

NMUN•NY 2021



5 – 8 April 2021

Documentation of the Work of the United Nations Population Fund
(UNFPA) NMUN Simulation*



**TOGETHER
TOWARDS
TOMORROW**

Conference B

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United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Committee Staff

Director	Melissa Salgado
Chair	Jessie Luevano

Agenda

- I. Promoting Access to Family Planning in Developing States
- II. Increasing Youth Leadership and Participation in Society

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
UNFPA/1/1	Increasing Youth Leadership and Participation in Society	8 votes in favor, 0 votes against, 0 abstentions.

Summary Report

The United Nations Population Fund held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Promoting Access to Family Planning in Developing States
- II. Increasing Youth Leadership and Participation in Society

The session was attended by representatives of 9 Member States and no Observers. On Monday, the committee adopted the agenda of II, I, beginning discussion on the topic of Increasing Youth Leadership and Participation in Society.

By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of 3 proposals covering a wide range of subtopics, including: youth professional development, participation in society, increasing access to economic ventures, increasing youth learning in skill work such as agriculture, job creation for youth, youth empowerment, youth inclusion in decision making, youth education, youth participation in government, and education on sexual and reproductive rights. The group worked collaboratively at the start and then branched off in order to create the three separate proposals.

On Wednesday, delegates received their working papers back with a second round of edits. Two working papers merged together, on youth empowerment and the other on youth education and participation in government. By Thursday, the dais received 1 combined working paper which was approved as a draft resolution. The committee adopted 1 resolution following voting procedure, this resolution received unanimous support by the body. The resolution represented a wide range of issues, including youth empowerment through participation in government, increasing youth access to education, increasing youth access to job and job security as well as providing additional resources to further youth inclusion. Throughout the week, delegates were collaborative and communicative, embodying diplomacy extremely well.



Code: UNFPA/1/1

Committee: United Nations Population Fund

Topic: Increasing Youth Leadership and Participation in Society

The United Nations Population Fund,

Reaffirming Article 21 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948) which supports youth's civic engagement in various forms,

Recalling the UN Youth Strategy (2018), which prioritizes youth empowerment through participation in decision-making,

Bearing in mind General Assembly Resolution 70 (1972), which states that developing countries should implement measures that involve children and youth in the development process,

Reminding all Member States of their commitment to the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 4, which targets quality education for all,

Acknowledging the World Programme of Action for Youth, which brings attention to the need for Member States to invest in youth leadership, especially through digital media,

Recognizing General Assembly Resolution 40/14 (1985), which expresses the importance of youth involvement in social activities such as political, economic, societal, and cultural events,

Noting the relevance of SDGs 8 and 9, which state the importance of decent work and economic growth as well as the importance of industry, innovation, and infrastructure, to the continued wellbeing of disadvantaged communities,

Recalling the H6 partnership between United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), World Bank Group (WBG), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the success of the Every Woman, Every Child (EWEC) program done through the H6 partnership,

Cognizant of the benefit of microloan programs of allowing disadvantaged youths to become entrepreneurs and become financially independent,

Bearing in mind the International Labor Organization's statement that young people are three times more likely as adults to be unemployed,

Noting further that this is due to limited work experience for entry-level jobs, as well as major structural barriers that prevent them from entering the job market,

Appreciating the four pillars of the UNFPA Engagement in Ending in Gender Based Violence, which includes promoting the comprehensive development of young people worldwide, and upholds the rights of the youth, as well as the UNFPA Framework for Action on Adolescents and Youth which acts as the cornerstone of educational issues, livelihood issues, and citizenship,

1. *Strongly encourages* states to empower youth through the removal of social and financial barriers by:
 - a. Improving the universal provision of knowledge and resources in regard to sexual and reproductive health rights;
 - b. Improving civic engagement by:
 - i. Increasing participation in local and global government;
 - ii. Creating safer and more accessible forms of addressing grievances;
 - iii. Reducing financial barriers to the democratic process;
 - iv. Emphasizing intersectionality in the effort to expand civic engagement in youth;
 - c. Improving economic engagement by:



- i. Facilitating the building of civil and industrial infrastructure;
 - ii. Helping fund rural entrepreneurship;
 - iii. Educating underserved youth towards financial literacy and running a business;
 - iv. Providing financial support and transitional programs to ease the processes of post-secondary education and employment;
2. *Recommends* the creation of an exemplar curriculum that can be replicated and adapted by national governments to fit their individual needs, emphasizing youth empowerment through:
 - a. Education on sexual and reproductive health rights;
 - b. Using education as a tool to combat youth unemployment as a catalyst to youth empowerment;
 - c. Using education of political processes to enable youth to best be able to participate peacefully and legally in their civic processes and have the needs of youth heard;
3. *Condemns* the rise of abuse and Gender-Based Violence during the COVID-19 pandemic and requests Member States to work towards the elimination of Gender-Based Violence and abuse by:
 - a. Promoting the report of Gender-Based Violence crimes and abuse including early child marriages, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), sexual abuse, virgin testing, and hymen testing;
 - b. Urging Member States to host conferences discussing strategies on how to strengthen legal systems in order to hold perpetrators accountable;
 - c. Urging the expanded protection within local law enforcement for victims and survivors, particularly those who report anonymously by:
 - i. Bringing awareness to the anonymous crime reporting services that are available through national school curriculums;
 - ii. Removing barriers for reporting anonymously of Gender-Based Violence and sexual abuse in crime prevention efforts by innovating and using the “Main Courante” French initiative as an example;
 - iii. Eliminating all temporal restrictions on the validity of anonymous crimes reports for use in holding perpetrators accountable and implementing requirements to maintain anonymous crime report records indefinitely;
4. *Emphasizes* the need to address gaps in family planning, sexual health education, and research on the topic of teen parenthood, due to the fact that there is insufficient scientific literature on specific needs and challenges faced by young parents such as:
 - a. The possibility of having unreliable friends or support networks;
 - b. Housing issues;
 - c. Transportation issues;
 - d. Financial issues;
 - e. Child care while unable to obtain a job;
 - f. Effects of new phenomena pertinent to youth for example the lack of research of the potential consequences of vaping on mothers and baby’s health;
5. *Urges* Member States to increase youth civic education and youth participation in local and global government by:
 - a. Allowing the voices and perspectives of the global youth, especially in developing Member States, to possess a socio-political presence in their nation’s governmental processes, while:



- i. Establishing quotas for seats held by youth to facilitate direct involvement in local affairs;
 - ii. Creating quotas for Election Management Bodies to empower youth with a more well-rounded understanding of voting and more direct civic engagement;
 - b. Encouraging city councils to consult youth on local government policies and financial matters to facilitate their involvement;
 - c. Encouraging Member States that do not already participate in the program to form National Youth Councils and send delegates to the United Nations Youth Delegate Programme;
 - d. Calling upon Member States to provide civic duty awareness and promote the education of their national political processes to empower and encourage youth participation within national and international political processes by:
 - i. Encouraging civic education initiatives that develop the knowledge and skills relevant to voter registration, policies affecting the youth, and advocacy;
 - ii. Including voting, how to register and how to vote, informing the youth on national policies, and options how youth can advocate;
 - iii. Encouraging the creation of programs that foster youth's interest in the political process before they are eligible to vote, such as Youth Poll Worker programs that allow youth to volunteer or work at polling stations, with the main objective of encouraging youth to feel confident voting when they do reach the age of majority;
6. *Encourages* alternative forms of civic participation including online advocacy by:
 - a. Allowing youth to express their grievances through non-violent demonstrations as long as they are in keeping with the Member State's national laws;
 - b. Supporting the promotion of freedom of expression so that youth can advocate for their specific needs, challenges they face, and youth-centered grievances; thereby facilitating positive and peaceful change within their governments;
 - c. Emphasizing the importance of Internet access and urging the funding of Internet access expansion;
 - d. Keeping in mind the ideals of peace, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
7. *Implores* Member States to decrease financial barriers to political participation in order to be inclusive of underserved youth by:
 - a. Making it easier for youth to obtain voter identification by:
 - i. Minimizing or eliminating voter identification fees;
 - ii. Broadening the definition of voter identification to include student identification;
 - b. Researching ways to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of alternative voting methods, such as online or mail-in voting, which can prove beneficial to disabled people and in times of conflict or pandemics and will:
 - i. Streamline the process for those with Internet access;
 - ii. Shorten the lines at polling centers for those without;
 - c. Increasing the number of polling locations in rural areas to prevent potential eligible youth voters from being deterred by unreasonable travel times;
8. *Stresses* the importance of intersectionality in all proposed initiatives towards youth empowerment by:
 - a. Inviting Member States to include young girls in the process of youth empowerment through the improvement of their access to education by:
 - i. Putting hygienic products at their disposal in school bathrooms;



- ii. Discouraging violence, including Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, that impedes female participation;
 - iii. Preventing social and cultural beliefs from discouraging girls from going to school;
 - b. Providing specific resources to refugee and immigrant youth in order to make jobs more accessible by:
 - i. Providing language training to those who are professionally encumbered by language barriers;
 - ii. Enhancing the transferability of foreign higher education credentials so that youth outside of their country of origin can work at their level of training;
9. *Upholds* the rights of disadvantaged populations including youths to gainful employment and sustainable infrastructure;
10. *Advocates* for the H6 partnership of UN Population Fund, UN Industrial Development Organization, UN Development Programme, World Health Organization, World Bank Group, and the UN International Children's Emergency Fund to work together on creating job opportunities for underserved youth, through:
 - a. Helping fund job creation and supporting infrastructure development at local and regional underserved areas;
 - b. Creating jobs through said industry for said youth:
 - i. With the understanding that underage youths (15-17 years old) would have limited hours (only up to 4 hours a day, with a focus on technical education rather than labor);
 - ii. 18-24 year olds would have the option of either balancing technical school with part-time work, or taking on a full-time job;
11. *Encourages* Member States to provide financial support toward the education of disadvantaged youth, through:
 - a. Providing scholarships, financial aid, subsidies and other supplemental income toward covering educational costs;
 - b. Urging the inclusion of post secondary education opportunities such as community colleges, online colleges (also known as distant education), and trade schools;
12. *Recommends* to capable organizations and Member States that they create microloan programs for rural and underserved youth interested in entrepreneurship, as well as to educate said youth on the use of said microloans and financial literacy in general;
13. *Encourages* Member States to take initiative in breaking down structural/societal barriers while taking advantage of multi-generational agricultural skills in rural areas by:
 - a. Recommending to Member States that they create youth training programs that showcase agricultural skills which can be highlighted and brought to the wider society;
 - b. Involving a maker-to-market connection that can be established and be beneficial to all participating parties;
 - c. Focusing on adding value to the agriculture production and taking initiative in the linkage between the agriculture industry and other markets, thereby creating more employment and involvement in society;
14. *Recommends* to Member States to expand accessibility and resources by implementing infrastructure, through communication networks, transportation systems, and electric systems, in developing areas, encouraging youth empowerment by:
 - a. Increasing opportunities for the youth by reducing the physical barrier between employment;



- b. Promoting employment creation and redistributive programs that focus on poverty and exclusion in order to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth;
 - c. Encouraging Member States to build infrastructure in disadvantaged areas for the purpose of industry;
15. *Invites* Member States to discuss barriers that hinder youth from joining the workplace, such as discrimination and issues with accessibility, by:
- a. Identifying and educating the public about the various types of policies and practices that are used to favor a specific group or marginalize another;
 - b. Encouraging employment quotas for marginalized youths in order to increase their participation in the global economy;
16. *Reaffirms* to Member States the great importance of sharing working frameworks such as the UNFPA's Framework for Action on Adolescents and Youth promotes comprehensive development of young people worldwide by:
- a. Recommending to Member States to address population, youth, and poverty issues, with the support of UNFPA to meet their basic needs on a physical, social, and developmental level, helping them to build the necessary skill sets to become proactive adults with existing framework;
 - b. Recommending to Member States to expand on equal access to HIV education in schools and communities, which will provide access to gender-sensitive, life-skills and will help promote comprehensive development of young people worldwide;
 - c. Recommending to Member States to promote an extensive core package of health and sexual reproductive services through UNFPA's "Framework for Action on Adolescents and Youth" program, which will serve both marginalized groups and adolescent girls;
 - d. Encouraging Member States to advocate for young people's leadership and participation through sector-wide approaches of: poverty reduction, and health sector reforms through the UNFPA Youth Advisory Panel to provide long-term solutions that will further empower youth.