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World Future Council



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



EMPOWERING YOUTH

DECENT AND SUSTAINABLE
JOBS AND CIVIC AND
POLITICAL PARTICIPATION



International
Labour
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YOUTH
POLICY
LABS



Office of the
Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth



FUTURE POLICY
AWARD 2019



The Future Policy Award showcases innovative ways to break down barriers in critical areas like youth unemployment and help set free the massive talents of young women and men. Crucially, shining a light on these exceptional youth initiatives can allow them to be translated to other country contexts – thus helping to drive forward sustainable development.

Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator and Vice-Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group



Half the world's population is under thirty, but only 2% of MPs are in that age group. One of the IPU's key objectives is to empower youth by getting more young people into parliament to ensure stronger, more representative, and future-looking democratic institutions. These winning laws and policies show that there are many great initiatives all over the world that can serve as examples for other countries to harness the potential of youth.

Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union



Interconnected challenges – unemployment, conflicts, the climate crisis – threaten our environment, human well-being and the future of our youth. We must act before it is too late. But there is hope: these eight policy solutions show how we can effectively transform our societal and political systems to best support youth as powerful agents of change. The World Future Council is looking forward to celebrating these best policies advancing youth empowerment in the interest of present and future generations, and to sharing their success stories. We all can – and should – learn from them.

Maria Fernanda Espinosa, Councillor of the World Future Council, former President of the UN General Assembly



Our world today has more young people than ever before and in many developing nations, youth are the largest segment of civil society. As a young person who has been working towards their empowerment, I feel that it is very important to focus on taking actions that will bridge the ever-widening opportunity gap that prevents us, youth, from realizing our true potential. Therefore, formulating and implementing just policies that facilitate our economic empowerment and enhance our political participation are critical for the realization of Agenda 2030 and the FPA celebrates these initiatives by honouring those that set the benchmark in this regard.

Kehkashan Basu, Youth Ambassador World Future Council, Founder President Green Hope Foundation, United Nations Human Rights Champion



FUTURE POLICY AWARD 2019

Dear Readers,

With more than 1.8 billion people between the ages of 15 and 35 worldwide – a quarter of the global population – we have the largest generation of young persons the world has ever known.

Young people play a crucial role in advancing development, democracy and peace and in fulfilling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They are talented, knowledgeable and ambitious, and are making a difference every day in all fields of work and as leaders in their communities. Despite their drive and achievements, the contribution of young people to society is often not recognized, nor are they adequately invested or included in decision-making processes. At the same time, young people face high unemployment and discrimination, and often lack access to education. The climate crisis and environmental degradation will impact their future tremendously. Hence it is time that we step up our political action to empower youth.

Championing and spreading effective, future-just policy solutions is the principal goal of the World Future Council. Together with renowned partners, each year, through our Future Policy Award, we highlight exemplary policies that create better living conditions for present and future generations by addressing a major global challenge.

In 2019, the Future Policy Award, also known as the “Oscar for Best Policies”, is working in partnership with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with the support of the Office of the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, the International Labour Organization (ILO), Youth Policy Labs (YPL), the Michael Otto Foundation and the Jua Foundation. Its aim is to highlight policies that advance youth access to decent jobs, including green jobs, and enhance civic and political participation for sustainable development and peace.

In spring 2019, a call for nominations was sent to over **10,000** experts active on youth empowerment. We especially welcomed policies that are inclusive, gender sensitive and empower young people to develop their competencies in digitalization, sustainability and visionary thinking. The results were overwhelming: **67** policies from **36** countries across the globe were nominated, reflecting a wide range of youth lawmaking and policy approaches. While the evaluation team screened and discussed all nominated policies, **28** policies were fully evaluated and in that process the team engaged with almost **120** experts to discuss the eligibility of the policies for the Award. Our evaluation was centered on the **7 Principles for Future-Just Lawmaking**,

and the policy's impact on the **17** SDGs was also analyzed. On 27th August 2019, an independent high-level jury composed of **11** renowned experts in the fields of youth empowerment and UN Agenda 2030 decided on the winning policies.

Already today, youth make up 37% of the global working-age population, but account for 60% of the total unemployed. Harnessing this demographic dividend (growing size of the working-age population) is the key for countries to thrive in a way that recognizes the needs of future generations. Despite the high proportion of young people in the world, youth are vastly underrepresented in political institutions. For example, research from the Inter-parliamentary Union indicates that just over 2% of parliamentarians around the world are under 30 (IPU, Youth participation in national parliaments, 2018). Their more adequate representation would not only bolster a currently largely absent

cornerstone of democracy, but would also be a major source of strength for developing and developed countries alike.

The awarded laws and policies foster enabling environments for youth so that they can develop their full potential, realize their dreams, and contribute to the success of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Considering the climate crisis, environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity, visionary policies that put children and youth at the heart of the transition towards a low carbon, green economy have also been selected by the jury.

We hope that policymakers will draw inspiration from this year's winning policies and spread their essential elements to other contexts and regions.

*Yours sincerely,
The 2019 Future Policy Award Team*

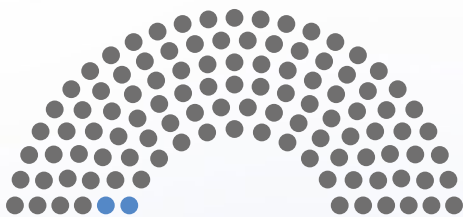




1.8 BILLION

Today's generation of adolescents and young people is larger than at any other time in history.

(UNDP)



2.2%

of parliamentarians around the world are under 30 years old.

(IPU)



1 IN 5

young persons are not in employment, education or training (NEET).
3 out of 4 of these are women.

(ILO)



13%

The global youth unemployment rate is three times higher than the figure for adults, which is 4.3% in 2018.

(ILO)



60:40

is the male/female ratio among younger MPs. The gender imbalance is less pronounced among young parliamentarians.

(IPU)

DECENT AND SUSTAINABLE JOBS FOR YOUTH ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



GOLD

Rwanda's YouthConnekt Initiative, 2012

Rwanda's YouthConnekt is a multifaceted and innovative government-led programme that empowers youth, connects them to the private sector, government employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, and strengthens their civic engagement and leadership. The aim of the initiative launched by UNDP and UN Rwanda is to provide a platform, through seven components, that advocates for youth, facilitates employment and job creation, and connects youth to their peers through social media and events. It has reached thousands of young Rwandans (aged 16-34), raising their awareness on issues such as employment, entrepreneurship and ICT. The initiative shows impressive results: within only three years, YouthConnekt boot camps resulted in the creation of about 1,000 permanent jobs and 2,700 temporary jobs, and around 600,000 young people have participated in national YouthConnekt Month every year since 2012.



SILVER

United Kingdom, Scotland's Developing the Young Workforce Strategy, 2014–2021

Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) is Scotland's youth employment strategy and its government's commitment to tackling youth unemployment and improving the skill levels of young people to adapt to market requirements. It brings together the education system, employers, civil society, youth organizations and local authorities in order to shape the curriculum and expand the modern apprenticeship programme. DYW is now an integral part of the Scottish education system and aligned with ambitious national goals to realize Agenda 2030 and transform into a green economy and a fair society. Its headline target, to reduce youth unemployment by 40% by 2021, has been reached four years ahead of schedule and more than 28,000 Modern Apprenticeships have been created.



BRONZE

South Africa's Expanded Public Works Programme, 2004

South Africa's Expanded Public Works Programme is a nationwide programme that provides poverty and income relief through temporary work for the unemployed. It is the country's largest active labour market policy, which since its inception has generated over 8 million work opportunities, primarily reaching women (66%), youth (46%) and people with disabilities (1%) as beneficiaries. Unlike most public works programmes, it generates temporary labour-intensive employment opportunities not only through the delivery of public infrastructure, but also through the provision of socially, culturally and environmentally useful services.

OVERVIEW OF WINNING POLICIES

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

**GOLD****Estonia's Youth Field Development Plan, 2014–2020**

The Estonian Youth Field Development Plan is a comprehensive government policy for young people and the youth sector. Its overarching goal is to ensure that each young person has ample opportunities for self-development and self-realization. The policy is knowledge-based and evidence-informed, participatory in development and implementation, and gender-responsive. It employs a holistic approach to youth development, and it is fully resourced. It is one of the first youth policies globally to fully respect the Baku Principles for Youth Policy, and one of the very few to emphasize the link between public policies for young people and sustainability and the environment. It promotes high levels of engagement with youth workers, with 20% of youth workers participating in training programmes in a year. As a result, more than 50% of all young Estonians have been involved in youth work activities every year since 2014.

**SILVER****Nepal's Constitution, 2015**

The Constitution of Nepal marked a major achievement for the country's peaceful transition to democracy following the civil war of 1996 to 2006. The Constitution introduces a competitive multi-party democratic system and enshrines human rights, including the right to a healthy environment. Its Articles contain provisions for youth rights relating to participation and empowerment in Nepal, as well as protections from discrimination. Since its promulgation, a suite of youth policies and institutional developments have taken place, including the approval of the National Youth Policy (2015), the establishment of the National Youth Council (2015), and the development of the Youth Vision 2025 and the Ten-Year Strategic Plan (2015).

**BRONZE****Council of Europe's Co-Management of the Youth Sector, 1972**

The Council of Europe's Co-Management System is one of the world's longest standing examples of participatory democracy in a supranational institution, and one of the very few examples of shared decision-making between governments and young people where power is shared in full 50:50 parity. Through the Co-Management model, more than 10,000 grants have been awarded to youth organizations, with a cumulated volume of more than 130 million Euros, and youth leaders and activists have received training and education, which has changed the youth sector profoundly. Moreover, this model for co-management has been applied in a wide range of other governance and/or policy contexts.

VISION AWARDS



United States of America – Los Angeles' Green New Deal, 2019

Los Angeles launched its Green New Deal in April 2019, with the aim of guiding the city's transition into an equitable and abundant economy powered by 100% renewable energy by 2045. Containing more ambitious goals to uphold the Paris Agreement, it serves as an update to Los Angeles' Sustainable City pLAn (2015–2019), which has already met 90% of the near-term goals on time. The Green New Deal is a comprehensive roadmap to protect the environment, strengthen the economy with green jobs for young people, build a more equitable future and address environmental justice. It serves as an inspiring model for other cities across America and beyond.



Senegal's National Strategy for the Promotion of Green Jobs, 2015–2020

Senegal elaborated its first National Strategy for the Promotion of Green Jobs in a participatory manner. It serves as a reference framework for green jobs, strengthening the legislative, institutional and regulatory framework, creating green job opportunities, building human capacities, developing an appropriate financing policy, advocacy, and setting up mechanisms for monitoring and sustainability. As of June 2019, about 2,000 green jobs have been created, with young people and women as the main beneficiaries. Of the green jobs projects that have been launched, recycling, aquaculture and forestry projects all generated a return on investment in the second year of production. Furthermore, the policy is being taken as a model by other countries in Africa and beyond.





GOLD
AWARD



RWANDA: YOUTHCONNEKT INITIATIVE, 2012

In the last two decades, Rwanda's economy has grown at a steady average rate resulting in a decline in poverty and income inequality. At the same time, the child mortality and fertility rates both declined. A promising starting point to harness the demographic dividend (growing size of the working-age population) and to contribute to the country's aspirations of becoming a high middle-income country by 2035. With its very youthful population – nearly 69% are below age 30 – Rwanda is unlocking the potential of its young citizens to scale up the youth workforce and advance the (green) transition of the country.

THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY IS IN THE HANDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

The government-led initiative YouthConnekt is a successful model aiming to empower youth and connecting them with opportunities in the public and private sectors and civil society. The initiative launched by UNDP and UN Rwanda is one of the key flagships of Rwanda's National Youth Policy (2015), that considers youth as powerful actors for building up the country and aims to reach this goal by achieving a HAPPI (Health, Aptitude/Attitude, Patriotism, Productivity, and Innovation) generation. YouthConnekt helps by changing mindsets, engaging youth in national policy, fostering solidarity and engaging youth in delivering the SDGs.

YOUTHCONNEKT 7 COMPONENTS



CONVENTION

Gathers youth from all districts of Rwanda and abroad annually to discuss their development, show case their achievement and speak up to the government.



DIALOGUE

Provides a platform for young people to address the issue of restoration of their identity and enhance unity and reconciliation.



AWARDS

Organizes annual competition that brings together top 90 young innovators country wide, three per district.



CHAMPION

Recognizes with awards the significant efforts that have been made by public sector, private sector, civil society and NGOs in steering their activities, focus, resources and determination towards youth.



HANGOUT

Provides a portal for interactions of youth with their peers, leaders, and role models for inspiration and sharing opportunities through social media, TV and radio.



MENTORSHIP

A platform that builds up capability of YouthConnekt Awardees, and promising innovators, with traditional knowledge and practical business skills.



MONTH

A commitment of youth to contribute to national development through hands on activities as well as raising awareness among communities about youth's contribution to their communities and country.

The initiative provides a virtual platform that advocates for youth, facilitates employment, job creation and entrepreneurship skills, and connects youth to socio-economic transformation through social media and events. Furthermore, it widens the pool of economic, social and civic leadership opportunities through national and regional initiatives such as connecting youth to their peers, role models, resources, skills and economic opportunities, and offers an avenue for entrepreneurial adventures into new areas like ICT and artisanship. The Ministry of Youth is the main coordinator of the YouthConnekt programme and works through the National Youth Council (NYC), a body with its own budget that is by law responsible for coordinating, advocating, designing and implementing youth friendly programmes.

The YouthConnekt programme consists of seven components that combine the development of entrepreneurship skills with access to jobs and finance, raising awareness on issues related to youth development in terms of civic engagement and economic empowerment, and the promotion of youth citizenship reaching thousands of young Rwandans.

Already, more than 10 African countries have subscribed to the YouthConnekt model. Within the next four years, YouthConnekt will expand in three main areas: increasing youth access to decent jobs in Rwanda; empowering youth to fully engage in policy-making and civic activities; and increasing the number of youth using health services and adopting healthy lifestyle practices.

SCALING UP: YOUTHCONNEKT AFRICA

In 2017, Rwanda convened the first YouthConnekt Africa Summit, bringing together African leaders, young entrepreneurs, the private sector and the media, with the goal to initiate policies, establish programmes and develop sustainable partnerships to empower Africa's youth. YouthConnekt Africa is seen as the proper framework to invest in and empower youth nationally; to challenge businesses to provide young people with skills and opportunities; and to transform the continent with potent young actors as driving vectors in the implementation of Agenda 2030 and of the Future We Want in Africa! One of the 5 key goals of the pan-African initiative is to create 10 million jobs for youth.



SILVER
AWARD



UNITED KINGDOM, SCOTLAND: DEVELOPING THE YOUNG WORKFORCE STRATEGY 2014-2021

The global recession and the subsequent global economic slowdown in 2008 affected Scotland's economy, leading to falls in employment and subsequent increases in unemployment. The economy began to recover in 2010, but the youth unemployment rate remained a challenge.

Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) is Scotland's youth employment strategy, with the aim to reduce youth unemployment levels by 40% by 2021. It is the government's immediate response to implementing the Education Working For All! Recommendations of the Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce, published in June 2014, and which called for the formation of a world class vocational education system by 2021.

To implement the recommendations, the strategy works towards creating an enhanced curriculum for young people aged 24 and under, in schools and colleges, in order to increase employment opportunities and ensure that every child, no matter his/her background, has an equal chance to realize their full potential.

To accomplish this, DYW brings together schools, colleges, training providers, youth organizations and employers to promote pathways for young people to participate in current and future work opportunities. This includes creating new work-based learning options; enabling young people to learn in a range of settings in their senior phase of school; embedding employer engagement in education; offering careers

advice at an earlier point in school; and introducing new standards for career education and work placements. The strategy focuses on employability and the skills required to meet market demand, building on A Curriculum for Excellence and Learning for Sustainability with a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). It stresses the importance of greatly enhancing the prestige of vocational education and skills and meeting the need for significantly enhanced quality work experience while at school and college.

HAND IN HAND TOWARDS A GREEN ECONOMY WITH A SKILLED YOUNG WORKFORCE

A joint detailed implementation plan allows for effective work through partnerships working across schools, colleges, training providers, employers and relevant partners. It specifies how the Curriculum for Excellence, a regionalized college system, an expanded Modern Apprenticeship programme and purposeful employer engagement all work together. The programme has eleven Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and includes milestones for the next seven years across all sectors to embrace the

recommendations and implement the measures required for lasting change. One key feature is the establishment of employer led Developing the Young Workforce DYW Regional Groups across Scotland, to facilitate better engagement between employers and the education system in shaping the curriculum for the future.

The DYW strategy has met its national target to reduce youth unemployment by 40% four years early. Official statistics calculated in May 2018, show that youth unemployment has dropped from 52,000 in 2014 to 28,000. The government has also committed to increase the number of Modern Apprenticeships in Scotland from around 10,500 in 2008 to 30,000 new apprenticeships starting by 2020. In 2018/2019, 28,000 have already been created. There has been a year on year increase in the number of school leavers attaining vocational qualifications and in female participation in STEM Foundation Apprenticeships (including those with disadvantaged backgrounds). DYW plays a key role in the government's overall goal to secure sustainable economic growth, meeting its climate change targets and realizing the transition to a low carbon economy, and create green jobs.





BRONZE
AWARD



SOUTH AFRICA: EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME 2004

Despite the overall economic growth in South Africa, poverty and un- and underemployment remain endemic challenges and a major social, economic and political concern. Young people are the worst afflicted, constituting more than 60% of the unemployed population.

In response to these challenges, the South African government has established the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) as one of its social protection tools. It provides temporary work, income support and skills development opportunities for unskilled, unemployed, poor and vulnerable people.

EPWP is the country's largest active labour market policy. Through this nationwide government programme, government and state-owned enterprises generate temporary labour-intensive employment opportunities through the delivery of public infrastructure (e.g. schools, roads, clinics), as well as the provision of socially useful services (e.g. homebased care, community security) and

environmentally useful services (e.g. water, parks, fire management, wetlands and waste management, tourism, and more). The project targets working age persons, with an emphasis on the participation of youth, women and people with disabilities.

SCALING UP

Since its inception in 2004, the Expanded Public Works Programme has generated over 8 million employment opportunities. According to official statistics, 70% of participants of Phase 2 have since transitioned to longer term self or formal employment. A number of initiatives specifically targeted to youth have been established. In recent years, the training component was also increased. In Phase 3, over 50,000 participants, mostly youth, were trained, of which more than 31,000 received accredited training. The initiative is now in Phase 4 (2019-2024) and aims to create 5.6 million work opportunities by 2024.



GOLD
AWARD

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE



ESTONIA: YOUTH FIELD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2014–2020

Estonia is one of the smallest and least populous European countries, and one of the youngest democracies on the continent. But it has a rich history of youth work, youth research and youth policy. Over the past 25 years, dedicated organizations and structures for youth workers, young people and their organizations, youth centres and youth programmes have been created to translate the goals and ambitions of the national youth policy into youth work at local and regional levels.

In Estonia, the youth field is considered to have a significant capacity to influence the development, and realize the potential, of young people. Youth policy in Estonia is organized

as a cross-sectorial, multi-stakeholder and multi-governance level field, involving municipalities, counties and ministries, as well as youth representatives, organizations, workers, researchers and policymakers in the field of youth.

The overarching goal of the Estonian Youth Field Development Plan is to ensure that each young person has ample opportunities for self-development and self-realization, which supports the formation of a cohesive and creative society.

The policy primarily contributes to the objectives of the 'Estonia 2020' Competitiveness Strategy and to the objectives and activities of the Action Programme of the Government of the Republic.

Among other things, the implementation of the Estonian Youth Field Development Plan has a strong impact when achieving the goals set in other policy domains, such as family and population policy, labour market and social security policy, and sports and integration policy.

THE POLICY AIMS TO

- Increase opportunities for the development of the creativity, initiative and joint activity of young people;
- Increase the involvement of young people and improve their employability;
- Support the active involvement of young people in the community and decision-making;
- Ensure the development of high-quality youth policies and youth work.

EMPOWERING YOUTH IS A PRIORITY

The Estonian Youth Field Development Plan has clear provisions for its management and implementation, including responsibilities, three-year implementation plans, monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and – a rarity in the youth field – a budget, with budgetary provisions exceeding 90 million Euros for the seven-year policy. The policy also introduces horizontal topics, such as environmental protection and climate, as well as equal opportunities, promotion of an information society, regional development, and state governance.

In less than 30 years, the youth field has achieved very impressive results and the country has managed to establish a youth policy framework that is widely considered among the best in the world. Some of the aims for the overall period of the Estonian Youth Field Development Plan had already been achieved by the end of 2017, including the aim to reduce youth unemployment to 12% (starting level 20.9% in 2012). Another impressive outcome is that more than 50% of all young people are involved in youth work activities every year.





SILVER
AWARD

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE



NEPAL: CONSTITUTION, 2015

This landlocked country in South Asia is one of the world's poorest. Nepal was closed to the outside world until the 1950s and has since experienced a long struggle for democracy. It has recently seen the creation of a multi-party parliamentary system, and the abolition of its monarchy. The civil war in Nepal ended in 2006 with the Comprehensive Peace Accord. Young people were actively involved in the civil war as well as the democratic protests through 2003–2006.

The Comprehensive Peace Accord (2006), and the Interim Constitution (2007), mandated the interim government to adopt a constitution that abolished the centralized state structures and introduced a federal system. Importantly, the Interim Constitution included a clause for the Constituent Assembly to “pursue a special policy of mobilizing young people for the development of the country.” Key to the Constitution drafting process was a participatory process where wide public engagement was conducted to seek direct inputs from citizens and marginalized groups. In total, 51% of the voters in Nepal's first Constituent Assembly elections were under 35 years of age.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION CALLS FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

The Constitution was passed in 2015 with broad political support in the Constituent Assembly. The Constitution contains provisions for youth rights pertaining to economic, social, cultural and political participation, and calls for the creation of opportunities relating to education, health and employment for enhancing youth development and empowerment. Article 51.j (7) directs the state to pursue policies that advance youth participation and empowerment and Article 18.3 provides for the right to equality.

Since its promulgation, a suite of youth policies and institutional developments have taken place, including the approval of the National Youth Policy (2015), the establishment of the National Youth Council (2015), and the development of the Youth Vision 2025 and the Ten-Year Strategic Plan (2015).

The Constitution of Nepal provides a progressive example of an inclusive constitution that addresses historical inequalities and creates a vision for a sustainable and prosperous future. It provides for the right to a healthy environment and puts a strong focus on the empowerment of young people.



BRONZE
AWARD

COUNCIL OF EUROPE: CO-MANAGEMENT OF THE YOUTH SECTOR 1972

Since its foundation in 1949, the Council of Europe has been a pioneer in youth participation and a living example of participatory democracy. Its unique system of co-management offers young people the opportunity to be co-deciders and influence what is happening in the European decision-making process, including grant allocations. Through this mechanism, young people can raise awareness on the vital topics that are crucial for them, their future and their societies. It also helps policymakers to understand the needs, challenges and obstacles young people face, which guides them in developing youth policies and standards.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION – A PRIORITY FOR MORE THAN FIVE DECADES

The Council of Europe has played a pivotal role for youth policy and youth work in Europe and beyond. The organization's youth sector has its roots in the 1960s, when the Parliamentary Assembly suggested the creation of a European Youth Centre. In 1963, an experimental European Youth Centre was set up, and the programme of co-management was designed and overseen with 50:50 parity

between governments and youth NGOs. This parity was institutionalized in 1972. Over the years, important reforms have taken place, including the establishment of the European Youth Foundation and the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ). The Joint Council on Youth is the co-managed body that brings together the governmental European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) and the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ), and takes decisions on the youth sector's priorities, programmes and budget. Over the last decades, more than 10,000 grants were awarded to youth organizations across Europe through the co-management system, with a cumulated volume of more than 130 million Euros. In addition to these monetary grants, the co-management system has awarded study sessions in its European youth centres, with more than 70,000 youth leaders and youth activists taking part as participants and multipliers.

More than 55 years after it was initiated, the co-management system remains fully functional, and has become one of the world's longest lasting examples of participatory democracy in the context of a supranational institution.

Co-Management Structure





VISION
AWARD

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, LOS ANGELES: GREEN NEW DEAL, 2019

For many years the city of L.A. and the State of California have been suffering from the effects of the climate crisis and environmental degradation, with consequences including droughts, heatwaves, forest fires, and severe water shortages. In addition, the city has had to tackle serious societal challenges, like extreme traffic and homelessness, and provide support to disadvantaged communities.

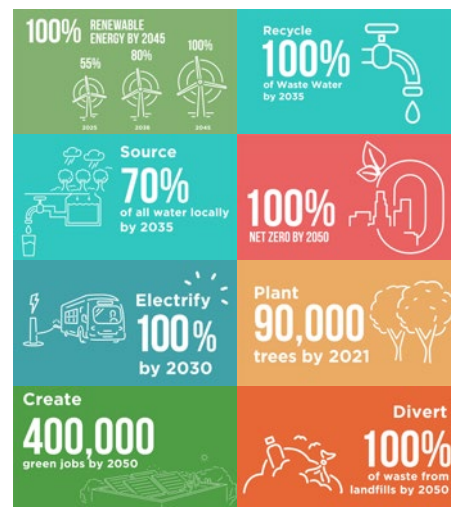
In April 2019, the second largest city in the United States launched its urban Green New Deal and new carbon neutrality targets for the city's energy consumption, transportation and buildings. The directive is an ambitious expansion of the Sustainable City pLAn (2015-2019), reflecting the need for rapid and more radical solutions to combat the climate crisis, address economic inequality and fight environmental injustice.

The policy puts forward plans for a zero carbon grid, zero carbon transportation, zero carbon buildings, zero waste and zero wasted water, as well as for investment in housing, food systems and green jobs. Los Angeles' Green New Deal is guided by four key principles:

- a commitment to uphold the Paris Climate Agreement;
- a promise to deliver environmental justice and equity through an inclusive green economy;
- a plan to ensure every Angeleno is able to join the green economy by creating pipelines to well paid, green jobs; and
- a determination to lead by example within the city government, showing the world what an urban Green New Deal looks like in practice.

L.A.'s Sustainable City pLAn has already met or exceeded 90% of its near-term goals on time or earlier. The city has become the number-one solar city in the USA, pioneered new transportation technologies, reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 11% in a single year, and created more than 35,000 green jobs.

L.A.'S GREEN NEW DEAL TARGETS



"OUR GENERATIONAL BATTLE AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IS A MORAL IMPERATIVE" — MAYOR ERIC GARCETTI

Children and youth will not only benefit from the transition into a green economy from a public health and environmental justice point of view. A Jobs Cabinet will be established to help train the next generation of workers in the jobs of tomorrow — from installing solar panels and energy-efficient homes to developing new energy technologies – to fulfill the vision of creating 400,000 green jobs by 2050.



SENEGAL: NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE PROMOTION OF GREEN JOBS, 2015–2020

In recent years, Senegal has made steady progress with its national development objectives and its economy grew by 6.9% in 2017. With a young, active population (around 60%), the country has also demonstrated its commitment to an inclusive green economy through the Plan Senegal Emergent in 2014 and the adoption of a National Strategy for Sustainable Development in 2015, which considers the green economy as an important pillar of its development process.

In 2015, the government also elaborated its first National Strategy for the Promotion of Green Jobs (SNEV Strategy) in a participatory manner with the goal to create 5,000 decent and sustainable green jobs within seven years (by 2022). Its development was supported by the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), which brings together five UN agencies that assist countries wishing to embark on greener and more inclusive growth trajectories and to achieve the SDGs, especially SDGs 8 and 17. The SNEV Strategy aims to create new decent work in a green economy by identifying promising avenues for green jobs and priorities for policy support for young women and men. In 2018, the SNEV Strategy was integrated into the new National Employment Policy, ensuring policy coherence and synergy among actors in the fields of environment and the world of work. As of June 2019, about 2,000 jobs have been created.

GREEN JOBS FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN

The SNEV Strategy is primarily implemented through the Support Programme for the Creation of Green Jobs Opportunities (PACEV). The programme promotes inclusive entrepreneurship that is more open to youth and women (especially the heads of poor, low-income households) and

has four main functions: to provide information in the form of awareness, knowledge, technology and knowhow; to offer incentives to boost engagement with low-income communities; to launch investments by companies; and to support implementation in terms of logistics, transactions and marketing.

In particular, the SNEV Strategy promotes and develops new sectors for green jobs creation, such as distributing and maintaining mobile kiosks with solar panels, a drinking water production sector, and a sector for recycling energy efficient lamps. It also reinforces and consolidates existing sectors, such as urban and rural waste valorization, aquaculture, sustainable agriculture and forestry. Furthermore, it provides capacity building and training for skills needed for sustainable green jobs.



DECENT AND SUSTAINABLE JOBS FOR YOUTH ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

ARGENTINA:

Academia for Entrepreneurships, 2016

In 2016, the government presented Plan Argentina Starts Up, along with its Academia for Entrepreneurship (AAE). The Academia offers entrepreneurship training and support at all levels and focuses on developing an entrepreneurial culture, tools and ecosystem. To reach youth, the Academia cooperates with the Ministry of Education to embed entrepreneurial competencies in the curriculums of secondary schools, technical schools and universities. So far, it has trained 10,000 students, provided entrepreneurial and vocational training, and financed more than 1,000 start-ups.

GERMANY:

Dual Apprenticeship System, 1969, last amended in 2005

The German vocational education and training (VET) system, also known as the dual training system, is highly regarded worldwide due to its combination of theory and training embedded in a real-life work environment. Its main characteristic is cooperation between primarily small and medium sized companies and publicly funded vocational schools. Cooperation between State and social partners is a core element. Overall, the dual system appears to be more effective at helping youth transition into employment than other VET options and serves as a model for several other countries.

ETHIOPIA, TIGRAY REGION:

Redistribution of Rehabilitated Hillsides and Gullies for Creating Livelihood Opportunities for Landless Rural Youth, 2011

The initiative aims to offer sustainable livelihood options to the landless rural youth in Tigray. Landless youth can self-organize and form a primary cooperative and apply for a rehabilitated communal land for starting livelihood options in the village where they live. The youth groups are obliged to manage the rehabilitated land on a sustainable basis, contributing to carbon sequestration and creating green jobs.

RUSSIA:

Kruzhok Movement of the National Technology Initiative Programme, 2016

The national strategy aims to engage with talented young people on the country level. It involves a large number of state, non-profit and private organizations and companies working in the spheres of education and technological development. Different stakeholders, including technology entrepreneurs, future leaders and young people (aged 12-25), are involved in finding solutions to the challenges posed by a volatile, uncertain, and complex world.

UKRAINE:

Youth Worker Programme, 2014

The Youth Worker Programme tackles many newly emerging challenges related to the roll-out of decentralization reform in the country. The Programme also strives to change what is perceived by many to be a paternalistic approach to youth development by introducing the best international practices of youth engagement and non-formal learning in Ukraine. It is also working to bring together public servants and youth NGOs.

UNITED KINGDOM, WALES:

Youth Entrepreneurship Strategy: An Action Plan for Wales, 2010

The Welsh Youth Entrepreneurship Strategy (YES Strategy) of 2010 is based on the vision to develop and nurture self-sufficient, entrepreneurial young people in all communities across Wales. It is addressed to young people aged 5-25, funded by the Welsh Government and involves a wide range of local stakeholders. It succeeded in raising the proportion of graduate start-up companies and raising awareness of self-employment as a career option. It achieved significant acclaim across Europe for its pioneering work in youth entrepreneurship.

2019 FUTURE POLICY AWARD JURY

-  **Dr. h.c. Hafsat Abiola-Costello**, Executive President of Women in Africa Initiative (WIA); Councillor, World Future Council, Nigeria/France.
-  **Kehkashan Basu**, Founder and President of the Green Hope Foundation; Honorary Advisor for the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development in New York; Youth Ambassador, World Future Council, Canada/United Arab Emirates.
-  **Hon. Melvin Bouva**, President of the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians; Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Suriname, Suriname.
-  **Charles Chauvel**, Global Lead, Inclusive Processes and Institutions, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Thailand.
-  **Prof. Dr. Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger**, Senior Director, Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL); Affiliated Fellow, Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, University of Cambridge; and Founding Councillor, World Future Council, UK/Canada.
-  **Hon. Gabriela Cuevas Barron**, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union; Member of Parliament, Mexico.
-  **Hon. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés**, President of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly; former Minister for Natural Heritage, Minister of National Defense and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ecuador.
-  **Neshan Gunasekera**, Educationist and lawyer; former Director of the Weeramantry International Centre for Peace Education and Research (WICPER), Sri Lanka.
-  **Valter Nebuloni**, Head of Youth Employment Programme Unit and Employment Policy Department, International Labour Organization (ILO), Switzerland.
-  **Prof. Dr. Michael Otto**, Founder of the Environmental Foundation Michael Otto; Honorary Councillor, World Future Council, Germany.
-  **Alexandra Wandel**, Executive Director of the World Future Council, Germany.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

EUROPEAN UNION: **European Youth Goals, 2013**

The European Youth Goals form the visionary basis for the institutional youth policy framework of the European Union. They were designed in a participatory process that involved 50,000 young people over the course of one year. In 2018, the Youth Ministers of all 28 Member States of the European Union adopted the EU's new Youth Strategy for the period 2019-2027, integrating the European Youth Goals without alteration in their resolution. The outcome is a policy that translates the comprehensiveness of the Sustainable Development Goals into youth policymaking.

MALTA: **National Youth Policy Towards 2020, 2015**

Malta was one of the first European countries to start developing a national youth policy back in 1992. With its comprehensive youth policy framework and system, it has become a model for youth policy development and implementation for many countries. The policy relies on two interrelated strategic directions for its implementation: youth work and services for young people, and cross-sectoral support. These two strategic directions cover support across all government agencies that enhance young people's participation, learning and employment opportunities.

NIGERIA: **Not Too Young To Run Act, 2018**

This West African country has the third-largest youth population in the world, making up 51% of registered voters. The Not Too Young to Run constitutional amendments were adopted in 2018 to reduce the candidacy age required to run for office in the Nigerian parliament. As a result, in the 2019 elections, the total number of young people elected to parliament rose from 60 MPs under 35 years of age to 103. The amendments were the result of a grassroots #NotTooYoungToRun campaign which caught widespread media attention and expanded into a global movement supported by intergovernmental organizations. Its success has mobilized Nigerian youth to continue to advocate for greater youth participation in parliament and has led to similar movements in other countries.

PERU: **The Youth Quota (Youth Tithe), 2006 and 2009**

Requiring at least 20% of party electoral lists to be composed of candidates under 29 years of age, Peru's youth quota was introduced at the local level in 2006 and was later enlarged to the regional level in 2009. The quota was the result of a campaign by youth activists calling for an increase to the presence of young people and their influence in the democratic process. Peru was one of the pioneers of the youth quota, which has now spread to other countries. It is, however, still the only country in South America to have a youth quota in place.



IPU President Gabriela Cuevas Barron. Elected in 2017, Ms. Cuevas Barron is the youngest IPU President in the organization's history.



TUNISIA: **National and Municipal Level Youth Quota, 2014**

Following Tunisia's youth-led revolution and transition to democracy in 2011, the government introduced youth quotas at the national level in 2014 and at the local level in 2017 to increase the political representation of young people. The Tunisian quotas stand out in their sophistication. They include: enforcement mechanisms to ensure parties abide by the law, provisions to ensure young candidates are in the top four positions of party lists, and provisions so that they work in tandem with the gender parity quota to favour the election of young women.

NEW ZEALAND: **Principles of Youth Development, 2002, 2019**

The Youth Development Strategy of Aotearoa was developed in 2002 by the then Ministry of Youth Affairs to provide a blueprint for national youth strategy and practice. It contains six Principles of Youth Development that remain influential in the wider youth development ecosystem. In 2019, the principles were reviewed with a stronger focus on honouring indigenous people.

CANADA: **The Prime Minister's Youth Council, 2016**

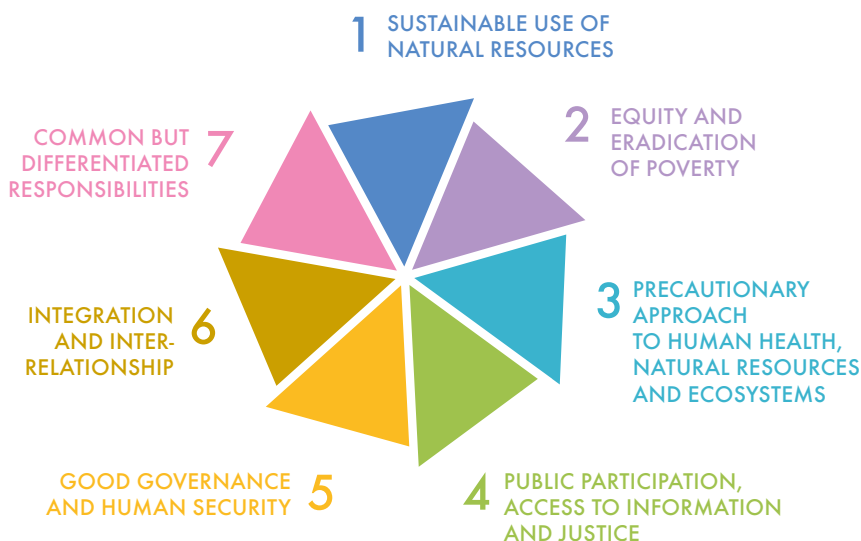
The Prime Minister's Youth Council was created in 2016 to involve young people directly in matters of importance to them. The unique aspect of the policy, in comparison to other youth advisory councils, is that the advice is provided directly to the Prime Minister, who is also the Minister for Youth.

FUTURE-JUST LAW AND POLICY-MAKING

The World Future Council's "Best Policies" are those that meet the Future-Just Lawmaking Principles and significantly support fair conditions for present and future generations. The International Law Association has adopted Seven Principles for Sustainable Development Law. These principles were the result of ten years of academic work and are regarded as the "first blueprint for the emerging field of sustainable development law and policy" for professionals dealing with policymaking and evaluation. The Seven Principles methodology is strictly applied in the evaluation of all policies that are nominated for the Future Policy Award. In 2019, the Future Policy Award's 7 Principles were complemented by the Baku key guiding principles for integrated and inclusive youth policy developments.* For each assessed policy, youth representatives were invited to be interviewed, to ensure that the voice of young people is included in our analysis.

For further information, please see:

www.worldfuturecouncil.org/seven-principles



*First Global Forum on Youth Policies, 2014, Baku Commitment to Youth Policies:
www.youthpolicy.org/library/documents/baku-commitment-to-youth-policies/



PREVIOUS FUTURE POLICY AWARD WINNERS

2018 AGROECOLOGY

GOLD AWARD

Sikkim, India: State Policy on Organic Farming (2004) and Sikkim Organic Mission (2010)

SILVER AWARDS

Quito, Ecuador: Participatory Urban Agriculture Programme (AGRUPAR, 2002)

Denmark: Organic Action Plan: Working together for more organics (2011-2020, updated in 2015)

Brazil: National Policy for Agroecology and Organic Production (PNAPO, 2012)

2017 DESERTIFICATION

GOLD AWARD

Tigray, Ethiopia: Conservation-Based Agricultural Development-Led Industrialization (ADLI, 1994), supported by Mass Mobilization Campaigns (1991) and Youth Responsive Land Policy (2008)

SILVER AWARDS

Brazil: Cisterns Programme (2003, enshrined into law in 2013)

China: Law on Prevention and Control of Desertification (2002)

2015 CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

GOLD AWARD

Zanzibar, Tanzania: Children's Act (2011)

SILVER AWARDS

Maryland, USA: Environmental Literacy Standards (2011)

Finland: Basic Education Act (1998) and general education policies

2012 OCEANS AND COASTS

GOLD AWARD

Palau: Shark Haven Act (2009) and Protected Areas Network Act (2003)

SILVER AWARDS

Philippines: Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park Act (2010)

Namibia: Marine Resources Act (2000)

2013 DISARMAMENT

GOLD AWARD

Latin America and the Caribbean: Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco, 1967)

SILVER AWARDS

Argentina: National Programme for the Voluntary Surrender of Firearms (2006)

New Zealand: Nuclear Free Zone (1987)

2014 ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

GOLD AWARD

Duluth, USA: Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence (1981)

SILVER AWARDS

Burkina Faso: Prohibition of female genital mutilation (1996)

Austria: Psychosocial and legal court assistance for victims of violence during criminal and civil procedure (2006)

2011 FORESTS

GOLD AWARD

Rwanda: National Forest Policy (initiated in 2004)

SILVER AWARDS

The Gambia: Community Forest Policy (initiated in 1995)

USA: Lacey Act with its amendment of 2008

2010 BIODIVERSITY

GOLD AWARD

Costa Rica: Biodiversity Law (1998)

SILVER AWARD

Australia: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act (1975), Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)

2009 FOOD SECURITY

GOLD AWARD

Belo Horizonte, Brazil: Food Security Programme (1993)

SILVER AWARDS

Tuscany, Italy: Regional Law on the Protection and Promotion of Heritage of Local Breeds and Varieties of Interest to Farming, Animal Husbandry and Forestry (2004)

Cuba: Urban Agriculture Policy



The World Future Council consists of 50 eminent global change-makers from governments, parliaments, civil society, academia, the arts and the business world. We work to pass on a healthy planet and just societies to our children and grandchildren. We focus on identifying and spreading effective, future-just policy solutions.

The World Future Council was launched in 2007 by Jakob von Uexkull, who also founded the “Alternative Nobel Prize”. It is politically independent and operates as charitable foundation under German law. Our work is not possible without continuous financial support from private and institutional donors.

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www.un.org/youthenvoy

International Labour Organization (ILO)

www.ilo.org

Youth Policy Labs (YPL)

www.youthpolicy.org

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