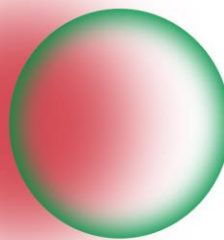


THE FUTURE WE WANT:

Better Policies for
the Next Generation and
a Sustainable Transition



OECD
MINISTERIAL
COUNCIL MEETING
2022

The Future Youth Want

Elements of a Youth Manifesto

At the initiative of the Italian Presidency of the 2022 OECD Ministerial Council Meeting (MCM), a workshop was organised on 8 June in Paris, bringing together members of Youthwise – the OECD’s youth advisory board – as well as representatives from youth organisations and OECD experts. A number of proposals emerged from the workshop and were relayed to Ministers on 10 June – the first time youth voices have been included in the MCM. These are outlined below:

1. Youth participation

Young people are a third of the population but 100% of the future. We believe that for youth participation in government and other public institutions to be meaningful, it must be **diverse, regular, and embedded** in formal decision-making processes with adequate feedback mechanisms.

Therefore, we propose:

- Introducing initiatives to **promote diversity** in government and other public institutions, with a view to bolstering youth representation. At the national level, we support the use of youth quotas in parliaments and legislatures. We also ask that the **OECD lead by example** in promoting a culture of meaningful youth participation within the organisation by institutionalising Youthwise, and through the development of youth participation guidelines for member countries.
- That governments and other public institutions **improve access to information critical to** young people’s lives. Organisations must ensure that they are communicating with young people on the platforms where we are, and in clear and accessible language.
- **Rethinking the workforce of tomorrow**, including through civic education and by allowing young people to **create jobs that reflect our values** and in which we feel **empowered to enact change**. **Paid leave for mental health and civic participation, as well as a ban on unpaid internships** would be key features of this new workplace environment.

2. Policy action for future generations:

We see an urgent need to ensure that **decision makers apply a long-term intergenerational lens when enacting policy**; that **power is shared across generations**; and efforts to promote **inter-generational collaboration are made by those in leadership**. This is vital at a time when young people are facing generational shockwaves at the crossroads of the climate crisis and global economic instability.

Therefore, we propose:

- A holistic **rethinking of financial systems** to take into account the critical challenges young people face in their lifetime, including **lack of access to retirement funds and other forms of social security, affordable housing, education, and healthcare**; and **forced migration** as a consequence of inequality and the climate crisis.
- Measures to ensure **greater government transparency and accountability, particularly with regard to budgeting decisions**, and with a “youth and future generations” test applied to all new policies.
- Schools to **prioritise essential skills, including creativity and problem solving** – preparing young people to be not only good workers but also fulfilled citizens. This is particularly important for a generation navigating both the green transition and an increasingly digital world.

3. Environment and the planet

We call for urgent, co-ordinated global action that puts **planetary and human well-being at the heart of policy** for current and future generations, underpinned by principles of equity and fairness. **Young people must be empowered** to be part of the solution.

Therefore, we propose:

- A stronger emphasis on **systemic solutions and shifts as key drivers of the green transition. Changing our habits alone will not be sufficient.** The burden of environmental challenges must be shared by governments, businesses and generations. We call for **governments to introduce stronger incentives for consumers and businesses to reduce their** climate impact.
- A greater focus on formal and informal education on environmental topics to enhance understanding of the issues, but also to build skills for a more sustainable lifestyle and economy while participating in the green transition.
- The meaningful involvement of youth representatives in policy debates and decision-making processes on environmental and climate issues, at international, national and local level.
- Stronger accountability measures for polluters and emitters – and the recognition that the high price of the climate crisis should not disproportionately be paid by those most affected, in particular lower-income populations and marginalised communities.

Participants in the Youth workshop included:

Les Jeunes Européens, Tortuga Econ, Institut Jacques Delors, Académie Notre Europe, Orizzonti Politici, Future Policy Lab, Forum Français de la Jeunesse, Association des Fédérations Etudiantes, EuroPeers international, Franco-British Council, Youth7 2022, L'académie pour la participation des personnes réfugiées, Youth Forever, Young Ambassadors Society, Open Diplomacy Institute, UNESCO, Youthwise, Business at OECD (BIAC), STTK / TUAC Youth