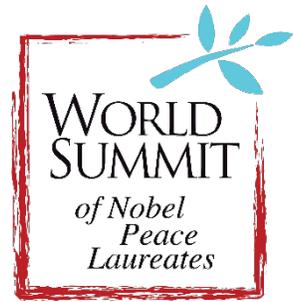


World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates

Bogota 2017

Youth Declaration



The International Student Delegations of the 16<sup>th</sup> World Summit of the Nobel Peace Laureates, stand together today as a united front. Over 600 young delegates from 17 countries across the globe; boasting a diverse range of talents, languages, cultures, experiences and beliefs. During our time together at this Summit, we have celebrated our unity in diversity, sharing our love and passion for achieving global peace and the fulfillment of fundamental human rights. We have learnt from and been inspired by each other, as well as from the Nobel Laureates present here today; and are thankful for the opportunity to meet at such an inspirational gathering.

However, despite this, we continually find ourselves confronted with world leaders who repeatedly use hate, ignorance and fear, in order to divide, control and fulfil their own agendas. To these leaders, we have heard your message and this is our response:

We the global youth, reject your ideologies which tear people apart, instead of bringing them together.

We reject the status quo, we reject hatred, we reject discrimination in all its forms, we reject war, ignorance and apathy, corruption, fear, and the abuse of power. We reject racism, homophobia, sexism, ageism, islamophobia, xenophobia and we reject the war against refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and immigrants.

We promote the values of human rights, compassion, freedom, equality, justice and self-sacrifice; and are prepared to live out these values through leading by example.

We are the biggest population of youth this world has ever seen. Over 1.8 billion young change makers with the power to transform lives.

We have seen social movements, led by young people, shake this world. From Apartheid, South Africa, to the revolution of Ukraine, to the global women's march, and the Colombian Peace Agreement, here in our host country. It is clear that young people have been and will continue to be catalysts of social change.

However, it is vital that we remember to always hold ourselves accountable, being the change we want to see in this world. We must start with ourselves, before pointing fingers at others.

We commit ourselves to being global and active citizens, to collaborate and partner in this important work. We commit to engaging in peaceful dialogue, where all are respected and given an equal opportunity to be heard. Let it be known, that we will no longer settle for a "half-way peace". Peace must be had by all, and it must become a reality experienced in the now, not an ideal spoke about for the imagined distance future. Peace is within our grasp, we as the global youth need to become the change-makers and peace makers this world desperately needs.

In order to achieve this, we have identified the following topics to address:

## **Sustainable Development**

Taking into consideration the need to listen and to promote the voices of locals across the world, to learn, implement and evaluate new ways of developing sustainability within the environment, the society, and the economy, we as young people:

Commit to hold our leaders in our communities accountable to achieve the sustainable development goals through implementation of green initiatives

Engage across differences to become aware and involved in the decision-making processes of our local communities to develop means of public participation

Support a sustainable economy by being conscious consumers and producers opting for local alternatives of products, services, and ideas.

## **Social and Equitable Justice for All**

We believe in our right to fight against injustice. We, as global citizens, will make the conscious decision to celebrate our differences. In spite of gender, disability, race, ideologies, and class, we acknowledge that in our diversity we can empower each other to bring about change and equality.

We stand here today agreeing to always stretch across borders through nonviolent actions. From Colombia's conflict, we have learned to acknowledge the right for all to reap the benefits of the land. In an interest to mobilize the global youth and address the concerns of the people, we believe in the power of social media and its effectiveness in bringing about change.

But it should not stop there. We, the global youth, feel we should organize and agitate in order to affect change in our respective countries. We call upon the international community to promote non-discriminatory laws such as progressive taxation, quality education, and access to health care.

## **Peace and Reconciliation**

We have inherited a war-driven world. However, we shall use our frustration towards the state the world is currently in to convert the machines of war and destruction into examples of peace.

We shall urge the United Nations to sign a global cease fire for the year 2020. This historic step will inspire nations to reconcile with one another rather than conform to the status quo. And it shall be us, the youth, who will and must unite and mobilize the world towards reconciliation.

## **Education**

We believe that education is the foundation of peace, for it shapes character and creates a sense of self, inspires and empower our young people and communities to reach their full potential, and supports a thoughtful understanding of the people around us and allows us to accept and embrace our differences. In order to achieve our goals, we need a plural and inclusive education that is catered to the needs of our communities that we can enact to transform our realities for the better. We, the youth, want, need, and demand a student-centered education for the benefit of all humanity, and will keep working tirelessly until we achieve this.

While there are many different dialects around the world, we believe that there is one common language, and that is basic human rights. For this language to be spoken globally, we would like to propose a system of universal academic credentials that are recognized worldwide, so no person will be denied opportunity because of where they are from. We realize that this is no small task, so we, the youth are committing to bringing this idea back to our policy makers so we can work to implement this in our communities.

Traditional education doesn't supply the real needs of humanity in an ever-changing world. Education doesn't reside solely inside the classroom walls; rather, it happens in our daily interactions with our families, friends, and communities. Therefore, because we recognize ourselves as educators, we will return to our communities and bring dignity to our diverse cultures, which we can in turn showcase to the world.

### **Security for the people/ Refugee Crisis**

It is vital that we protect the dignity and human rights of migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants to embrace them and dismantle fear of them. We choose security for these people, and all people, over security for the nations. In order to do this, we the youth, commit ourselves to prioritize addressing the root causes of why people feel compelled to flee their homes in the first place.

We call upon all to recognize and restore humanity to the refugee and migrant, to protect our fellow human nationally and abroad.

We commit to solidarity with migrants and refugees through dialogue and demand proper resources from legal assistance to material needs.

In the words of President Juan Manuel Santos: "The name of this one people is the world, the name of this one race is humanity".

### **Conclusion**

As the global youth, we demand peace. As the global youth, this is our message. As the global youth, this is our declaration of peace.