



#Cities4All

#UrbanAction

## Youth DeclarACTION for the New Urban Agenda

We, young people participating in the YouthHab Conference, have gathered from October 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Quito, Ecuador, to co-create this “DeclarACTION” in order to seek a local authority commitment to the youth within the framework of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and strengthen the partnership between city governments and young people.

With 1.8 billion young people worldwide and considering the demographic transition we are currently living, today more than ever, it is absolutely crucial to include us in working to achieve NUA's compromises and, as equally important, in the work to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In this sense, as active citizens, we are proposing goals and actions that fulfill our demands and needs to achieve more equitable, safe, healthy, accessible, affordable, resilient and sustainable cities and share a roadmap so city governments and young people from all around the world can work together.

The approved document includes not only actions co-created by young people present at the YouthHab Conference, but also the proposals of consultations and position papers written and / or subscribed by youth, that were previously systematized and integrated in the processes of the creation of the DeclarACTION, aiming to guarantee an inclusive and integrated approach to it. This document compiles the inputs from young participants from 15 different countries that attended the YouthHab Conference; in addition, it includes the proposals of consultations and position papers from 20 countries, as well as regional and international youth statements.

In this regard, we:

- Build on our core principles of Human Rights, Right to the City and Universal Access to Opportunity and Infrastructure;
- Acknowledge the ongoing work of our governments and local authorities to engage youth but, emphasize that we still need to be seen as key assets and partners in the process of designing, implementing and monitoring of public policies; and not only be seen as its beneficiaries, since we are the ones who suffer the consequences of poor decision-making;
- Express the need for UN-Habitat, as the lead UN agency to implement NUA, to strengthen its support of youth initiatives, national and local governments, and youth partnerships and;

Call on all Member States to also support the implementation of the NUA and increase the capacity of youth and local governments to work in a collaborative manner and promote the engagement of young people in the implementation of the action points we have proposed to reach defined goals:

1. SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION AND POVERTY ERADICATION

- a) To eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, recognize it is a multidimensional problem and approach it cross-sectionally;
- b) To guarantee equal access to affordable, culturally appropriate, age responsive, easily available, accessible, non-discriminatory infrastructure of basic services;
- c) To eliminate discrimination against young people and fight generational prejudice;
- d) To prevent and end all forms of violence, crime and discrimination; especially violence, crimes and discrimination based on gender, race and ethnicity and those against children and youth;
- e) To protect and foster diversity, heritage, tangible and intangible urban cultural expressions;
- f) To guarantee migrants, internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees' rights and foster their inclusion in cities.

2. SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE URBAN PROSPERITY AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

- a) To eliminate youth unemployment;
- b) To regulate the informal sector and prevent the criminalization and stigmatization of artistic and informal economic activities;
- c) To foster youth entrepreneurship, fair trade, local economies and new models of economy;
- d) To eradicate child labor, forced labor and all kinds of exploitation;
- e) To guarantee universal access to education;
- f) To guarantee access to quality health services, including sexual and reproductive health services.

3. ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- a) To guarantee an environmentally sustainable urban development and minimize cities' environmental impact;
- b) To develop resilient urban infrastructure and promote disaster risk management;
- c) To promote alternative mobility infrastructure and systems that prioritize walkability, pedestrian safety, cycling and public transportation;
- d) To create efficient, environmentally friendly and low-carbon public transportation systems;
- e) To promote energy conservation and ensure affordable and sustainable energy for all.

4. BUILDING URBAN GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE: ESTABLISHING A SUPPORTIVE FRAMEWORK

- a) To adopt and implement financed, multi-sector, bottom-up participation mechanisms that value young people as key actors;
- b) To promote and implement data driven decision-making processes with disaggregated data;
- c) To eliminate corruption and improve participation, transparency and accountability mechanisms;
- d) To promote user-friendly Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) and foster access to information, accountability and public effectiveness and efficiency.

5. PLANNING AND MANAGING URBAN SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT

- a) To adopt and implement urban planning processes that promote sustainability, inclusion, equity, well-being and the right to the city;
- b) To consider the urban/rural linkages and dynamics for urban planning to protect natural resources and foster equitable regional development;
- c) To create efficient and integrated public transport systems;
- d) To create and maintain safe, inclusive, accessible, green, multi-purpose and quality public spaces;
- e) To adopt and implement housing policies that will guarantee an adequate standard of living for all;
- f) To guarantee the social function of land and tenure security;
- g) To upgrade informal settlements and slums and prioritize integrated, multidimensional and participatory interventions.

Highlighted above are the goals that establish the roadmap we want to see put into practice to start our community and city transformation through the NUA, along with the SDGs. We are ready and willing to partner with our local governments and other stakeholders to join forces towards building more people-centered, socially cohesive, equitable, inclusive, intergenerational, environmentally-friendly, democratic and collaborative cities.

We ask the governments and local authorities to take urgent steps to ensure that we are finally listened to and taken seriously. As young and responsible citizens who have already been working hard to improve our cities, we commit to continue to be part of the implementation of the action points outlined in this "DeclarACTION" that are further detailed in the website: <http://youthab.com/>.

