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Meeting **Peru 2022**

HEMISPHERIC REPORT AND ROADMAP: From the IX Summit of the Americas to the 52nd OAS General Assembly

Youth, Innovation, Sustainability, Entrepreneurship and Leadership

Original: Spanish

Final version

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been prepared by the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT) based on (1) the contributions provided by more than 27,000 young people from countries of the hemisphere, as part of the youth consultation process of the VI Young Americas Forum¹, carried out in the period 2019 - 2022. (2) the contributions of activities post VI Forum of more than 200 Youth Delegates from 20 countries of the continent.

This permanent, open and inclusive youth consultation process comprises three fundamental components: (1) **Youth participation**, through the Young Americas Forum, (2) **Entrepreneurship in Action**, promoted through the Talent and Innovation Competencies program of the Americas (TIC Americas)², and (3) **Virtual Campaigns and Policy Labs**, through which informed recommendations are generated with the collaboration of experts on issues that affect youth.

The contributions made by the young people who participated in the process were systematized according to the themes: Climate Change, Combating Corruption, Connectivity and Digital Transformation, COVID-19, Inclusion and Equality. Priority thematic axes for youth and the result of the ongoing consultative process aimed at the youth of the hemisphere.

This report is a roadmap that seeks to be materialized by the youth of the continent. Its purpose is to show the various actions and initiatives led by young people and Youth Delegates, after the VI Young Americas Forum, who, together with governments, civil society and private companies, have led activities to make visible, share and fulfill the established commitments.

Since the last meeting in Los Angeles, the youth of the VI Young Americas Forum have carried out activities within the framework of the Declaration of Commitment and Action Plan, which group efforts to strengthen the scope, knowledge, follow-up and implementation with their communities, governments and various interested institutions. Proof of this is the Youth Festival (NAU Fest) organized together with Junior Achievement

¹ The Young Americas Forum is the participation platform for the youth of the Americas to become actively involved, as a social actor, in the Summits of the Americas, the OAS General Assemblies, and other high-level meetings. More details at: www.foro.yabt.net/en/.

² The Talent and Innovation Competencies of the Americas (TIC Americas) program is a global business support and accelerator platform for young entrepreneurs aged 18 to 34. More details at: www.ticamericas.net/en/.

Americas, where more than 120 young people of different nationalities participated, compiling numerous proposals for action and youth visibility.

Likewise, two key axes of work with youth have been incorporated:

- a) Inclusion and equality: Topic of relevance for youth at the hemispheric level, which is in accordance with the principles of the American states. According to the Convention against all discrimination and intolerance³, equality and non-discrimination are democratic concepts that encourage the adaptation of special measures in favor of the rights of individuals with the purpose of promoting equitable conditions of equal opportunities.
- b) Making the Declaration and Youth visible: Space that shows a series of activities and joint efforts in order to expand and strengthen the scope and knowledge of the commitments established through the Declaration of Commitment and Action Plan of the VI Forum.

³ https://www.oas.org/en/sla/dil/inter_american_treaties_A-69_discrimination_intolerance.asp

ROADMAP:

From the IX Summit of the Americas to the 52nd OAS General Assembly

Below are proposals, perspectives and priority actions for youth around the themes: (1) Climate Change, (2) Combating Corruption, (3) Connectivity and Digital Transformation, (4) COVID-19, (5) Inclusion and Equality, as a response to the commitments established at the IX Summit of the Americas, in relation to the 52nd OAS General Assembly.

Climate Change

Responding to the Political Commitments "Clean Energy and Our Green Future" of the IX Summit of the Americas

1. Clean Energy:

- 1.1. We, young people, reiterate our interest in fulfilling Sustainable Development Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy. We believe that the development model based on the extraction of natural resources should be reviewed and rethought. We urge to rethink production processes and consumption models at a global level, and to implement practices that allow the sustainable use of mineral and energy resources, considering environmental, social and governance factors.
- 1.2. We ask the governments to encourage research for the development and application of new energies in the region; to encourage investment and use of these technologies in a more inclusive way: to invest in renewable energy mechanisms both in industries and in homes, small and medium-sized enterprises. We are committed to collaborating on initiatives ensuring the access for all sectors to these technologies, including the development of biofuels.
- 1.3. We propose to create a Young Americas Dialogue cluster, to be held quarterly in the cities, in innovative spaces where youth leaders, academia, government and private companies participate, to define the most urgent environmental needs of the region and to propose articulated solutions that are evaluated, scaled and taken into account at the national level and have international visibility; generate youth networks for climate change activism.

2. Sustainable cities and technologies:

- 2.1. As native youth of the digital age, we live the benefits, but also the effects, of new technologies on our lives and on our Human Rights. As young people, we commit ourselves

to oversee the environmental impact of the industries and technologies that we use in partnership with regulatory agencies, demanding the appropriate actions to remedy it, and collaborating to solve challenges of access to environmental information in the face of the current climate crisis.

- 2.2. We request increased financial support for projects that promote sustainable solutions to reduce pollution, and to encourage the development of technologies that contribute to preserving the environment through entrepreneurship. We call on State entities in partnership with companies to encourage the use of more sustainable transport models and to create projects for cities that allow us to promote pedestrian mobility and ecological transport, to the benefit of the environment and the health of the population. We are interested in strengthening the water sources of our cities through reforestation.

3. Carbon control:

- 3.1. We urge the strengthening of measures to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions: we propose to promote reforestation and carbon management actions through regional programs that involve collective measures. We also propose projects to measure and report the carbon footprint generated by large industries.
- 3.2. It is urgent to stop the indiscriminate felling of forests and highlight the importance of protecting indigenous territories such as the Amazon and other relevant territories, as pillars in the fight against deforestation and other activities related to illicit economies that harm our ecosystems: such as drug trafficking and illegal mining.

4. Protection of ecosystems:

- 4.1. We young people require a commitment on the part of companies towards the environment, as well as responsibility on the part of the States when creating and enforcing laws and public policies for the conservation of ecosystems. It is necessary to achieve and demonstrate verifiable results in the quality of life of populations.
- 4.2. We are committed to disseminating information and promoting education for tourism as a guide to avoid the deterioration of marine and land ecosystems due to this activity. At the same time, it is important to promote initiatives for the preservation of land and ocean biodiversity.

5. Water saving and sanitation:

- 5.1. Climate change affects the hydrological cycle, causing serious alterations in our environment as human beings, such as the lack of access to drinking water and diseases related to water pollution: we must develop sustainable climate action projects focused on water saving and sanitation, to guarantee access and improve the quality of water and sewage services; as well as strengthening public policies regarding water in the communities, promoting

responsible consumption and educating the population in co-responsibility with other sectors of society.

6. Environmental education:

- 6.1.** We are committed to promoting a circular economy, raising awareness of the impact of practices carried out on a daily basis on the environment, and being critical of the information on the origin of the products we consume; We require the governments to spread greater awareness campaigns on waste management, to promote to a greater extent practices of collecting plastic waste and the harnessing of organic waste; As young entrepreneurs, we are committed to training ourselves on cleaner production tools to create sustainable businesses. We propose strategic alliances between countries to adopt technologies for waste processing and management.
- 6.2.** We propose a cross-sectional approach to environmental and sustainable education, to internalize environmental justice and solidarity: to integrate environmental conservation strategies and notions of responsible consumption into study plans, from basic levels, as well as a recognition system for those who carry out actions in favor of the environment. Long-term results of environmental education can be measured in daily activities such as the increase in the use of public transport, the reduction in the demand for single-use plastics, the increase in the demand for sustainable organic crops, among others.
- 6.3.** It is necessary to encourage technology-based enterprises that help solve social and ecological problems: we propose strategic partnership between countries to adopt and develop technologies for waste processing and management; We suggest creating an accessible fund for projects developed by women to reduce the effects of climate change, through sustainability activities in their communities. We urge greater inclusion of girls and women in study programs and careers with a STEM⁴ focus, promoting their participation in scientific and technological work to face the challenges of climate change.

7. Food security to face climate change:

- 7.1.** As young people, we are interested in allying with and following up on entities and companies that have implemented climate actions and that are willing to support us with financing and training to develop sustainable agricultural projects, through programs that generate collective solutions for achieving food security; We propose to provide education in sustainable agriculture to population in general: consumers, producers, peasants, private and public entities, thus empowering people from the perspective of self-sufficiency. It is necessary to encourage existing sustainable agricultural education and training processes and promote programs according to the needs of our communities.
- 7.2.** We propose to encourage emerging small-scale agricultural initiatives that use traditional regenerative practices. This through associations of large companies with local agricultural

⁴ STEM is the abbreviation for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (as subjects of study).

projects and by supporting inter-scale associations that help smaller agricultural companies to integrate their value-added products in the international market, providing them with the initial investment necessary to comply with international standards.

8. Follow-up of the Declaration after the VI Young Americas Forum

Post VI Young Forum, the youth of the hemisphere has led and shared various efforts in response to climate change focused on the construction and approval of public environmental policies. To date, youth delegates from countries such as the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, El Salvador, Haiti, among others, lead the promotion of policies that contribute to mitigating climate change, including Environmental Education bills, as well as involving the population with information guides on environmental legislation for greater awareness.

Likewise, it has sought to involve representatives of the citizenry, such as presenting the Declaration to the Vice Presidency of the Special Commission on Climate Change in Peru, where the proposals on Climate Change were announced, as well as holding follow-up meetings to the environmental agenda.

At the same time, youth have found it necessary to include communication and training strategies for the population in their work agendas through campaigns for the reuse of plastics and the reinvention of products from waste, as well as promoting increased recycling and the collection of garbage. Such is the case of Colombia, where innovative activities such as plopping⁵ have been carried out. For their part, the youth of Nicaragua contribute to mitigating climate change by managing planting and cultivation projects. In the north of the continent, young people share their skills and learning with their communities to improve soils and guide vulnerable populations to create their own orchards to make better use of their areas.

Meanwhile, young Guatemalans have proposed initiatives that focus on the use of biomass briquettes made up of sawdust and wood residues, based on the "Waste to energy"⁶ method, as an immediate response to the problem of using firewood and charcoal within rural communities. Likewise, young people from various countries in the region, such as Mexico, Peru, Argentina, El Salvador and Guatemala, set out to inform about the recycling of garments and call for awareness about clothing waste, for this reason they developed an application that seeks to people donate and buy clothing to curb overbuying and raise funds for other purposes.

Combating Corruption

Responding to the Political Commitment "Democratic Governance" of the IX Summit of the Americas

1. Youth leadership and participation:

- 1.1.** We call on governments to build and institutionalize scenarios of citizen participation, without political instrumentalization, where youth are included and are protagonists, through the

⁵ Activity that takes advantage of some physical activity in the open air to collect waste found on the beaches, parks or the cities themselves.

⁶ Process by which energy in the form of electricity or heat is generated from the processing of waste into a fuel source.

articulation of networks of educational institutions, public and private, to include and strengthen those spaces that do not have a considerable reach due to their conditions and territorial contexts: the decentralization of spaces for debate and action strengthens the confidence and capacities of youth to confront corruption.

- 1.2. We agree that it is still difficult to promote or channel proposals outside of political parties and institutional mechanisms for participation spaces, so it is necessary to promote dynamics of social program co-creation and government improvement from universities and other civic spaces, such as volunteer programs and laboratories aimed at young people in underserved communities. We propose to create a high-level internship program in state structures for young professionals, as well as educational programs that provide us with tools and specific knowledge about government structures and audit processes, preparing us to occupy decision-making spaces.

2. Quality education:

- 2.1. It is necessary to develop youth political leadership through education, so we propose to reinforce content related to ethics, politics, government and humanities in the educational curriculum of all countries, as well as provide tools to combat corruption to the population, through the creation of citizen schools as an initiative of the civil sector; this without ceasing to include training in life and decision-making skills through programs aimed at young people and adolescents in situations of vulnerability.
- 2.2. We are committed to actively participate in the elaboration of public policies, with special focus on those involving our development, such as educational policies: university autonomy must be considered essential to achieve quality education, while establishing quality standards for all Higher Education Institutions. We agree that access to quality education at all levels is a latent need in the region. Therefore, we propose to create an evaluation standard for the study centers of the hemisphere based on the principles of open government.
- 2.3. As young people we can lay the foundation for stronger international partnerships that overcome political changes, so curricula must also incorporate virtual and face-to-face educational exchanges among institutions across the region. Including standardized international dialogue in educational curricula will ensure students' access to the benefits of global perspectives and collaborative relationships.

3. Human rights and multilateralism:

- 3.1. We young people commit ourselves to promoting multiculturalism in institutional spaces. We urge governments to highlight the realities of indigenous and Afro-descendant youth from their intersectionalities of gender and sexual orientation; serve all young people without distinction of socioeconomic status, people with disabilities, young women and children, especially youth in rural areas and migrants, so that they do not remain in the informal sector. We call to create channels so that vulnerable groups with little access to digital connectivity can be heard.

- 3.2. We urge governments to include commitments to existing migration regulation policies, in the stages of prevention, attention and return, from economic and political factors. The biggest challenge is to increase the guarantees of survival for migrants, to ensure the right to education for migrant children and to provide alternatives for legalization, security and basic rights. We request greater social protection and welfare conditions for people in a situation of human mobility, as well as promotional actions for labor insertion that take advantage of the abilities and skills of young migrants. We express our urgency to guarantee accessibility at all educational levels and to bring these opportunities to vulnerable populations, such as indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants.
- 3.3. We commit ourselves to promoting international cooperation and multilateralism in security, trade and education: we propose to create youth policy nodes and border meetings around issues such as migration, innovation and international trade; we seek participation not only through the mechanisms of civil society, but also in the different spaces convened by the Entities, Organizations and Dependencies of the OAS.

4. Open Government as an anti-corruption strategy:

- 4.1. Young people see with concern that impunity persists in acts of corruption, since it is encouraged by the States in multiple ways: it is frequently given by opportunities to profit through public money that should be used for goods and services. The role of the private sector is also important, so it is necessary to incorporate integrity and good-corporate-governance certifications in all types of companies in order to avoid acts of corruption.
- 4.2. We propose the use of open data as a tool for social development and the design of better public policies: applying open government principles, through the publication of management indicators and the simplification of information access procedures. We demand from governments minimum standards of capacity and integrity for the exercise of public service, to strengthen the training and certification of public officials in management and control positions, as well as to implement training spaces in ethics and transparency.
- 4.3. We young people commit ourselves to be observers and auditors in the public processes of resources for youth, as well as to promote the evaluation of the tangible and significant impact of state projects in our communities, for which we propose the creation of an observatory of youth in which technology tools are used to monitor the actions of interest in order to contribute to the fight against corruption. We also call on the States to encourage the rest of the citizenry to be controllers and guarantors in the management of public funds.

5. Eradication of corruption and violence:

- 5.1. We declare that it is urgent to highlight the constant violation of the fundamental Human Rights that young people, women, indigenous communities live in the region, as well as sexual and

gender diversities, as an effect of corruption, impunity and discrimination in access to public services and in justice enforcement.

- 5.2. It is necessary to spotlight the violence that is exercised illegally from the States, which persists through formal institutions through forms such as harassment and persecution, illegal repression, torture and murder. We demand greater protection for people who report acts of corruption.
- 5.3. It is necessary to put an end to extractive activities that directly affect indigenous peoples and punish serious environmental damage: we propose to recognize at the international level the figure of "ecocide" as a crime before international bodies. At the same time, we urge States to take actions to protect environmental activists and indigenous peoples, as we recognize the violence that is exercised in a structural, systematic and intersectional manner. We urge governments to establish safe spaces and real guarantees for young leaders who denounce and make visible environmental crimes, rejecting impunity in the face of these. We propose to adopt the Earth Charter as an instrument of International Law and Democracy, to promote a culture of Non- Violence and Peace as a basis to eradicate the social and economic inequality that gives rise to violence.

6. Follow-up to the Declaration post VI Young Americas Forum

After the VI Young Forum held in Los Angeles, young people have established various mechanisms to combat corruption. In countries such as Paraguay, Colombia and Ecuador, youth network initiatives have been promoted aimed at civic education, through which they seek to promote responsible governance, as well as raise awareness in society about key concepts, such as democracy, political participation, transparency, among others.

In Guatemala, youth have held student political training workshops with the aim of attracting new leaders committed to the population, and thus reducing mistrust of their rulers. Young people from Colombia have proposed to highlight the importance of collective awareness and focus on generating new habits in the population, for which a marketing and social media strategy is proposed which generates content such as informative videos, challenges and competitions; so that once involved, a virtual reality game is later developed, which seeks that the user can adopt different professions and activities that impact the development of the community.

Youth promote campaigns against corruption and encourage the political participation of more people through social networks. In addition, youth delegates from countries such as Nicaragua and Colombia continue to receive training in national and international forums aimed at combating corruption, which has allowed them to enter into dialogues and alliances for projects with institutions such as USAID.

Delegates have sought various spaces to raise their voice through interviews and writings, where they have presented control proposals to mitigate corruption, such as: transparency, open government, digital tools, among others.

Connectivity and Digital Transformation

Responding to the Political Commitment "Digital Transformation" of the IX Summit of the Americas

1. Reduce the digital gap:

- 1.1.** The Post-COVID-19 scenario is an example of how young people have had to innovate and make a leap towards connectivity and the digitization of businesses and services. We believe that it is a task for governments to guarantee equal access to technology. It is necessary to recognize our Digital Rights, since there are still gaps in connectivity infrastructure in the countries of the region and internet access is still unequal. We propose a Digitization and Connectivity Plan that includes digital education aimed especially at vulnerable communities, as well as the expansion of connectivity in each country with the increase of Wi-Fi networks, optical fiber and the corresponding physical infrastructure. All this, through agreements between governments and private companies.
- 1.2.** We ask for incentives for projects that use technological development as a tool to favor the accessibility and efficiency of basic services and as a means to favor production and employability. Entrepreneurship programs with an emphasis on encouraging telecommuting will allow young people to join the labor market, closing economic, social and gender gaps.
- 1.3.** We also propose the creation of digital applications for communication in the Americas, which promote the strengthening of labor and academic actions throughout the hemisphere by the means of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), considering areas of difficult access, allowing to integrate the social sector in its different rural, urban and peri-urban areas. This in order to reduce the digital divide through education, especially in vulnerable communities and indigenous populations that practice agriculture.
- 1.4.** Companies have reinvented themselves and adapted their business models, which is why we reiterate the importance of providing digital literacy programs from childhood: promoting Digital Literacy processes in the entire population, particularly young people. The foregoing in a partnership between educational institutions, civil society organizations and the media, led by the States. We commit to promoting the formalization of work and commerce, for which we propose incentives for the computerization of businesses, as well as advancing to hybrid models that take advantage of the technologies that were implemented during the pandemic.
- 1.5.** We require policies for the creation of job opportunities, financing options for youth entrepreneurship and comprehensive education in the current context of employment and technological development. For this reason, we propose to focus training and curricula on the use of Industry 4.0 technologies: that schools and colleges teach robotics and programming skills; that universities promote skills for the development of Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things (IoT) and Big Data. It is also necessary to strengthen

accounting and financial skills in school programs, aimed at entrepreneurship. For this we propose to create and promote platforms that accompany the vocational guidance of students according to the needs of the labor market. The foregoing with a gender perspective and non-discrimination.

2. Security and transparency of data:

2.1. We call to strengthen digital security and the ethical use of data, both at the level of data management and in the prevention of cyberbullying. We also propose creating spaces for digital education based on the cybersecurity component, since the lack of expertise in this area impacts the security of Latin American countries.

2.2. Likewise, we propose to implement technological methods that allow transparent access to state information on accountability, such as the implementation of Blockchain and Big Data technology in public administration.

3. Follow-up to the Declaration post VI Young Americas Forum

It has been identified that the actions of youth represent a valuable boost in terms of Connectivity and Digital Transformation, by promoting training programs in the use of digital platforms and new technologies with the support of their governments and in cooperation with civil society. Colombian youth, for example, have been building preventive health platforms as well as that of their representatives in the government, who have financed the acquisition of technological equipment for young people.

The youth delegates have created projects aimed at training in the use of technologies. Some examples are the courses on reducing digital gaps in the Dominican Republic, training for digital entrepreneurs in Honduras, and training in technological skills for young people in Mexico. They have also joined forces with a view to promoting research into new technologies and cooperation between states to reduce the digital divide.

Likewise, binational integration channels have been established between youth delegates in order to promote policies for the implementation of information and innovation technologies between local and regional governments.

COVID-19

Responding to the Political Commitment "Health and Resilience" of the IX Summit of the Americas

1. Solidarity-based economic recovery:

1.1. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it difficult to acquire goods and services, mainly affecting the most vulnerable sectors of the population: women, children and adolescents, especially from indigenous peoples. Given this, we believe that the reactivation of industries must be based on solidarity: we propose to follow up on programs to promote collaborative economy projects with a gender perspective, to integrate the different actors and sectors of the

productive chains and strengthen local enterprises; we must make small and medium-sized companies visible, promoting associativity, fair and sustainable trade through inclusive, cooperative and decentralized public policies.

1.2. It is necessary to assess the impact of the pandemic from a gender perspective: confinement put young women and girls at greater risk of violence, due to the increase in school dropout, lack of access to medical services and the cultural burden of domestic and care tasks: it is necessary to implement new safety and support programs for affected women and girls.

1.3. COVID-19 has also widened the gender gap in earning opportunities: employment policies must consider domestic and caregiving dynamics to motivate young women to continue working. Reducing the gender gap in entrepreneurship is more important than ever to create jobs and spur innovation in a post-COVID-19 world, which is why we propose to create training and support platforms for entrepreneurship among young women.

2. Hygiene and disease prevention:

2.1. We commit ourselves to promoting sustainable initiatives to ensure access to drinking water for communities and to promote hygiene measures and the rational use of water as a basis for preventing infectious diseases.

3. Proposals for post-pandemic mental health:

3.1. The pandemic affected the mental health of young people, especially those who live in countries in social and political conflict. It is urgent to make visible suicide, depression, stress, anxiety, among other psychological pathologies in youth, derived from their losses and confinement, which will have long-term effects on our families and communities. We must promote comprehensive programs and build a post-COVID-19 mental health policy, through open and collaborative platforms, developing inclusive communication strategies regarding mental health, ensuring the incorporation of content on managing emotions in all educational programs in the region.

3.2. In addition to expanding the coverage of health systems in terms of immunization, prevention and care for diseases, public policies are required that guarantee easy access to mental health services for any person. We propose to include mental health care as a priority issue in the regional agenda, so that sufficient budgets are allocated to it by the States.

3.3. As youth, we commit ourselves to promoting initiatives and campaigns that guarantee free or low-cost access to well-being and stress management techniques. We also propose to value and support the ancestral knowledge of our communities, as alternative solutions to the effects caused by COVID-19, as well as its aftermath.

4. Opportunities for youth after COVID-19:

4.1. The pandemic not only generated immediate and serious effects on work and income, but it has drastically accelerated digitization and automation processes: companies reinvented

their business models. As young people, we prioritize spaces for dialogue about the future of work after this pandemic. There is still a lack of policies that support productive activities, decent work, entrepreneurship, creativity, innovation and formalization, to generate educational inclusion in vulnerable communities, promoting training and visualizing youth participation in the formal economy. Given the increase in youth unemployment and the precariousness of existing jobs, we call on governments to carry out the educational and labor reforms necessary for better and greater access to work through education in coordination with the global labor market.

- 4.2. As young people, we are committed to strengthening the use of spaces for citizen participation guided by peers, in order to create a network of young people with a social purpose, as well as promoting the use of networks for research purposes to update our regions. We propose the creation of groups trained to identify young people in vulnerable situations and help them find educational and employment opportunities. We call for public-private partnerships to create greater employment opportunities for youth as an alternative to migration.
- 4.3. The percentage of youth unemployment should decrease with the support of programs for the formalization of entrepreneurs. We propose a commercial formalization campaign through incentives and streamlining bureaucratic procedures, in which HUBs and incubators are the key spaces to ensure the implementation of a business idea, as a strategy to alleviate poverty. These spaces should be implemented in universities and government agencies focused on youth.
- 4.4. The pandemic made it clear that there is a link between the ability to obtain employment and the possibility of obtaining an adequate level of education: although online resources have increased due to the pandemic, many young people in vulnerable situations continue to lack access to technology to access resources and opportunities to learn online. This coupled with an outdated educational system. After the pandemic, we need to assess the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities of young people, highlighting that the vulnerable population needs access to continuing education in the digital age to strengthen their job skills.

5. Follow-up to the Declaration post VI Young Americas Forum

Youth in the south of the continent have developed information campaigns on the health rights of citizens, including the dynamics of discarding COVID-19 as the necessary care to prevent contagion of people in the community. In addition to participating in volunteering in order to ensure the well-being of their communities in relation to the recovery of people post-COVID-19.

Young people from Mexico and El Salvador created programs prioritizing mental health, where the purpose was to analyze the psychological impact produced by social distancing on people, identifying situations of depression, anxiety and stress within adults and young populations.

INCLUSION AND EQUALITY

Responding to the 52nd OAS General Assembly "Together against inequality and discrimination"

“At the World Bank Group, we have realized that addressing the need for social inclusion will be critical if we are to meet our goal of promoting shared prosperity” Jim Yong Kim, Former President of the World Bank Group

According to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in “The crisis of inequality: Latin America and the Caribbean at the crossroads”⁷ Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the most unequal regions in the world in terms of income; the richest 10% of the population captures 22 times more of the national income than the poorest 10%. However, inequality is not expressed only in the difference in income of people, but also includes discrimination based on class, race, gender, geographical origin, different physical capacity, etc.

These inequalities have become a detriment to the development of the continent, becoming a multidimensional phenomenon. One of the most visible examples on the continent is discrimination against women, according to the Regional Report of the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)⁸ vulnerable women and girls are affected disproportionately, due to their socioeconomic status or origin. Likewise, the report highlights that women in situations of vulnerability (migrants, from the rural world or with low income) and belonging to minority groups (indigenous, Afro-descendants) are located at the intersection of multiple converging forms of discrimination.

Likewise, people with disabilities, as well as the LGBTI+ community and migrants, face high levels of exclusion, which increases inequality indices in: opportunities, access to justice, access to health services, high-quality education, among others. Even climate change and natural disasters exacerbate inequality. For this reason, it is necessary to face these two phenomena that delay the inclusion and development of people.

Inclusion and equality become a topic of relevance at the hemispheric level, which is in accordance with the principles of the American states. According to the Convention against all discrimination and intolerance, equality and non-discrimination are democratic concepts that encourage the adaptation of special measures in favor of the rights of individuals with the purpose of promoting equitable conditions of equal opportunities.

Youth in Peru, Colombia, Ecuador have built spaces where they seek to develop the capacities of adolescents, youth and adults equally, and thus eliminate gender or other stereotypes, places where communities feel safe and included in the social sphere. Likewise, in Colombia youth delegates have worked with ethnic communities, such as the Zenú people, to reinforce their cultural identity as indigenous peoples. Similarly, in

⁷<https://publications.iadb.org/publications/spanish/document/La-crisis-de-la-desigualdad-America-Latina-y-el-Caribe-en-la-encrucijada.pdf> (content in Spanish only)

⁸

<https://www.oecd.org/development/sigi-2020-regional-report-for-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-cb7d45d1-en.htm>

Nicaragua programs have been developed to train women leaders, creating organized networks in favor of gender equality. In Haiti, youth promote entrepreneurship courses for women, seeking to support their families and empowering themselves to expand their businesses.

Making visible the Declaration of Commitment and Action Plan and Youth

The Delegates have shown their commitment to make visible actions and leadership in their communities to publicize the work at the hemispheric level that is being promoted to strengthen spaces for youth citizen participation. For this reason, they have spearheaded various activities that include young people in the linking of decision-making, an example of this are the meetings of the youth delegates with their heads of state or high command.

In the Dominican Republic, the message and experience acquired in the VI Forum has been extended to its President, Luis Abinader. In Peru, the Declaration of Commitment and Action Plan has been shared with Councilors of the Municipality of Lima; as well the youth document has been delivered to congressmen from the same country. In Argentina, youth delegates have been interviewed in the framework of the VI Young Americas Forum, disseminating experience and content of the Declaration of Commitment and Action Plan.

Similarly, young entrepreneurs have been able to spread the importance of participating in the VI Forum through interviews, who through their endeavors seek to strengthen the impact of the 5C's of youth development. The virtual participation in the VI Young Americas Forum was very well received among the youth, the delegates managed the preparation of a document that brought together the contributions of the youth who participated virtually, with around 158 signatures.

Likewise, the Declaration of Commitment and Action Plan has been presented to local and national governments. Youth of Ecuador, has held meetings with mayors for better alliances with youth networks. From Cuenca and Quito in Ecuador, participatory processes have been managed to build local action agendas. In Colombia, young people visited different public entities such as the Congress of the Republic, the Andean Parliament; likewise, young Colombians in Boyacá have presented the activities they carried out in the Forum and the Declaration before their municipalities and collected new proposals for development. In Peru, the declaration has been shared with entrepreneurs and efforts are being made to link entrepreneurs with youth.

Some actions have focused on efforts to contribute and make visible the work of other young people, establishing connections between the youth delegates themselves and holding events that allow them to have an impact on society and on decision-making. The activities have been led by young people acting on their own behalf, hand in hand with civil associations, in the company of government entities or by them.

During the month of June, youth integration festivals have been held, a space where young people have discussed follow-up actions to the Declaration of Commitment and Action Plan. In Colombia, the Local Youth

Week was held in the Suba region, where the results of the VI Young Americas Forum were disseminated. Similarly, young Peruvians have carried out counseling activities and awarded youth innovation.

In Panama, young people have promoted a Discussion Panel on Education for Sustainable Development. In San Pedro de Macorís, Dominican Republic, a conference was held on youth leadership and the importance of integrating youth in decision-making bodies. In addition, youth has included initiatives to disseminate the Declaration in secondary schools. These are some of dozens of examples throughout the continent.

Throughout the continent, youth has continued to promote projects aimed at benefiting society and related to the C's of Youth Development. In Colombia, youth, together with USAID and ACDI/VOCA, have promoted a leadership school focused on climate change, gender violence and youth participation. They have also managed to articulate with public entities to train young people around issues of social relevance, including local governments such as Comfenalco Antioquía promoting training programs aimed at the citizen participation of young people. In El Salvador, young biologists and agro-biotechnologists have discussed and proposed a national network of technical-scientific work as a solution to the problems of research and job access. In Venezuela, the creation of spaces for training and citizen participation with an emphasis on youth was promoted.

We thank all the youth who joined efforts in the consultation process on the way to the I Young Americas Meeting, especially the following participating youth networks and promoters of the various channels and mechanisms of participation

Collaborators	Country
Acorde 33, Justicia & Paz	Venezuela
Alianza General Revolucionaria	Mexico
Alianza Global de Jóvenes Políticos de Colombia (AGloJoven Atlántico)	Colombia
Anamá	Brazil
Asociación Civil Cultura Democrática	Argentina
Asociación Pro Construcción Ciudadana y Orden Normativo	El Salvador
Asociación Salvadoreña para el Desarrollo Integral de la Juventud (ASAES)	El Salvador
Ateneo Nacional de la Juventud A.C. Capítulo Oaxaca	Mexico
Attelier Organic	Mexico
Bagcycle	Colombia
Bizquick	Costa Rica
Botellas de Amor Fundación	Colombia
Bottleyes	Ecuador
Centro de Activismo y Desarrollo Democrático	Venezuela
Ciudad Bravo	Mexico
Club de Emprendedores USIL	Peru
Coalición Juvenil Nacional	Venezuela
Colectivo Político Nueva Democracia	Ecuador
Comersave.com	Jamaica
Comfenalco Antioquia	Colombia
Conectados Colombia	Colombia
Consejo Municipal de Juventud de Bello	Colombia
Confederación Patronal de la República Mexicana (COPARMEX)	Mexico

Corporación Unificada Nacional de Educación Superior (CUN)	Colombia
Desafío Joven, Latinoamérica	Guatemala
Diálogos Ecuador	Ecuador
Durmientes Sintéticos	Argentina
Eco Banco del Estudiante Barsekana	Peru
Eco Puzzle	El Salvador
Econim	Brazil
Efecto Fractal A.C.	Mexico
Empecemos por Guate	Guatemala
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana, Zamorano	Honduras
Estudiantes por la Libertad (Students for liberty)	Bolivia
Expresión Juvenil Revolucionaria	Mexico
Facultad de Derecho de la Universidad de San Martín de Porres	Peru
Federación Nacional de Estudiantes de Derecho	Venezuela
FORMANDO JÓVENES	Colombia
Fortalezas 2030	Venezuela
Fuerza del Presente	Ecuador
Full Circle Belize (FCB)	Belize
Fundación ADED, Valle	Honduras
Fundación Contra-Peso	Panama
Fundación de Derechos Humanos de los Llanos (Fendehullan)	Venezuela
Fundación DINOS	Colombia
Fundación Educreando y Juntos	Colombia
Fundación Juventudes Literarias	Colombia
Fundación Soy Oportunidad	Colombia
Fundación, participación y liderazgo de la Mujer y la Niña	Ecuador
Futuro Abierto	El Salvador
Generación Plus Internacional	Colombia
Global Shapers Cali	Colombia
Global Shapers Santiago	Chile
Green Concreta	Mexico
Green Package	Colombia
Imprimiendo consciencia x Re Accionar	Argentina
Iniciativa 180	Colombia
Instituto de Programas de Educación Socio Emocional	Mexico
Instituto Nacional de la Juventud	El Salvador
JA Americas Alumni	Mexico

JCI Cochabamba	Bolivia
JCI Comayagüela	Honduras
JCI Santa Cruz	Bolivia
JMDI y RMJP	Venezuela
Jóvenes Iberoamericanos	Guatemala
Jóvenes Iberoamericanos	El Salvador
Jóvenes Líderes de la Carta de la Tierra	Panama
Jóvenes Pioneros	El Salvador
Jóvenes Políticos de las Américas	Ecuador
Joven Go	El Salvador
JUNTOS PENSAMOS -JUNTOS DECIDIMOS	Colombia
Juventud en progreso	Colombia
Juventud Republicana de Honduras	Honduras
Juventud Unida En Acción (JUENA)	Venezuela
Juventud, Política y Desarrollo	Peru
Juventudes por la paz y sustentabilidad	El Salvador
Kucabi-Tradicional y Nutritivo	Ecuador
Liderazgo Cultural del Foro Permanente de Juventudes	Venezuela
Libremente FM	Colombia
Mujeres WOW	Ecuador
Napticorp Agronaptic	Colombia
Neuspot	Mexico
Oaxacanita Chocolate	Mexico
Observatorium	Panama
OEA Uruguay y YABT Uruguay	Uruguay
Oficina de Juventud	Colombia
Oficina de Juventud Municipalidad de Lo Prado	Chile
Organización Democrática Mundial (ODM)	El Salvador
OVJNU	Venezuela
Plan 2030 Michoacán y Plan 2030 UES	Mexico, El Salvador
Plataforma Nacional Gritemos con Brío	Venezuela
Plataforma Social Juventud Activa Cuba Unida (JACU)	Cuba
Politon - Fortaleciendo la Democracia	Peru
Prisiones Verdes	Mexico
Proinnova UCR	Costa Rica
PROJuventud	Dominican Republic

Quevas	Mexico
RADIAL	Mexico
ReciclApp	Mexico
Re.pote	Brazil
Red de Jóvenes Contra la Violencia	Ecuador
Red Justicia y Libertad	Venezuela
Red Latinoamericana de Jóvenes por la Democracia	Mexico, Bolivia
Red Mundial de Jóvenes Políticos	Venezuela, Ecuador
REDefine Michoacán	Mexico
RELIDD - Red de Líderes para la Democracia y Desarrollo	Bolivia
Ruruchina Lirpu	Peru
SiembraCo	Colombia
Social Good Peru	Peru
Start Solidarium	Brazil
Sueños y Letras	El Salvador
Sucre Naranja	Colombia
Sumak Kawsay	Peru
Techni-Recicla	Costa Rica
TC-657 El Sur Emprende y PROINNOVA	Costa Rica
The Millennials Movement	Peru
Thought For Food LATAM	Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Colombia
Top Ever Trip	El Salvador
Un Mundo Sin Mordaza	Venezuela
United Peruvian Youth	Peru
Verde Innova	Colombia
Valoro	Venezuela
Wellogi	Mexico
Women Ideas Center	Mexico
Xhamba	El Salvador
Young Peruvian Leaders (YPL)	Peru
Youth and Democracy in the Americas	México
Youth to Lead	El Salvador
Youths of Grenada	Grenada
Junior Achievement Americas	United States
Gestión de Proyectos de Desarrollo	Colombia
Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura	Costa Rica



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