



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
25 August 2020

Original: English

---

## Seventy-fourth session

Agenda item 70

### Promotion and protection of human rights

#### **Letter dated 21 August 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to convey to you the Samarkand resolution entitled “Youth 2020: global solidarity, sustainable development and human rights”, adopted at the Samarkand Human Rights Web Forum, which was held on 12 and 13 August 2020 (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session, under agenda item 70.

*(Signed)* Bakhtiyor **Ibragimov**  
Permanent Representative



## **Annex to the letter dated 21 August 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

[Original: Russian]

### **Samarkand resolution “Youth 2020: global solidarity, sustainable development and human rights”**

The Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the National Human Rights Centre and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in partnership with the United Nations country team in Uzbekistan, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, convened the Samarkand Human Rights Web Forum on the theme of “Youth 2020: global solidarity, sustainable development and human rights” on 12 and 13 August 2020.

The Forum was attended by leading experts from the United Nations and its entities (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the World Health Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia), the Inter-Parliamentary Union, OSCE, including the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Council of Europe, the Asian Parliamentary Assembly and the African Union. A large number of representatives of national and youth parliaments, national human rights institutions, youth organizations, State bodies, civil society institutions and academia also participated in the Forum.

We, the participants in the Samarkand Human Rights Forum,

- Noting that 2020 is the year of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, the forty-fifth anniversary of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the thirtieth anniversary of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, and also the fifty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding among Peoples and the twentieth celebration of International Youth Day, which provides an opportunity to celebrate and mainstream the voices, actions and initiatives of young people as well as their meaningful, universal and equitable participation in society and to promote gender awareness among young people,
- Recognizing that “youth” is a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood’s independence and awareness of interdependence as members of a community.<sup>1</sup> In practical terms, “youth” is not a strictly defined age group, but is considered a cultural concept based on the political, economic, legal and sociocultural contexts and perceptions of different communities, and the transition from dependence to independence takes place at different stages in relation to different rights. In view of the fluidity of the concept, the United Nations, when it comes to the implementation of youth policies and strategies at the national level, adopts a more flexible approach to the age group and definition of “youth” used by States,

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://unevoc.unesco.org/go.php?q=TVETipedia+Glossary+A-Z&filt=all&id=9>.

- Determining that the rights of young people include the full enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms by young people. These rights are usually divided into three categories:
  - (a) Provision: protecting young people's access to facilities and services such as food, clothing, housing and education;
  - (b) Protection: protection from violence, including physical, mental and psychological abuse and gender-based violence;
  - (c) Participation: the opportunity to be involved and to participate as partners in the decision-making process that affects them throughout their life cycle,
- Emphasizing that the rights of young people are rights that everyone should enjoy, but which are denied to some because of their young age. This affects young people, sometimes openly, through legal age restrictions, but more importantly, and invisibly, through negative attitudes, beliefs, biases and stereotypes regarding young people, thereby depriving them of the enjoyment of their legal rights. Given these barriers, there is a need for specific protection to combat discrimination against young people, especially young girls and women,
- Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which states that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that all human rights must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,
- Encouraging States to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and reaffirming the need to develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere real opportunities to enable their full, effective and meaningful participation in society,
- Acknowledging the contribution of international and regional efforts to protect and promote the rights of young people, which include the United Nations Youth Strategy for the period until 2030; the World Programme of Action for Youth; United Nations Security Council resolutions [2250 \(2015\)](#) and [2535 \(2020\)](#) on young people and peace and security, in which the Council recognizes the role of young people in peacebuilding; General Assembly resolution [70/1](#) entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"; Human Rights Council resolution [41/13](#) of 2019 on youth and human rights, in which the Council calls for the mainstreaming of youth rights; the Helsinki Final Act of 1975; subsequent declarations of the OSCE Ministerial Council on youth and security of 2014, 2015 and 2018 on the role that young people can play to support States in implementing their commitments in all three dimensions of human security; the Berlin Declaration of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in 2018, including the resolution entitled "A shared priority: fostering peace and security through enabling young people to reach their full potential"; the African Youth Charter; the Ibero-American Convention on the Rights of Youth; the Organization of Islamic Cooperation 2025 Programme of Action, in which the need for capacity-building for young people and youth exchange programmes is emphasized; and the Lisboa + 21 Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes,
- Noting the inputs from recent relevant conferences, forums and global initiatives relating to youth at the international, regional and subregional levels, inter alia, the first and second World Youth Forum, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in November 2017 and November 2018, as well as the sixth international seminar of the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission, held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in October 2019,

- Encouraging contributions by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and the treaty bodies, and other relevant international and regional human rights mechanisms, as well as the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth, in identifying and addressing obstacles to the enjoyment of all human rights by young people,
- Underlining the important role that young people can play in the promotion of peace and security, sustainable development, human rights and the importance of the active, meaningful and inclusive participation of youth in decision-making,
- Drawing attention with appreciation to Human Rights Council resolution [39/3](#) of 27 September 2018, in which the Council decided to make youth the focus group of the fourth phase (2020-2024) of the World Programme, and to align the fourth phase with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, in particular, target 4.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals,
- Conscious that today's generation of youth is the largest that the world has ever witnessed, and therefore encouraging States to make further efforts to ensure the respect, protection and fulfilment of all human rights for young people, including all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, given that lack of participation and opportunity has adverse consequences for communities and societies,
- Recognizing that young people experience difficulties in the exercise of their rights by virtue of being young, and that there are gaps in the protection and fulfilment of the human rights of young people,
- Reiterating our deep concern at the loss of life and livelihoods and the disruption of economies and societies caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and its negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights around the world, especially its disproportionate impact on young persons in vulnerable groups,
- Noting "A Call to Action for Human Rights" by the Secretary-General and also the initiative "The Future We Want, the United Nations We Need: Renewing our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism",
- Welcoming the proposal by the Republic of Uzbekistan for the adoption of an international convention on the rights of young people to meet the needs of young people,

Made the following recommendations at the international level:

- (1) Intensify cooperation among key actors, especially the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development and the United Nations Development Programme, in order to enhance policy coherence, share good practices, broaden the pool of stakeholders and develop interlinkages for cooperation on mutual policy priorities;
- (2) Work together to address the specific challenges faced by young people by articulating and promoting their rights under an international convention on the rights of young people;
- (3) Use existing human rights instruments and mechanisms to ensure that the rights of young people are taken into account, including their consideration under the universal periodic review, by involving youth organizations, national reporting and follow-up mechanisms and national human rights institutions in national consultations;

- (4) Compile data on the Youth Development Index and use it as a yardstick for measuring future progress;
- (5) Strengthen and align the World Programme of Action for Youth with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to promote environmental policies and initiatives aimed at building the capacity of young people as a driving force in the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, climate change and inequality for sustainable development, in particular in developing countries;
- (6) Recognize that the majority of migrants, refugees and people affected by armed conflict are young men and women, and it is therefore necessary to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of young people, regardless of their status, by involving them in relevant decision-making processes;
- (7) Stress the fundamental importance of equal opportunities, education, including human rights education, and technical and vocational training, and that lifelong learning opportunities and guidance for young people are necessary to achieve the goals of sustainable development and the realization of all human rights for young people;
- (8) Recognize that the protection of all young people, particularly young girls and women, refugees and internally displaced persons in armed conflict and post-conflict and their participation in peace processes can significantly contribute to the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security, and should be an important component of any comprehensive strategy to resolve conflict and build peace,
- (9) Recognize that meaningful participation by young people in decision-making processes, including humanitarian planning and response, is essential for improving the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance, and that young people play a unique role in strengthening national, local and community-based capacities in conflict and post-conflict situations to prepare for and respond to the increasing frequency and severity of weather events and natural disasters, as well as public health issues affecting the lives of young people and their future, including the COVID-19 pandemic, and, in that regard, encourage Member States to support and integrate young people into decision-making processes;

Called upon Member States to:

(i) Promote a democratic culture, integrate young people into public administration, provide them with access to justice and empower them through meaningful youth representation, participation and involvement in the decision-making process at the local, national and international levels. To that end, it is recommended that legislative measures be taken to lower the age of candidacy for public office as well as the voting age;

(ii) Promote equal opportunities for all, to eliminate all forms of discrimination against young people, including that based on age, race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, or property or other status;

(iii) Recognize that the participation and representation of young people in institutional political processes and policymaking are low compared with those of other age groups, and that young people are not proportionately represented in political institutions, such as parliaments, political parties and public administrations;

(iv) Establish a forum of young parliamentarians, which would take a leading role in conflict resolution and diplomacy and thus strengthen democracy and promote peace, security and mutual trust among Member States;

(v) In consultation with youth-led and youth-focused organizations, to promote new initiatives for the full, effective, structured and sustainable participation of young people in relevant decision-making processes and monitoring in political, economic, social and cultural spheres, including in designing and implementing policies, programmes and initiatives, in particular while implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(vi) Create an enabling environment for young people to exercise their right to freedom of opinion and expression, their right to information and freedom of association and assembly;

(vii) Enact evidence-based youth-centred legislation, policies and programmes for youth development, and develop comprehensive cross-sectoral cooperation that ensures a human rights-based approach;

(viii) Ensure that all necessary measures are taken, including reviewing and, where necessary, amending, supplementing or abolishing laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that discriminate against young people, in particular girls and young women;

(ix) Consider addressing, through the universal periodic review and the work of the United Nations treaty bodies, issues pertaining to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights of young people and share best practices that they have developed for the realization of the human rights of young people, as well as establishing effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, such as national reporting and follow-up mechanisms and national human rights institutions, which could be presented in the form of disaggregated data and human rights indicators in the national reports presented to the United Nations charter-based and treaty-based bodies;

(x) Address legal, administrative, social, economic, digital and cultural barriers that limit youth participation and encourage, by supporting the establishment of independent youth councils, movements and networks to facilitate cross-border youth exchange programmes for intercultural and interfaith dialogue and harmony;

(xi) Promote the social inclusion of vulnerable or marginalized groups of young people, especially young girls and women, and persons with disabilities, members of minorities, migrants or any other vulnerable group, on an equal basis with others;

(xii) Promote the rights of migrant workers, in particular, to protect their labour rights, to ensure safe working conditions at the workplace, to ensure that the work performed is appropriate for the age and health of the young person and that social protections are in place;

(xiii) Ensure that young people have access to reliable, safe and youth-friendly information and communication technologies to bridge the digital divide, and promote cooperation in developing innovative and sustainable solutions in the fields of science, technology and public policy;

(xiv) Encourage entrepreneurship by improving access to finance and capacity-building programmes for young entrepreneurs;

(xv) Develop policies and programmes to strengthen evidence-based, age-appropriate, comprehensive awareness of health and mental well-being and reproductive health education, that are consistent with their evolving capacities and

religious/cultural characteristics, in order to help them make informed decisions within the health system and health facilities;

(xvi) Protect educational institutions as spaces free of all forms of violence and ensure that they are accessible to all young people, including marginalized youth, and take measures to ensure the equal enjoyment by young women of their right to education;

(xvii) Focus on shaping the character of young people and provide human rights education for young people, raising awareness of their rights and responsibilities, thus ensuring respect for diversity in order to counter extremism and wrong ideologies and to prepare them for their future roles at various levels;

(xviii) Take note of the initiative of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the adoption of a new convention on the rights of youth by the United Nations General Assembly.

We, the participants in the Samarkand Human Rights Forum, emphasize the important role of international and regional intergovernmental organizations, as well as States, in promoting and protecting the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of young people, and we address the Samarkand resolution to the President of Uzbekistan, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and other international organizations.

Adopted in Samarkand (via videoconference)  
12 and 13 August 2020

---