



WORLD YOUTH SUMMIT 2015

"Youth for Global Empowerment"

29th March-2nd April

The Imphal Youth Declaration

We, the delegates, attending the World Youth summit 2015 on the theme of "Youth for Global Empowerment", organized by the Club25 International Manipur under the aegis of International Youth Committee (IYC) and World Fund for Youth (WFY) from 29th march – 2nd April 2015 in City Convention Centre, Imphal, Manipur, India, acknowledged the importance of the role of young people specially in the conservation of biodiversity for sustainability and disasters risks reduction and also to consider the rights of the young women and children, hereby reaffirm our commitment to the pledges to review the progress on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and also to share ideas, experiences and innovative approaches for effectively contributing to the post-2015 development agenda and its implementation, firmly formulate and implement the Youth Action Plan as follows:

As young people, we are strongly committed to actively participate in global efforts to provide education, employment and empowerment to youths for global progress.

BIODIVERSITY being the basis for human survival must be conserved at all cost keeping in view the international and national commitments for well being of the people and for meeting out sustainable development needs. Resource planners and managers should identify areas that are important to biodiversity conservation and provide legal and other protection;

LOCAL communities must be fully involved and engaged in planning and implementing biodiversity conservation measures;

NORTH - EAST INDIA which is a biodiversity hotspot needs to take special measures in association with specialized national and international agencies to conserve biodiversity. Areas such as floating national park- habitat for Sangai deer can be proposed as biosphere reserve or a world natural heritage site as appropriate with assistance for organizations like UNESCO and IUCN;

GOVERNMENT at all levels should make institutional arrangements and policies to ensure biodiversity conservation which should be linked to the generation of sustainable economic benefits to local communities through ecotourism and other employment opportunities;

YOUTH can become the guardian of natural resources and biodiversity and programmes such as youth ambassadors for biodiversity should be initiated;

EFFORT should be made to involve and engage youth in biodiversity related education programmes through provision of outdoor education and camping facilities in biodiversity rich areas in order for them to have first hand exposure to nature and biodiversity. This should be made part of educational curricula;

BIODIVERSITY and ecosystem services should be valued appropriately to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;

SPECIAL efforts need to be made to preserve genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, through seed and plant banks;

BIODIVERSITY related traditional knowledge with local communities should be documented and access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge should be ensured;

STRENGTHENING a new global network of young people across the world empowered to share experiences and exchange ideas on youth led activities especially on conservation of biodiversity and to eradicate poverty, etc.;

AIMING to stop activities which contribute to environment degradation, such as pollution, the overexploitation of natural resources, the spread of invasive alien species, and climate change;

URGE governments to implement national legislation and enforce judgments to address environmental degradation and support civil society and the private sector to ensure that their actions do not adversely affect biodiversity;

AIMING to collaborate with international campaigns and initiatives, and improve international networks for coordinated action regarding the sustainable use of biodiversity;

AIMING to create reliable partnerships between all stakeholders for the conservation of biodiversity, bearing in mind the value of their respective knowledge;

ENCOURAGING environmentally – friendly lifestyles, including the sustainable use of resources, and the use of clean renewable energies;

ENCOURAGING youth to create a global biodiversity platform in order to increase international cooperation among youth organizations by sharing their respective practices;

ENCOURAGING participation in activities at the local and national levels that stimulate business, civil society and governments to promote the sustainable use of biodiversity;

PLEDGE to take further action in deepening and spreading the awareness of the fundamental value of biodiversity;

NATURE creates hazards, we as human being have no control on such happenings and we should ever vouch for that. But disaster, disharmony, conflict are created out of mismanagement procreated among people, community and policy makers. Today's Youth requires motivation towards skill oriented training and development. In order to ensure such spirit among the youth we as human being must unite for the greater coherence towards global unity among diversity;

TODAY'S Youth have been enriched with several technological outfits/gifts such as Smart Phone, Internet, Social media, etc. which in many counts have outweighed our grasping power codified by grey matter of our brains. Yet usage of the same across the globe have no doubt created multipronged "sharing platform" and our Youth are the ominous beneficiaries. It is now felt that there should be a balance between such technological marvels and humanistic comprehensibility. Let our youth be guided to adopt global harmony thru' holistic usage of the social media;

HAVING a chance to assemble at the Global Platform in Imphal, the issues raised by young entrepreneurs rather needs redresser approach by the policy/decision makers of the respective countries/region. Our Youth must realize that any particular Govt. or system is made/elected by people of that country/region and it must work for the people concerned. Else blaming the system just for sake of "word power" exercise are of no good. Youth Power is to be nurtured in tuning up the ill-tuned system more emphatically than ever;

NO one is born out of context or reason in this world. Our Youth have many reasons to react or reject the ongoing way of being unjust to mankind. But they must realize that present way being is not just created out of context or reasoning. Therefore, having access to all types of electronic gazettes, as we all have become conditioned by possessing them, our Youth must realize their potential application for the greater global harmony;

WE realize that over one billion of the world population lives in poverty, facing daily the unacceptable conditions of hunger and malnutrition, disease, homelessness, unsafe environments and social exclusion, and that the majority of this population consists of young people, three quarters of them living in rural areas. We feel that the cycle of indebtedness of developing countries is a major contributor to hunger and poverty, and note with sorrow that debt forgiveness is not being implemented in accordance with the expediency and urgency of the need;

WE are highly concerned about the continued deterioration of the status of youth worldwide, who face growing levels of unemployment, poverty, armed conflict, epidemic diseases, functional illiteracy and substance abuse - among other social and economic challenges -despite global advances made in technologies, entrepreneurship development, medical research, leisure and recreation facilities;

WE recognize that in spite of progress made in basic education, inequity based on economic and social conditions, sex and disabilities continues to persist, leaving millions of children and young people out of school. Additionally, we acknowledge that youth continue to lose lives to acute respiratory infections, vaccination-preventable diseases and malnutrition. These risks continue to result in the loss of lives to a very large scale. Violence and suicide are also growing factors of youth mortality. We also recognize that the access to quality child and youth-friendly health services as well as health education is still issues that need to be seriously addressed;

WE note that women, particularly young women and girls, are the most vulnerable and most affected by social and economic problems and in times of armed conflict, and that their status as equal partners in youth development and empowerment is essential in overcoming the societal imbalances that continue to prevail;

WE are highly concerned about the prevalence of human rights violations with regard to young people, such as child labour, trafficking and sexual exploitation, children and youth in armed conflict and living in countries under occupation, and the exclusion of children and youth infected and affected by AIDS, including those orphaned by it. We choose to dedicate this session of the World Youth Forum to identifying and advocating for initiatives that empower young people to have greater control over their individual and collective destinies, and their ability to effectively contribute to the advancement of the global community;

TO fight effectively against hunger and poverty a comprehensive approach needs to involve all parts of civil society, especially youth, in the policy making and implementation areas of hunger, poverty and debt at all levels. The cancellation of external debts is not only a precondition for any effective fight against hunger and poverty; it also frees funding for investment in education, health and youth. The monitoring of the use of this funding and the implementation of poverty eradication strategies shall be monitored by civil society and youth organizations. In the process of globalization, more and more decisions are being taken at the international level (for example by the WTO, IMF and World Bank) having a strong impact on national policies without the installation any system of checks and balances. Governments and the United Nations must ensure full and comprehensive representation of civil society, youth organizations and developing nations in all global and multilateral decision-making forums. For ensuring the minimum standard of life for everyone governments shall install social safety nets and give social assistance for young people in need facing difficulties beyond their control;

TO form a youth network this could generate mechanisms to ensure the participation of young representatives in reconciliation process, negotiation and peace building;

TO demand compensation and justice for slavery, colonization and marginalization as crimes against humanity;

TO develop and support the education of a culture of peace in programmes of schools in all levels. We encourage sport programs that are especially for disabled people and encourage the participation of disabled people in the regular sports activities at all levels;

WE call on future World Youth Forum to lead by example and remove the causes of marginalization and provide access to services for youth with disabilities;

WE ultimately call upon Governments, the United Nations System and civil society organizations to support young people in their endeavors to obtain the resources for extensive and comprehensive youth empowerment programmes.

We hereby pledge to undertake our Action Plan, to make progress towards achieving the above aspirations.

Dated this 2nd day of April 2015, City Convention Center, Imphal, Manipur, India