

15TH MELAKA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DIALOGUE
“YOUTH AND ARMED CONFLICT:
TO EXPRESS WITHOUT A FEAR, TO PROGRESS WITHOUT A THREAT”
22-24 JUNE 2015
KINGS GREEN HOTEL, MELAKA, MALAYSIA

DECLARATION

1 PREAMBLE

- 1.1 We, the 210 young people from 43 countries around the world, attending the 15th Melaka International Youth Dialogue (MIYD), convened in Melaka from 22nd – 24th June, 2015 for an annual program organized by the World Assembly of Youth (WAY):
- 1.2 **Noting** that children and youth represent the majority of the population in most countries affected by armed conflicts and are thus disproportionately affected by war. More than 1.5 billion people, 40 percent of them being youth, live in countries where levels of criminal violence are on the increase.
- 1.3 **Acknowledging** that suffering of young people bears many faces - they are recruited as child soldiers, are killed and maimed, deprived of education and health care, and separated from their families.
- 1.4 **Recognizing** that conflict is the breeding ground for mass violations of human rights including unlawful killings, torture, forced displacement and starvation.
- 1.5 **Understanding** the world is home to the largest generation of young people in history.
- 1.6 For the past 14 years, MIYD has been focusing on several youth issues which directly or indirectly affect the daily lives of youth. In 2015, the theme for the 15th MIYD was *‘Youth and Armed Conflict: To Express Without A Fear, To Progress Without A Threat’*.

The guiding principles for this declaration were based on the following objectives:

- To raise an informative generation on the current situation of youth and armed conflicts with anticipated behaviour adaptation and consequently admission to decision making amongst youth;
- To foster youth action towards implementation of ideas brought forward by the young people for the benefit of the societies;
- To address the determinants and impact of armed conflicts amongst youth;
- To promote equality of opportunities and facilities between young men and women;

- To formulate the environmental, political, economic and cultural factors that are associated with peace building and disarmaments in ensuring young people's right to live in harmony;
- To ascertain the obligations of society to respect, protect and fulfil the right of young people to live, express and improve themselves without fear and threat.
- To classify the role and the contribution of the national youth councils and other stakeholders towards improving and sustaining resourceful policies in combating armed conflict and promoting sustainable conflict free environment;
- To form and advance the national, regional and international policies governing youth and their right to live in peace for the present and future;
- To integrate networking, collaboration and cooperation between public and private sectors, civil societies and other stakeholders to address the issue of youth and armed conflict;

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Participants identified key recommendations for adoption by the public sector, private sector, NGOs, media and youth. In addition, participants established commitments and outcomes in the pursuit of peace among nations and a conflict free generation.

2.2 Based on the dialogue, and building on the progress in the implementation of The World Programme of Action for Youth, we call upon the following stakeholders to:

2.1 PUBLIC SECTOR

2.1.1 *Train* public officers with the right knowledge and skills in order to execute and sustain policies that would prevent armed conflict and meet the needs of community.

2.1.2 *Develop* policies that would address and prevent armed conflict within the country and region.

2.1.3 *Establish* a platform that would ensure and serve the bureaucratic interest of the community in a transparent manner.

2.1.4 *Maintain* neutrality in conflict resolution for the betterment of society.

2.1.5 *Inculcate* in school curriculum the basic values of life on inter-faith, inter-generation, and inter-ethnicity, to avoid conflict.

2.1.6 *Invite* all stakeholders to promote entrepreneurship among young people as a tool to prevent youth restiveness and extremism.

2.1.7 *Ensure* equity in distribution of information and resources throughout the community.

2.1.8 *Create* a new paradigm for just, sustainable and rights based development.

2.1.9 *Create* policies that would address fundamental inequalities between young people and inequalities between countries, while promoting rights based approach and putting young people at its centre.

2.1.10 *Emphasize* commitment to the wellbeing of young people and the planet.

2.1.11 *Include* youth in decision making processes, policy implementation, monitoring and evaluation, in youth related issues.

2.1.12 *Ensure* young people's involvement in creating, developing and sustaining of resources that would lead to the betterment of standards of living, in order to avoid any form of conflict.

- 2.1.13 *Ensure* adequate youth activities in development and creation of enabling environments for jobs to promote peace and unity.
- 2.1.14 *Create* robust, transparent, multi-sectorial accountability mechanism at the national level that includes meaningful participation of youth and civil society organizations.

2.2 PRIVATE SECTOR

- 2.2.1 *Invest* and sponsor social activities that would promote peace, unity and progress, at national, regional and global level.
- 2.2.2 *Ensure* that youth are introduced and engaged to the employment opportunities and capacity building activities for the betterment of community.
- 2.2.3 *Partner* up in peace building efforts and positively influence negotiations whenever conflicts arise.
- 2.2.4 *Encourage* partnership with all stakeholders towards youth empowerment and development programmes, including CSR initiatives.
- 2.2.5 *Create* connection between economic and social development for the betterment of youth.

2.3 NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

- 2.3.1 *Sustain* advocacy for transparency and guarantee freedom of speech by government and relevant stakeholders.
- 2.3.2 *Create* platforms to evolve monitoring mechanisms of activities carried out by all stakeholders, in order to avoid conflict.
- 2.3.3 *Initiate* and develop programmes and activities for youth in areas engulfed in armed conflict.
- 2.3.4 *Create* rehabilitative youth activities in post-conflict regions towards sustainable development.
- 2.3.5 *Develop* programmes that would promote commitment to the achievement of human rights and inclusiveness of young people in the process.
- 2.3.6 *Insist* on transparent democratic processes in order to avoid conflict in society.
- 2.3.7 *Encourage* partnership among all stakeholders and promote peace and sustainability
- 2.3.8 *Appoint* youth ambassadors that would propagate peace in conflict and post-conflict areas.
- 2.3.9 *Enhance* communication and cooperation amongst themselves in order to reinforce their effectiveness as participants in the implementation of sustainable development.

2.4 MEDIA

- 2.4.1 *Positive* use of social media; such as promotion of campaigns, creating awareness and information dissemination.
- 2.4.2 *Sharing* important and relevant news in public and private social media accounts, in order to inform the broader public of development concerning issues of Governance, Social-Economic, Security, etc.
- 2.4.3 *Address* the issues of Governance by policy analysis, and ensure that it is accessible to all.
- 2.4.4 *Insist* on objective reporting on youth related issues.
- 2.4.5 *Use* Non-Mainstream media and social media to disseminate rightful information to the society.
- 2.4.6 *Use* media to get across information at all levels, especially the rural areas.
- 2.4.7 *Gather* information and ideas from society with regards to youth issues.

- 2.4.8 *Establish* media platforms that would create and share high-quality education and information, accessible to all.
- 2.4.9 *Promote* transparency and accountability in the government by reminding them to fulfil electoral promises.
- 2.4.10 *Influence* all stakeholders to develop and implement crucial policies that are inclusive for the marginalized, indigenous, disadvantaged and disabled groups.
- 2.4.11 *Set* realistic measures of proper information management to avoid cyber crime among youth.

2.5 YOUTH

- 2.5.1 *Encourage* friendly approaches to overcome misunderstandings of social-economic issues.
- 2.5.2 *Engage* in meaningful activities and promote sustainable development for all.
- 2.5.3 *Discover* and *nurture* talents and potential in order to desist from social violence.
- 2.5.4 *Establish* platforms that would strengthen the role of youth in the decision making process at all levels.
- 2.5.5 *Represent* the positive values and interest of the community in order to avoid violence in their daily life.
- 2.5.6 *Initiate* and engage in peaceful dialogue in the midst of conflict.
- 2.5.7 *Partake* in grassroots development initiatives and promote peace in partnership with all stakeholders.

3 CONCLUSION

We, the participants of the 15th Melaka International Youth Dialogue, acknowledge the importance of a society where the youth should be given the opportunity to express and progress themselves free from fear and threat. Where wars erupt, suffering and hardship invariably follow. We seek to generate youth dialogues and advocate for legislations, policies and programmes at all levels of society in order to achieve peace among all nations, a conflict free generation and inclusion in the consultations of the Sustainable Development Goals and Post-2015 Development Agenda.

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Czech Republic
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Fiji
Finland
Gabon
Germany
Ghana
Indonesia
Iran
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Libya
Malaysia
Mongolia
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