



Human Rights Council**Fifty-first session**

12 September–7 October 2022

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development****Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council
on 6 October 2022****51/17. Youth and human rights***The Human Rights Council,**Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,**Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,*Recalling also* the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, in which it is stated that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and that all human rights must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,*Recalling further* Human Rights Council resolutions 32/1 of 30 June 2016, 35/14 of 22 June 2017 and 41/13 of 11 July 2019 on youth and human rights, and resolution 48/12 of 8 October 2021 on the human rights implications of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on young people,*Recalling* all previous relevant resolutions, including the most recent, namely General Assembly resolution 76/137 of 16 December 2021, on policies and programmes involving youth, Assembly resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, by which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, and its subsequent resolution 62/126 of 18 December 2007,*Acknowledging* that the World Programme of Action for Youth provided a policy framework and practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people,*Recalling* the holding of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in Lisbon, in August 1998, and the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019 and Youth Forum Lisboa+21, also in Lisbon, in June 2019, and recalling also with appreciation their Declarations on Youth Policies and Programmes, especially with regard to empowering youth and their representatives, the commitment to protect, respect and fulfil

the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all young people, protecting the most disadvantaged and those in vulnerable situations and contributing to the creation of indicators to assess the impact of youth policies and programmes,

Recalling also the serious and continuing threat to global health posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and that its consequences disproportionately affect the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by young people, in particular young women and persons in vulnerable situations, including with regard to their right to work, right to an inclusive, equitable and quality education and right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health,

Encouraging States to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and reaffirming the need to develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere, including those in vulnerable situations, real opportunities to enable their full, effective and meaningful participation in society, in relevant decision-making processes and monitoring in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres, including in designing and implementing policies, programmes and initiatives, in particular those for implementing the 2030 Agenda,

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

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 76/6 of 15 November 2021 on the follow-up to the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”,¹

Welcoming also General Assembly resolution 76/306 of 8 September 2022 on the establishment of the United Nations Youth Office as a dedicated office for youth affairs in the Secretariat, integrating the Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth,

Welcoming further the intersessional seminar focused on the challenges and opportunities of young people in the field of human rights, held in April 2021, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 41/13, and taking note with appreciation of the report on the seminar prepared by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,² which provides an overview of the challenges and discrimination faced by young people in the realization of their rights, youth mainstreaming in human rights mechanisms and next steps on youth and human rights at the international level,

Taking note with appreciation of the report prepared by the High Commissioner on the human rights implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on young people, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 48/12,³ and encouraging States to consider adopting an approach to COVID-19 recovery that gives a proper place to the human rights of young people and is implemented in partnership with them,

Recognizing the contribution of the fourth phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, which focuses on youth, to the advancement of human rights education and training with, by and for youth globally,

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

Noting the inputs from recent relevant conferences, forums and global initiatives relating to youth at the international, regional and subregional levels, inter alia, the World Youth Forums held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2022,

¹ A/75/982.

² A/HRC/49/32.

³ A/HRC/51/19.

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

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

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

Affirming that youth unemployment figures have increased globally since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and that job losses for youth in 2020 were 8.7 per cent higher than for other workers, with unprecedented global employment losses of 114 million jobs compared with 2019,

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly affected young workers and those transitioning from education to employment, compounding already existing problems and increasing instability, and that youth have disproportionately faced precarious employment conditions, reduced employment hours and income, a lack of decent work, unemployment, limited or no social security support, and limited or no new job or self-employment opportunities,

Recalling that, in its resolution 76/137, the General Assembly urged Member States to take all measures necessary to combat all forms of discrimination, neglect and abuse of, and violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, against young people and to address the barriers to their social integration and adequate participation, bearing in mind that the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms empowers them to contribute as active members of society to the political, civil, economic, social and cultural development of their countries,

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

Expressing concern that young people face specific challenges that require integrated responses by States, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, and that further work is needed to continue to mainstream their rights throughout the United Nations human rights mechanisms,

Noting that civic education and engagement is one important way to facilitate knowledge of how public institutions work, while also noting the lack of equal access of young people to civic education programmes,

Noting also that human rights education for youth, with special emphasis on equality and non-discrimination, contributes to building inclusive and peaceful societies,

Noting further that digital technology can also provide an opportunity for all young people, including persons with disabilities, to fully realize their human rights, including the right to education and to participate in civic engagement and in relevant decision-making processes, while also noting the need to make digital spaces safer for youth,

Emphasizing the need to give each young person effective and meaningful access to digital tools, the Internet, accessible and inclusive public services, equitable and inclusive distance-learning solutions and virtual vocational training, to promote digital and media literacy and to work with all relevant stakeholders to bridge the digital divides, including gender, age, geographical, linguistic and socioeconomic digital divides,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on youth, and recalls its report⁴ and its recommendations to strengthen the promotion and protection of the rights of young people;

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

3. *Welcomes* the decision of the General Assembly to convene a one-day high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, at the level of Heads of State and Government and with the full and effective participation of youth, during the general debate of the eightieth session of the General Assembly, in 2025, to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, with a view to addressing the challenges still faced by young people in the realization of their full potential and human rights;

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

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

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

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

8. *Calls upon* all States to guarantee a safe and enabling environment for meaningful youth participation that fully respects the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the rights of freedom of peaceful assembly and of association in accordance with relevant and applicable international human rights instruments;

9. *Also calls upon* all States to take the steps necessary to ensure that the right of young people to freedom of expression and their safety are respected online, including by better educating them on the digital environment and by developing youth-friendly digital tools, as well as by protecting young people effectively against online threats;

10. *Calls upon* all States and other relevant stakeholders to develop initiatives on human rights education for youth, in accordance with the plan of action for the fourth phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, and to engage youth as key partners in those efforts;

11. *Urges* States to address the challenges faced by girls and young women, as well as gender stereotypes that perpetuate all forms of discrimination and violence against girls and young women, including harmful practices, both online and offline, and the stereotypical roles of women and men that hinder social development, by reaffirming the commitment to the empowerment of women and gender equality and the human rights of all women and girls, and to engage, educate, encourage and support men and boys to take

⁴ A/HRC/39/33.

responsibility for their behaviour in this regard, including their sexual and reproductive behaviour;

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

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

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

15. *Decides* to incorporate into its programme of work a biennial panel discussion, fully accessible to persons with disabilities, which will be held during the September session of the Council as of its fifty-fourth session, and requests the Office of the High Commissioner to organize the panel discussion following consultations with young people, youth and youth-led organizations and to prepare a summary report on the panel discussion for consideration at the subsequent session;

16. *Also decides* that the theme of the panel discussion to be held during the fifty-fourth session will be young people's engagement with climate change and global environmental decision-making processes;

17. *Requests* the High Commissioner, in consultation with States and relevant stakeholders, including relevant United Nations agencies, the treaty bodies, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, national human rights institutions, civil society and representatives of youth organizations, to conduct a detailed study on the solutions to promote digital education for young people and to ensure their protection from online threats, and to submit the study to the Council for consideration prior to its fifty-seventh session;

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

*41st meeting
6 October 2022*

[Adopted without a vote.]