TOGETHER FIRST

A global system that works for all

Is organisation?	Organisations?	Is organisation?
Yes	Non Pape	No
Medium	**Positive multiplier**	**Medium**

Global catastrophic risks mitigated	Risk multipliers managed	Implementation timeframe

DETAILS

Youth advisory body at the UN

"We must be clear: young people are essential to the present and the future of the UN. We must cherish them, invest in them and empower them." - António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General

In order to increase inclusivity and accountability to the UN system, and in light with the long-term consequences of the actions and decisions within the UN system young people are an essential stakeholder for the UN to engage with in a structural and meaningful way.

Drawing from experience from the Council of Europe where young people are organised in an advisory council, elected by other young people, and empowered with equal decision-making rights as their counterparts (governmental representatives dealing with youth) we wish to propose a reformed agenda for youth involvement within the UN system. The Council of Europe's ground-breaking co-management system is a living example of participatory democracy. It is grounded in the principle that those best placed to devise youth policy are the young people themselves, working in tandem with those responsible for it, i.e. governments. The co-management structure used in the Council of Europe is a place for common reflection and co-production, it combines the voice of young Europeans and that of the public authorities in the member States responsible for youth issues, leading to a sharing and evaluation of experience. The structure won "The Future Policy Bonze Award 2019" given by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with the support of the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and Youth Policy Labs,

Creating a youth-advisory body connected the UNGA to formally engage with institution would create the opportunity to enhance the transparency and effectiveness in which the UN involves young people and youth civil society. Ensuring that there is sufficient funds and structural support for young people to engage both with the UN, as well as with the constituency consisting of young representatives of youth organisations the would allow for the resolutions and decisions taken in the UN to a greater extent reflects the rights and needs of young people, the generations who will need to live with the decisions taken for all of their lives.

Seeing that less than 2% of the world's parliamentarians are to be considered young, it is crucial that young people, through youth organisations and networks can elect their own representatives. Through the UN major group for children and youth young people are organised and are already today mobilising and influencing the agenda of the UN. However, in order to be effective, the right recourses and formal recognition as an official advisory body would mean that more young people from diverse backgrounds could access the avenues of participation and decision-making within the UN and that young people are not seen as an external stakeholder but as core business for throughout the UN system.

A youth advisory body would have a two folded mandate, firstly to ensure that the work the UN does on youth is on point and meets the needs and rights of young people. It would support the implementation and follow-up of the UN youth strategy and ensure a bottom up approach as well as develop different standards to promote youth participation and young people's access to rights in the member states. In addition, the youth advisory body should also be mandated to mainstream youth across the UN system, ensuring that young people are represented in all areas that concern youth, and that young people with different backgrounds are heard in the development of the UN system, the implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 and all other strategic operations of the UN. The Advisory Council

on Youth should report to the General Assembly of the UN and closely cooperate with the member states on topics

[redacted]

How will this proposal alleviate poverty and inequality?

[redacted]

By ensuring that young people are heard and involved in matters that concern them would immediately address the inequality in today's political system where the political representation of young people is very low. By involving young people as a resource, better and more effective policies can be developed which will further strengthen the reach and impact of the UN.

How will this proposal reduce conflict and political violence?

By involving young people as bearers of peace and recognising their role as an important stakeholder in conflict management and mitigation conflicts can, as addressed in the UN Security Council resolution 2250, help reduce and prevent conflicts and political violence.