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**YABT**  
Young Americas Business Trust

## CONCEPT NOTE



Youth Consultation Towards the  
Young Americas Dialogue 2020

#YouthInTheSummit

[www.yabt.net](http://www.yabt.net)

## Background

The Young Americas Business Trust (YABT) has been recognized as the leading organization in the promotion, strengthening, and expansion of youth networks, by creating high-level spaces for the voices of youth to be heard and taken into consideration in policy making decisions in the inter-American system.

Since 2005, YABT, in cooperation with the Organization of American States (OAS), implemented the Young Americas Forum<sup>1</sup>, created as the official channel for young people to lead activities that generate spaces to contribute to the definition of the priorities and mandates of the Member States in the process of the Summit of the Americas, the General Assembly of the OAS, and other high level meetings.

Almost 90 different networks that represent thousands of young people in the region have been part of the consultations of the Forum, which has included more than 28,000 young people. The quantity of young people participating keeps rising, and so do their inputs in answering to the most urgent problems of youth.

## Summary

As part of the preparations for the Young Americas Dialogue 2020, YABT announces the development of the youth consultation process that aims to define the most urgent themes in the development agenda from the point of view of the youth. That way, it is intended to increase the participation of young people as social and nongovernmental actors through an open and inclusive dialogue that foster new actions and policies to strength democratic governance.

Youth networks and the general public are invited to organize spaces for dialogues, disseminate virtual consultation, and share their results in associated events and other activities at the V Young Americas Forum, with the goal of promoting diversity and inclusiveness in the debate and elaboration of new reports.

The consultation process will be developed from the period of November 2019 to April 2020. YABT is responsible of compiling, analyzing, and disseminating the results of the dialogues through a report that will be presented to the Secretary General of the OAS and the Member States.

A summary of the report will be presented by one or two of the youth speakers during the dialogue between the Heads of Delegation, the Secretary General, the Assistant Secretary General of the OAS, and the representatives of the civil society and the rest of social actors during the 50th General Assembly of the OAS.

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<sup>1</sup> Further information available at: <http://yabt.net/foro/en/index.php>

## OAS General Assembly

The General Assembly is the highest body in the Organization of American States (OAS), and it is composed of the delegations of all the Member States, who have the right to be represented and vote.<sup>2</sup> It is run by the Ministers of Foreign Relations or otherwise by other officially designated people.

In the framework of the General Assemblies, YABT is in charge of the development of the activities related to youth and entrepreneurs through the Talent and Innovation Competition of the Americas (TIC Americas),<sup>3</sup> la cual se viene desarrollando desde el 2007.

These activities open the space for the contributions of young leaders and entrepreneurs to be present during the General Assembly of the OAS, which has led to the adoption of the Declaration of Commitment of the Youth in the VIII Summit of the Americas in Lima, Peru, in April, 2018.

## About the contributions of youth towards the Young Americas Dialogue 2020

The main problems in Latin America and the Caribbean directly influence the quality of life of young people. At the same time, these make up a nonconformist feeling, with concerns and desires for change, and with a demonstrated capacity for mobilization. According to the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)<sup>4</sup>, the development of the capacities of the new generations is understood as one of the basic pillars to transform their realities, and to consider young people as productive agents for a structural change.

Therefore, YABT believes that youth must lead their own initiatives in the matters of high importance that concern and affect them, such as: access to economic opportunities, social inclusion, quality of education, decent jobs, social inequality, public security, political participation, gender equity, climate change, transparency and accountability, among others.

Through the process of youth consultations, YABT empowers the youth of the Americas and provide them with the opportunity to analyze and reflect on the problems young people face in their communities. It also presents possible solutions during high level international meetings and local activities with decision makers and social leaders.

<sup>2</sup> Structure of the OAS - General Assembly: [http://www.oas.org/en/about/general\\_assembly.asp](http://www.oas.org/en/about/general_assembly.asp)

<sup>3</sup> TIC Americas is a hemispheric competition for the support and acceleration of business and social initiatives of young people from the countries of the Western Hemisphere. More information, available at: <https://ticamericas.net/en/index.php>

<sup>4</sup> Daniela Trucco and Heidi Ullmann (eds.), Youth: realities and challenges for development with equality, ECLAC Books, No. 137 (LC / G.2647-P), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2015. Compiled on November 4, 2015 at <https://bit.ly/2DS7aAy>

## How to participate?

Young people will be able to contribute in different ways through the following channels:

### 1. Onsite Dialogues:

Young people of the hemisphere have the opportunity to organize, lead, and participate in onsite dialogues and consultations with the aim of discussing and sharing their priorities, recommendations, needs, and impressions regarding the themes that the Member States and the youth have defined.

- The first step consists in presenting the proposal to develop and implement the dialogue, to be evaluated by YABT. The proposal is presented through the online form available at: <https://bit.ly/2rY5AuH>.
- Check the participation guide to know the methodology, the files to be delivered, and the steps to be taken. The guide is available at: <https://bit.ly/374HCfU>

### 2. Virtual Consultation:

With the aim of facilitating the participation of the largest quantity of young people, virtual consultations are developed as an open and accessible channel. Young people who participate in onsite consultations can also express themselves virtually. These questions will also be printed and taken to young people with no access to the internet so that they also get the chance to express themselves. To participate go to: <https://bit.ly/2OyK3B8>

### 3. Associated Events:

We are aware that there are multiple spaces with different formats in every country of the Americas in which young people participate and contribute in the production of reports and publications of public interest. These events aim to help the organizers to present to YABT a wider summary of the main results of the consultations.

## Timeline 2019 – 2020

### November 27, 2019

Informative session – virtual modality.

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### Ongoing process until April 01, 2020

Development of youth dialogues, associated events and youth virtual consultation towards the Young Americas Dialogue 2020.

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### April 10-20, 2020

Application period to participate in the Young Americas Dialogue 2020.

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### May 4-8, 2020

Announcement of Youth Delegates to attend the Young Americas Dialogue 2020.

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### June, 2020

- Youth dialogue in the framework of the Finals of TIC Americas 2020 of the 50th General Assembly of the OAS.
- Publication of Final Report on the Forum website: <http://yabt.net/foro/en/index.php>
- Presentation of the results in the Dialogue of the Heads of Delegation, the Secretary-General and the Assistant Secretary General with the Youth, Civil Society, Workers, Private Sector and other social actors' representatives.

**\*\* Dates subject to changes.**

## About The Young Americas Business Trust

YABT is an international nonprofit organization that works in cooperation with the Organization of American States (OAS). YABT supports the mandates of the Summit of the Americas and the goals of the Member States of the OAS, promoting programs and initiatives of youth development that foster the creation of businesses as source of employment, and securing an improvement in young people's conditions of life.

Further information available at: [www.yabt.net](http://www.yabt.net)



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