementation of programs with high impact on the SDGs.
3. Implement circular economy projects

Civil society should:

1. Generate interest and commitment to cultural factors and society.
2. To promote a role of integration and participation in the citizenship.
3. Provide opportunities for youth on various topics
4. Become more aware of the impacts of climate change and how to counteract it in everyday activities.

Private sector:

1. Strengthen the social lines of each company, generating impact in the communities.
2. Adjust their corporate social responsibility by prioritizing the MDs.
3. Implement training and leadership spaces for productivity.
4. To be responsible for the environmental improvement of the company.

CLOSURE:

Above are the recommendations and objectives of young people to locate the Sustainable Development Goals in Cucuta 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 Workshop Youth 2030 in Cucuta, Colombia