



American Model United Nations

**Commission on Population and
Development**

**Report to the Commission on Population and
Development on Adolescents and youth**

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1 Executive Summary

2 At its 2018 session, the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) considered "Youth and Ado-
3 lescents," the second topic for the 2018 session, and the review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of
4 action.

5 After considerable debate the Commission created three working groups focusing on: Sexual and Reproduc-
6 tive Health and Education, Youth Bulge, and Technology and Modernization. Each of the working groups contained
7 Member States from a variety of regional blocs across the world, creating an opportunity for a variety of viewpoints to
8 be expressed. Some Member States worked on several sections of the report, which was conducive to a comprehensive
9 and collaborative process.

10 Working Groups proposed separate recommendations for action, and contributed separately to the deliber-
11 ations, which allowed each country to voice concerns, ideas and potential solutions for their respective subtopics.

12 The first chapter of this report submits for consideration two resolutions the Commission adopted regarding
13 reproductive health and youth empowerment, and partnerships between Member States to provide greater access to
14 technology for youth globally.

15 The second chapter of this report provides deliberations on recommendations for action from the Commission
16 to United Nations Member States.

17 The third chapter references United Nations resolutions and other documents that proved useful in the
18 Commission's deliberations.

19 The fourth chapter enumerates the deliberations of the Commission regarding each of the working groups'
20 topics. The working group titled "Reproductive Health and Education" discussed consent ages for marriage and sex,
21 as well as female-targeted education regarding contraceptives. The working group titled "Youth Bulge" deliberated
22 how to empower youth through the creation of governmental institutions to finance youth-led projects. The third
23 working group titled "Technology and Modernization" emphasized the importance of education as a potential solution
24 for brain drain, as well as partnerships through which technological resources could be shared between Member States.

25 The last chapter details the acceptance of this report for the Council's consideration.

26 **2 Matters calling for action**

27 **2.1 CPD II/1**

28 *Recognizing* the policies and suggestions set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/1 to increase
29 access to reproductive healthcare, considering the lack of it poses an issue on adolescents affected by the urban-rural
30 divide,

31 *Further recognizing* the efforts put forward by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
32 for providing adequate resources in youth education,

33 *Noting* the advancements made by various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to expand educational
34 initiatives to rural communities, whilst highlighting sexual education as a prominent concern,

35 *Emphasizing* the statements of the World Youth Alliance statement to the forty-fifth session of the Com-
36 mission on Population Development E/CN.9/2012/NGO/9 that adolescents and youth are frequently not included
37 in discussions pertaining to education and reproductive education, and youth participation in these discussions must
38 be deemed a priority,

39 1. *Recommends* partnering with state-appropriate NGOs to assist in providing rural medical services and
40 education, such as providing access to:

41 (a) resources on sexual and reproductive health;

42 (b) resources to combat the HIV/Aids epidemic;

43 2. *Further recommends* increased investment in primary and secondary education as a means to encourage
44 higher educational attainment among adolescents;

45 3. *Supports* increased funding for family planning services;

46 4. *Calls upon* Member States to involve adolescents in decision-making processes in the interest of in-
47 corporating their perspectives into the discussion of various issues related to reproductive health, education and
48 unemployment;

49 5. *Urges* Member States to continue implementing past resolutions as a model for future programs, which
50 looks to promote youth and adolescents to leadership roles in the security sector;

51 6. *Further requests* Member States to devote resources to aid in the transition from education to the
52 workplace through vocational training and entrepreneurship training programs that bridge the gender gap and
53 encompass the female population in order to stimulate employment rates in the future.

54 **2.2 Other recommendations for action**

55 CPD urges Member States to address the issue of youth unemployment and find or create opportunities
56 to integrate youth into the economic sector. CPD recommends achieving this goal by increasing business develop-
57 ment, mentorship opportunities with private and public organizations and/or companies and increasing employment
58 opportunities by offering jobs in green energy.

59 CPD calls upon individual Member States to invest in strategies to decrease youth unemployment by incen-
60 tivizing youth to remain in-country and establishing workplace learning opportunities for youth to bridge the gap
61 between the education sector and the workforce.

62 CPD encourages the creation of corporate work study programs within schools, which can provide opportu-
63 nities for students to gain hands-on work experience and cultivate a strong network of professional relationships that
64 will benefit them for a lifetime.

65 CPD also strongly suggests Member States focus on creating sustainable employment designed to adapt to
66 new employment opportunities in the future.

67 CPD supports the creation of internship programs to bridge the gap between workplace and secondary
68 education, which could include the creation of internship programs such as the Programme of Action and public-
69 private partnerships.

70 CPD invites Member States to work with Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) to develop country or
71 region-specific campaigns which address mental health and offer life-skills workshops that provide education for skills
72 needed for employment.

73 CPD further emphasizes the importance of technological education, understanding and development, as a
74 strategy which could be an aspect of a potentially effective solution for brain drain.

75 CPD encourages larger, more developed States to create partnerships with other sovereign states, sharing
76 technology, monetary resources or technological information in an effort to provide access to resources for youth
77 globally.

78 CPD recommends partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide resources on and
79 support for sexual and reproductive health and education, as well as resources and support for maternal health and
80 education;

81 CPD encourages Member States to publish set legal age of consent and legal age for marriage in accordance
82 with the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages;

83 CPD suggests the expansion of the United Nations Population Fund, which provides or directly supports
84 reproductive healthcare and family planning for women and young people in over 150 Member States, particularly
85 among populations which have historically lacked access to these services.

86 Reminds the body that the CPD is a consensus-based body, and therefor inclusivity is a critical issue,
87 especially in teh area of youth and adolescents as all nations are effected by these issues in multiple ways.

88 Calls on the body to ensure that all Member States' views on youth and adolescents in development are
89 valued equally since issues such as these effect every Member State. Therefore, policy in this area should not be
90 controlled by a single Member State or small group of Member States.

91 The CPD furhter recommends that all Member States acknowledge all proceedings of this body and do not
92 attempt to obstruct other Member States' views.

93 The CPD further advises that any such ongoing issues be reported to the Economic and Social Council body
94 when it meets as a whole.

95 **3 Consideration of the status**

- 96 Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages
- 97 Every Woman Every Child Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health
- 98 AIDS2031 Working Group
- 99 HealthWise South Africa
- 100 International Planned Parenthood Federation You Decide Program

101 **3.1 Deliberations**

102 The Commission on Population and Development emphasized that reproductive health is an extremely
 103 important issue for young people across the world for multiple reasons. If children are born in places with poor
 104 reproductive health care, they will be less healthy and more likely to die at birth or shortly after. In Member
 105 States with less access to sexual and reproductive health services and education, adolescents are much more likely to
 106 contract sexually transmitted diseases/ sexually transmitted infections (STD/STI) and adolescent females are much
 107 more likely to have an unwanted or unplanned pregnancy or enter into early marriage. When these adolescent females
 108 have children or enter into marriage, they are much less likely to complete their education, thereby losing important
 109 job-training skills and reducing their employ-ability. With these adolescents’ reduced employment prospects, Member
 110 States’ economies suffer. Thus, sexual and reproductive health and education is inherently a development issue.

111 This body recognized the importance of supporting youth and adolescent women and girls in rural or in-
 112 digenous areas, along with other vulnerable populations. A large problem with rural and indigenous areas is the
 113 lack of access to contraceptives. It is for this reason that this body looks favorably upon setting up camps in rural
 114 areas in developing nations in which women and girls can have access to free contraceptives, menstrual products, sex
 115 education, and reproductive care. The implementation of mobile healthcare providers which operate in under-served
 116 rural areas would also benefit this population. Women in rural or indigenous areas are also particularly vulnerable
 117 to pregnancy and childbirth related complications, as well as post-delivery complications. The body favorably dis-
 118 cussed ways that non-governmental organizations could aid health attendants, midwives and other medical personnel
 119 in assisting adolescent females in rural or indigenous areas.

120 These issues are most prominent in Least Developed Countries (LDCs). These countries, especially their
 121 rural populations, tend to have the biggest struggles with access to women’s healthcare. Youth and adolescent
 122 women in these countries are less likely to be educated than women in developed countries, more likely to die at
 123 birth, and have more children. It is clear that while reproductive health is an important issue for all nations it is the
 124 most pressing in LDCs. Recognizing that LDCs often struggle to pay for such services this body looked favorably
 125 on cooperation between International Governmental Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs),
 126 governments and activist groups to provide the funding for these services.

127 Family planning is also a key issue in this crisis. According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA),
 128 214 million women who want to avoid pregnancy do not use family planning, for reasons including lack of access to
 129 services or lack of community support. Family planning would reduce unplanned pregnancies and STD/STI rates,
 130 which are another critical issue for youth and adolescent women.

131 This body recognized the importance of addressing the HIV/AIDS crisis. According to the United Nations
 132 Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) about 1.8 million adolescents around the world are currently living with
 133 HIV/AIDS. As such, the body appreciated the efforts of the AIDS2031 working group which focuses on modeling
 134 and analyzing the the long-term costs and financing of the epidemic. In addition, the AIDS2031 publishes reports
 135 on how best to financially manage the issue. The body appreciated the efforts of Member States such as South
 136 Africa, which has implemented the HealthWise South Africa initiative in an effort to educate adolescents and youth
 137 on HIV/AIDS and other STDs/STIs. This initiative also teaches youth how to best utilize leisure time in the interest
 138 of reducing drug and alcohol use. The body believed that similar initiatives implemented at a regional or global
 139 level would be an incredibly effective means to reducing the global prevalence of HIV/AIDS. The body believed that
 140 any sustainable solution to the HIV/AIDS crisis must also tackle the threat of Tuberculosis (TB), an opportunistic
 141 infection often associated with HIV/AIDS.

142 The biggest challenge to resolving many of these issues is public opposition in more socially conservative
143 or religious countries. For example, the body considered recommending that the minimum age of consent be raised
144 to 16, and the minimum age for marriage to 18, but was unable to reach a full agreement due to concerns about
145 national sovereignty. The body discussed utilizing NGOs such as Doctors Without Borders, Talking About Sexual and
146 Reproductive Health Issues or the International Planned Parenthood Federation to assist in providing rural medical
147 services. These services could include providing access to resources on sexual and reproductive health, access to and
148 education about contraceptives and access to menstrual care products and education. There was also discussion of
149 expanding existing frameworks such as the IPPF You Decide program which provides mobile clinics to rural areas
150 to provide sexual and reproductive health and education services. International Planned Parenthood Federation
151 also implements peer-to-peer mentorship programs where adolescents are trained in sexual and reproductive health
152 education and are partnered with local adolescents to spread awareness and education in an informal setting. The
153 body was unable to reach an agreement due to differing morals and beliefs.

154 The representatives discussed how a youth bulge impacts their individual nations and how we can harness
155 this bulge. According to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (ECOSOC), countries and areas that are
156 experiencing a youthful age structure, a large youth population, experience what is entitled a youth bulge. Over the
157 next few decades, the youth population is projected to increase in Africa whereas there is a projected slight decrease
158 in Asia; the other continents will stay relatively the same. With this in mind, the body believed the youth bulge is
159 an issue that needs to be addressed.

160 When a country has a large youth population challenges arise including the inability to retain youth in their
161 home countries and the large unemployment of youth. The Commission on Population and Development encouraged
162 Member States to have sustainable occupations that will last into the far future as there is a projected growth as well
163 as investing in their youth's education and healthcare. These sustainable occupations ensure that there is a strong
164 foundation for the youth to be able to succeed and continue to develop their countries.

165 In terms of education, representatives discussed the positive benefits of workplace learning and mentorship
166 programs. Workplace learning includes internships, public-private partnerships, training programs and life-skill
167 programs. Additionally, the body saw the benefits of mentorship programs specifically in the area of entrepreneurship,
168 which would additionally decrease unemployment. All of these educational aspects would assist in the transition
169 from education to the workplace.

170 Access to quality education was emphasized, as it is vital in promoting opportunities for youth and ado-
171 lescents in every country. Representatives acknowledged that educational shortfalls occur in both developed and
172 underdeveloped regions worldwide. The two main shortfalls that have been occurring with relatively high frequency
173 are the failure to provide quality education to youth and adolescents, and the failure to transfer students into careers
174 upon the completion of education.

175 Failure to provide quality education has occurred primarily due to a shortage of teachers and resources.
176 Brazil noted that due to a lack of incentives for teachers, nearly a third of teachers are preoccupied with other jobs
177 and many teachers fail to provide enough attention to students, often completely neglecting to show up for classes.
178 In addition, many poor and underprivileged regions do not have strong curriculum requirements. Representatives
179 urged Member States to provide more significant incentives to teachers in their countries. Additionally, it was
180 recommended that Member States task education professionals with developing comprehensive curricula to provide
181 to schools across the country.

182 CPD discussed education, which is important because it provides youth with a sense of direction and be-
183 longing. This is particularly important in preventing the radicalization of youth, who are the most susceptible to
184 radicalization, which can severely disrupt development and stability. By ensuring that education environments are
185 inclusive and welcoming, states can help encourage social trust and prevent the radicalization of youth. This is
186 especially critical for States with populations that are more susceptible to being perceived as outsiders. Additionally,
187 states should work to increase employment opportunities as described above to further incentivize youth to remain
188 in their home states and not seek economic opportunities in the form of radicalization elsewhere. Because the most
189 effective way to decrease radicalization is prevention, all states should work to make their diverse youth populations,
190 feel included during education and in the employment sector.

191 The representatives of the CDP recognized the importance of youth and adolescents in an increasingly
192 globalized and interconnected world and urged nations to implement mental health as part of the early education
193 curriculum. In doing so, the youth would learn the importance of maintaining strong self-care routines which would
194 lessen problems such as high suicide rates in nations like Japan. Moreover, these practices would transfer over

195 throughout their adolescence which, in the case of Japan, would reduce the 65.4% suicide rate related to the lack of
196 jobs.

197 The Body strongly believed in not only providing accessibility to education overall but also life and employ-
198 ability skills programs. These programs should prepare our youth for life in every aspect. This includes developing
199 job readiness skills as well as educating on the topics of reproduction and family planning (family planning covers the
200 topics of: infant mortality, HIV/AIDS, empowerment, reducing adolescent pregnancies and contraception). The skill
201 development programs should encompass vocational training, which will assist the youth in meeting specific labor
202 market needs. Professional networking skills should also be focused on to enhance knowledge on the career market
203 as well as expectations and or requirements of future employers. Support of these actions will provide opportunities
204 for young people to gain access to productive employment and decent work. Alongside vocational training, the body
205 emphasized the need for trade schools. All types of education are essential in creating a sustainable foundation for
206 all facets of a population. These types of institutions also accentuate the importance of higher education no matter
207 what occupation they wish to pursue.

208 In order to combat the effects of social issues, such as the lack of employment and opportunities among
209 youth, access to mental health facilities within nations is strongly recommended by the CPD. Mental health is
210 important for youth, but also for the rest of the population as it allows everyone to maintain positive attitudes
211 moving forward. CPD representatives therefore recommended the cooperation between states, NGOs and the World
212 Health Organization to ease accessibility to mental health facilities.

213 The body of the CPD concurred in the agreement of the growing economic sector as well as social need of
214 technology and modernization within countries as a sector with significant development importance as it pertains
215 to youth and adolescence. As countries suffer tremendous drops in population and experience what is understood
216 as "brain drain" other member nations are faced with the task of retaining their youth and adolescence. The body
217 implores all Member States to consider the following advisories.

218 The CPD recognized unequal distribution of technology across the globe is a growing concern as more
219 developed nations begin to rely more heavily on technology as it modernizes. We leave lesser developed countries
220 with youth that can no longer compete. Body understands that the lack of funds and appropriations are a considerable
221 reason as to why the gap in technology has continued to widen between developed and undeveloped nations. To
222 answer the echoing call for undeveloped countries and their needs for technology the CPD agreed that larger-more
223 developed countries would be advised to make contributions towards technology for other Member States as the more
224 developed nations see fit. Kept at the forefront of our concerns that the undeveloped countries having similar if not
225 equal access to technology will only act as a productive addition to global access as a whole.

226 This body was in agreement that our youth must be given opportunity to enhance their quality of life and
227 employability. To do this youth and adolescents deserve adequate resources for programs that are dedicated to
228 ensuring young people thrive despite undeveloped technology. The body looked to emphasize the importance of
229 technological education, comprehension, and development as means of collectively upkeeping youth and adolescents
230 with current and applicable technology. This strategy was offered as a small but potentially effective solution for
231 brain drain.

232 This committee took into account the work and influence of the collaborated program created between
233 Denmark, Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya known as the Youth Entrepreneurship Facility (YEF). YEF was found in
234 order to assist youth and adolescents in entrepreneurship by providing complementary training with advisory services
235 and mentorship opportunities as well as finance in rural and urban areas. This body concluded that there is a benefit
236 for Member States to consider the actions and programs instilled through the YEF for the furtherment of their
237 technological modernization. Furthermore, these types of programs were designed to educate, inform and promote
238 inclusivity and have been attributed in the result of an estimated 40,000 new businesses developed primarily by
239 youth.

240 For the purpose of the collaboration and acknowledgement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of
241 2030, this body highlighted two of the primarily goals set within the United Nations SDG in order to produce influ-
242 ential and efficient outcomes through the application of advanced technological and educational recommendations.
243 The first goal includes ensuring inclusive and equitable education in order to promote lifelong learning opportunities
244 for all. The second key goal highlighted aims to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable in-
245 dustrialization and foster innovation. Thus the CPD discussed a resolution for the formation of partnerships between
246 underdeveloped countries in the pursuit of a broader youth pool of technological comprehension and advancement
247 in Member States.

248 The CPD recognized the individual Member States that had proposed their individual development of
249 technology advancement programs in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals. For example, Qatar's
250 National Development Strategies (NDS-2) 2017-2022 includes eight key points for modern technological advancement.
251 Primarily, the NDS-2 outlines the use of youth and adolescent educational programs focused on technology training
252 and development in the modern world.

253 **3.2 Actions taken by the Commission**

254 At its meeting on 20 November, 2018, CPD approved for recommendation for adoption by ECOSOC a revised
255 draft resolution numbered II/I. Before passage, this resolution was adopted by Amendments A and B. Amendment
256 A clarified language to make the resolution more positive focused on bridging the gender gap. Amendment B
257 removed any language the body felt there could not be consensus on, mainly focusing on contraceptive programs.
258 The amendment also added education programs as a focus. Both Amendments were passed by consensus.

259 **4 Adoption of the Report**

260 At the meeting on 20 November 2018, the draft report of the Commission was made available for consider-
261 ation. The Commission considered the draft report, and with no amendments, adopted the report by consensus.

Passed by consensus, with 0 abstentions