



BERLIN URBAN AGENDA

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



THE BERLIN AGENDA ON URBAN YOUTH

We, representatives of youth in the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat) Youth Advisory Board, globally elected by our peers, have gathered in Berlin, Germany, to ensure that the rights, needs, and priorities of diverse young women and young men residing in urban areas, especially those marginalized, are met and that they are meaningfully informed, engaged and consulted in all stages of urban decision-making, including urban legislation, urban planning and design, and urban finance and economy.

We recognize the transformative agency of the young people in cities and sustainable human settlements, although they often remain vulnerable to urban decision-making and changes in urban political, environmental and economic orientations that do not integrate the needs of youth. Ensuring that young people are engaged in all stages of urban decision-making is essential for the successful implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Young people can realize their full potential in collectively creating inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements when equipped with the necessary skills, capacities and resources. Intergenerational responsibility and dialogue foster a sense of ownership that unlocks young people's ability to actively shape their urban environment.

Building on a youth-led consultative process* with local youth of diverse backgrounds engaged at the grassroots level, and drawing from relevant international and regional instruments such as the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities; UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security; Youth DeclarAction for the New Urban Agenda; LGBTQ Declaration: Towards the Habitat III New Urban Agenda; Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action; Indigenous Cities Declaration; World Programme of Action for Youth; Braga Youth Declaration; and other outcomes of processes led by, involving and/or targeting young people, we call for a long-term commitment from governments, especially local authorities and ministries, United Nations system, and other stakeholders to the following actions:

1. Institutionalize active youth engagement in democratic, transparent and result-oriented capacities at all levels of urban decision-making, especially for most vulnerable and marginalized youth.
2. Promote age- and gender-responsive budgeting to promote youth-led urban initiatives and to build medium- to long-term administrative and technical capacity.
3. Leverage youth expertise in the local implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.
4. Create opportunities for partnerships and spaces for youth to share and exchange knowledge that fosters innovation, strengthens cooperation and develops cultural awareness and understanding.
5. Foster the potential of youth and their engagement at all levels of governance to counter and prevent radical polarization, violence, and extremism, and to maintain peace and resolve conflict.
6. Commission local urban youth councils, with an allocated budget, to have an active role in implementing the proposed actions of the Berlin Agenda and to integrate the councils in an international network of cities such as Metropolis.

**Joint event with Polis 180 on Youth, Conflict and Urban Spaces on 16 February 2017.*

Berlin, 18.02.2017

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