

Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development

Contribution to the Summit of the Future

Operationalizing the Right to Development for meaningful youth participation

Youth participation is a human right, and the exclusion of youth might amount to a violation of their rights.

To harness the critical voices and hopeful vision of young people requires adopting **innovative and systematic ways** for their **meaningful participation in policy- and decision-making processes at all levels**, using a right-to-development approach:

- International cooperation arrangements that include young women and men as partners and leaders;
- Strengthened or new mechanisms, including digital platforms, at the national, regional and global levels that:
 - enable the meaningful and non-discriminatory participation of young women and men, and
 - guarantee a greater diversity and representativeness, including young women and girls, youth in more vulnerable situations e.g. those from rural areas, Indigenous Peoples, those living in stressful economic and social conditions, from a diversity of cultures, countries and regions;
- Adequate medium- and long-term financial support, intergenerational solidarity and committed support for empowering youth the strengthening of their capacity for meaningful participation;
- Transparent processes that ensure safe participation, with appropriate feedback mechanisms.

“States should encourage popular participation in all spheres as an important factor in development and in the full realization of all human rights.”

Article 8.2, Declaration on the Right to Development

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