

Thursday, 31 August 2023
Office of the United Nations High
Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland



Subject: Input for the HR75 Youth Declaration

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Jadir Taekwondo Association (AJTKD), a not-for-profit organization based in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, dedicated to assisting disadvantaged children and youth living in vulnerable communities, would like to request accreditation for the HRC President meeting with NGOs.

AJTKD is under special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and has been using sport for development as its main intervention tool since 2000. Over 7.000 children and youth have been assisted in more than two decades of operation.

As a youth-focused organization, we would like to provide our views on the present and future of human rights for the development of the Human Rights 75 Youth Declaration.

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Challenges and Future of Human Rights:

The world is currently grappling with various challenges that can impact the future of human rights. Issues like social inequality, political polarization, climate change, and technological advancements are creating complex dynamics that may threaten the principles outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Inequalities in access to resources, education, and healthcare continue to persist, which can further exacerbate human rights violations. Climate change poses threats to basic rights such as access to clean water, food security, and housing, particularly for vulnerable populations. Additionally, the rapid advancement of technology raises concerns about privacy, digital rights, and the potential for discrimination through automated decision-making.

In this context, the future of human rights calls for proactive efforts to address these challenges. It requires a collective commitment to ensure that advancements in technology and changes in the global landscape do not undermine the fundamental principles of freedom, equality, and dignity. Human rights need to be adaptable and responsive to emerging challenges, and new avenues for advocacy and protection must be explored.

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Recommendations for Advancing Human Rights:

To advance human rights in the future, decision-makers, policymakers, governments, civil society organizations, international organizations, and the United Nations should consider the following recommendations:

- 1. Integration of Human Rights Education:** Incorporate human rights education within curricula at all levels to ensure that individuals are aware of their rights and responsibilities. This will promote a culture of respect for human rights from a young age.
- 2. Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration:** Foster partnerships between governments, civil society, international organizations, and the private sector to address complex human rights challenges comprehensively. Collective action can lead to more effective solutions.
- 3. Policy Innovation:** Develop and implement policies that address the intersection of human rights with emerging technologies and environmental concerns. Establish clear regulations to prevent abuses and ensure accountability.

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4. Inclusive Participation: Ensure the participation of marginalized and vulnerable groups in decision-making processes. Their perspectives are crucial for shaping policies that genuinely reflect the needs of diverse populations.

5. Monitoring and Accountability: Strengthen mechanisms for monitoring human rights violations and holding perpetrators accountable. Transparent reporting and international cooperation are vital in this regard.

6. Youth Empowerment: Recognize the role of young people as agents of change. Create platforms for youth to engage in advocacy, policy formulation, and community initiatives that promote human rights.

7. Sustainable Development: Align human rights objectives with sustainable development goals. Addressing economic, social, and environmental aspects in tandem can lead to holistic improvements in human rights.

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Young People's Commitments and Actions:

Young people play a critical role in shaping the future of human rights. They can contribute by:

- 1. Advocacy:** Raising awareness about human rights violations and advocating for positive change through social media, campaigns, and grassroots movements.
- 2. Education:** Engaging in human rights education to understand the principles and promote them within their communities.
- 3. Inclusion:** Ensuring the inclusion of diverse voices and perspectives in discussions about human rights, especially those from marginalized groups.
- 4. Innovation:** Leveraging technology for positive change, such as using digital platforms for advocacy, education, and mobilization.
- 5. Community Engagement:** Initiating or participating in local projects that address human rights challenges, fostering positive change at the grassroots level.
- 6. Global Solidarity:** Collaborating with youth from around the world to exchange ideas and strategies for advancing human rights globally.

By taking these actions, young people can contribute to a future where human rights are upheld, protected, and advanced for all individuals, regardless of their background or circumstances.