

YOUTH ADVOCACY STATEMENT

On behalf of conference participants from:
Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Estonia.

A statement made by young people that outlines their aspirations, opinions, and views and presents their perspectives concerning significant social, political, and environmental issues.

We call upon decision-makers:

1. To engage with youth of all backgrounds, communities and social classes.
2. To invest in gender-neutral education to create a present and future that is free from harmful gender stereotypes;
3. To invest in inclusive education that embraces diversity and ensures the full participation of all youngsters in the same learning environment regardless of ability, ethnicity, religion, legal status, gender, psychosocial needs, marital status, sexual orientation, caretaker role, or any other discriminating factor;
4. To invest in education for sustainable development across curricula, particularly climate education, to develop the skills and knowledge needed to build resilience, mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis, and ensure climate justice.
5. To pay special attention to mental health, as well as create the optimal environment and promote recreational activities, and to generate positive complements and ensure equitable education for all youth.
6. To protect and support all youth in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and all other pertinent UN documents.

7. To invest in promoting and nurturing academic freedom, fostering an education that advances critical thinking, imagination, communication, innovation, socioemotional, and interpersonal skills, and investing in effectively combating misinformation;

8. To recognize and invest in non-formal education programs and organizations, particularly those that are youth-led, promoting the development of personal and collective values and civic engagement of youth;

9. To invest strategically in green and digital skills, policies, and strategies to enhance education, research, entrepreneurial opportunities, and decent jobs for youth.

10. To adopt more stringent laws on rape and all sexual assault, as well as more significant protection for victims from any harassment.

Support from society is also required for rape victims through raising awareness about the stigma, advocating for changes in laws to ensure a better assistance for victims.

Guided by the above principles, purposes, and demands, we – the youth - are committed to:

1. Continue to stand in solidarity with every young person worldwide especially marginalized groups, and support all advocacy efforts towards introducing reforms and positive changes, particularly in education;

2. Promote intergenerational, intercultural, and interreligious dialogue and cooperation in education systems in all communities, countries, and regions to build a better world based on solidarity, diversity, empathy, mutual understanding, and respect.

Done in Porsgrunn On June 3rd 2023

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