



Life Project 4 Youth (LP4Y)

www.lp4y.org

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Chapeau

> Emphasizing the critical importance of prioritizing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 and Article 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as essential steps towards the advancement of the UN's core pillars, and as indispensable conditions for sustainable poverty eradication.

Securing decent jobs is pivotal for achieving development, peace, security, and human rights; and sustainable eradication of poverty. As Nobel laureate Amartya Sen (Nobel prize in Economic Sciences in 1998) emphasizes, "*Employment is a crucial element in the overall fabric of human life.*" The International Labour Organization (ILO) echoes this sentiment, stating that Decent work is not only a goal in itself but also a driver for achieving other development objectives. Inextricably linked, quality employment fosters economic growth, social stability, and individual empowerment, thereby contributing to a harmonious society.¹ Recognizing the nexus between decent jobs and broader development goals is essential for creating a world where prosperity, peace, and human rights prevail.

> Securing the inclusive active participation of marginalized youth - excluded from economic, political, cultural, civic, and social spheres - in assessing all local and global issues, to challenge current initiatives and expose concrete solutions, enhancing the implementation of existing commitments and fortifying global governance for the well-being of present and future generations.

Chapter 4 emphasizes meaningful, inclusive and effective engagement with youth, but it is of crucial importance to include and focus on the active participation of marginalized youth (victims of discriminations, out of school, living below the poverty line, differently-abled, migrants, engaged in the informal economy, residing in slums, and facing various forms of exclusion due to environmental, social, economic, and universal crises) and their opinions in all chapters. Their participation is crucial for addressing poverty as they are the first concerned, bringing firsthand grassroots insights, bridging gaps between expected and actual outcomes of initiatives. Living with poverty daily, they identify barriers often overlooked. Excluded youth can offer practical solutions and a roadmap for SDGs implementation, boosting commitment and creating efficient responses to field challenges on short and long term.

¹ ILO. (2019). Decent Work. ilo.org. <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/decent-work/lang--en/index.htm>

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

> Enhancing awareness among excluded youth about dignified and sustainable professional opportunities, encompassing green and blue jobs, and accessible pathways beyond the informal sector that uphold environmental considerations.

Youth in situations of exclusion lack knowledge about decent employment (conditions, sectors and positions) and sustainable development. Raising awareness about these options empowers them to make informed choices, transitioning from the informal sector. This not only improves living conditions but also supports alignment with environmental concerns. For instance, green and blue jobs, as per ILO (2018), offer a pathway to a sustainable economy, creating 24 million new jobs annually².

> Equipping excluded youth with the requisite skill set to access sustainable and dignified opportunities to considerably foster their empowerment and socio-economic inclusion.

Empowering youth without diplomas requires targeted training in digital skills, job readiness (knowledge of corporate environment and codes, job search notions), and soft skills (more efficient than hard skills for being standing requirements and applicable to multiple opportunities). Companies while recruiting must complete by providing specific job-related training. This addresses the mismatch between current education programs and the actual needs of the working environment, as highlighted by the private sector and IOE representatives. This initiative aligns with the United Nations' commitment to promoting inclusive and sustainable development by ensuring meaningful and lasting employment to youth.

> Facilitating the active participation of excluded youth in sustainable development initiatives (economic, social, environmental), encouraging their unique perspectives and empowering them as effective agents of positive change within their communities

Youth have the power to create powerful and meaningful transformation within their society for being the future of nations and to inspire older relatives at the same time: we need to provide Youth with awareness regarding human rights and decent work conditions to create new social standards for generations and considerably improve global working standards and living conditions. Excluded Youth must also gain awareness about environmental challenges and emergencies, to understand the potential dangers ahead and operate community's behavior shifts to support planet protection or being able to raise their voices for being the first victims of global warming.

Chapter II. International peace and security

> Prioritizing and implementing comprehensive programs to provide access to education and decent work for excluded youth and communities, fostering sustainable inclusion and decent living conditions for new generations within the global context, framing bases of local and international peace and security.

As delineated in Policy Brief 9: *"Unemployment, underemployment and lack of economic opportunities can be among the root causes of unrest, violence and even violent extremism. Addressing the lack of economic opportunities and inequalities related thereto is key to preventing violence and conflict."*³ Violence and conflict often stem from feelings of exclusion, discrimination, and injustice. Providing decent jobs to excluded youth is an opportunity to integrate them into society, reduce inequalities, and foster

² World Employment and Social Outlook 2018: Greening with jobs. (2018, May 14). [www.ilo.org](https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_628654/lang--en/index.htm).
https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_628654/lang--en/index.htm

³ Policy briefs. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda/policy-briefs>

understanding between individuals with diverse perspectives, thereby promoting peace and averting potential conflicts for the benefit of future generations.

> Establishing comprehensive and inclusive programs to ensure access to education, social support, and decent work for excluded youth, thereby offering viable living options and mitigating the risk of their engagement in hazardous informal economies or activities.

Marginalized youth must get support to reestablish equity and access opportunities conducive to informed decision-making, and discouraging their involvement in informal and perilous financial activities—a recourse often sought for group affiliation and survival due to the absence of viable alternatives. Recognizing that fostering professional and social inclusion for youth constitutes a pivotal element in mitigating gang recruitment, thereby preventing a substantial number from enduring their formative years and beyond in hazardous or dangerous situations and facilities, which may result in enduring trauma and, in certain instances, irreversible consequences.

> Securing access to decent work and living conditions for excluded youth to mitigate forced migrations of vulnerable youth arising from economic disparities, fostering organic economic growth in impoverished nations, and preventing potential sources of international conflicts.

In accordance with the data presented by ILO (2021), the global count of migrant workers, defined as individuals migrating for employment purposes, approximated 169 million in 2019, constituting over two-thirds of the international migrant population⁴. Recognizing that establishing the necessary conditions for the creation and sustainable development of decent jobs within prevailing economically unstable contexts can act as a deterrent against forced migrations, particularly those driven by imperatives of survival. This approach concurrently facilitates the growth and empowerment of emerging economies within developing countries, averting international and multilateral conflicts through a reduction in the number of international migrants and mitigating potentially tragic outcomes. This strategy further serves as a means of fostering support for future generations born in these countries.

> Ensuring the protection of young people and especially young women, who are victims of any form of abuses, discrimination, or violence; emphasizing the need to raise local awareness regarding identifiable signs and viable solutions, establish safe spaces, and implement local measures to facilitate access to paid training or employment for sustainable departure from perilous living environments.

Youth, especially women, present higher vulnerability when exposed to violence, with potential lifelong consequences, impacting future generations. Emphasizing the importance of informing and empowering them about existing support systems, providing local assistance, and support to amplify voices and awareness on violence-related issues, prevents future challenges, aids current victims, ensures justice, and preserves lives in adherence to human rights. This includes psychological support, hosting structures, and assistance for decent employment or financed training programs to foster financial independence and enable individuals to leave hazardous home situations.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

⁴ Labour migration. (2022, February 18). Migration Data Portal. <https://www.migrationdataportal.org/themes/labour-migration>

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

> Supporting meaningful, inclusive, and effective engagement of excluded youth, with a priority focus on ensuring the participation of marginalized young women in institutional discussions and decisions, notably in the Declaration on Future Generations; recognizing them as the most vulnerable and victims of exclusion, the most legitimate to provide decisive grassroots perspectives to develop efficient solutions for the achievement of SDGs, and pivotal actors in shaping the destiny of future generations.

Marginalized young women are crucial in debates and decisions-making processes, bringing accurate vision of needs and challenges from grassroot experiences, identifying current obstacles explaining failures, expose solutions, ensuring that decisions made will concretely support SDGs achievement.

> Ensuring that all policies addressing matters pertinent to youth and future generations undergo thorough review and assessment by youth representatives and civil society stakeholders.

> Securing meaningful and inclusive participation of excluded youth through the provision of skills mentoring, financial sponsorship, and dedicated discussion spaces, fostering collaborative engagement with the private sector, states, and United Nations institutions.

To enhance the meaningful, inclusive, and effective engagement of youth, it is imperative that excluded youth actively participate in the selection of topics, discussions at events, and decision-making processes. This necessitates the implementation of (1) institutional skills mentoring, (2) dedicated funds to ensure their physical participation, and (3) discussion spaces at local, national, and international levels, with equitable speaking opportunities on stage and during decision-making processes.

> Urging member states to prioritize the sustainable social and professional inclusion of excluded youth to ensure robust living conditions today and to prevent vulnerability in future generations.

Today's excluded Youth are the parents of the future vulnerable generation, currently shaping the conditions and opportunities in which their children will evolve in. The most marginalized must be empowered to advance social justice and enhance living conditions to foster eradication of Future generations' poverty. This underscores the imperative implication of marginalized youth in discussions, to propose crucial improvements and contribute to progress toward (SDGs for a better future.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

> Emphasizing the need to bolster the participation of civil society actors in United Nations discussions to ensure their adequate representation and advisory role, recognizing and ensuring equal commitment of these entities in the implementation of SDGs, including private sector.

ILO statistics indicate that "90% of jobs emerging are from the private sector in developing countries"⁵ which underscores the imperative of establishing partnerships with the private sector. This collaboration aims to (1) gather needs and requests for tangible and effective support in achieving SDGs, (2) advocate for employment standards that enable excluded youth and families to lead dignified lives, and (3) forge a cooperative framework with educational institutions to align professional skills with corporate expectations and the current workforce. This initiative seeks to achieve full employment and maximize social development for the most vulnerable populations.

⁵ The International Labour Organisation (n.d.). [www.ilo.org. https://www.ilo.org/pardev/public-private-partnerships/jobs-growth/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/pardev/public-private-partnerships/jobs-growth/lang--en/index.htm)

> Establishing comprehensive metrics that consider both NEETs (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) and youth dependent on the informal sector, to be recognized as indicators for assessing present education, social, and economic advancements within a country, and concurrently serve as indicators for forecasting the future wealth of a community.

ILO (2023) states that "23.5% of youth are not in education, employment, or training,"⁶ translating to nearly one youth out of four. Recognizing the importance of implementing a Youth NEET metric is an effective action to urge member states to adopt a holistic perspective on the youth situation and to formulate and implement appropriate policies that support the creation of a more decent future society.

> Systematizing consultations with civil society and all relevant stakeholders during the formulation of recommendations within the United Nations, including spanning topics addressed in both the Security Council and General Assembly; ensuring a pragmatic and tangible perspective in the development of recommendations.

Affirming the pivotal role of civil society in informing decisions undertaken by the United Nations, recognizing their status as the primary stakeholders consistently affected in various scenarios. Acknowledging the imperative of providing space for expression, especially for the most excluded and vulnerable members of civil society. Consequently, urging a more systematic consultation process involving civil society, pertinent entities, and excluded youth to deliberate on crucial resolutions. This approach aims to ensure that decisions made are harmonized with on-the-ground realities and yield the anticipated outcomes.

⁶ Trends 2023 ILO Flagship Report. (n.d.). https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/--inst/documents/publication/wcms_865332.pdf