8th Economic and Social Council Youth Forum

ONLINE REPORTING

CARIBBEAN

8 April 2019
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United Nations Headquarters, New York

REPORTING ON THE REGIONAL AND SDG SESSIONS

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CURRENT LANDSCAPE

What is the current landscape for this region or SDG, including issues, opportunities, recent trends, gaps, challenges?
The young people of the Caribbean recognize and acknowledge the issues impeding the development of young people in our region. As such, the young people recognize the need for the region’s education to be adapted to be more based on the Caribbean context; with the introduction and normalizing non-formal education. Also, the education system only caters to producing lawyers, doctors, accountants and other conventional professionals as opposed to producing entrepreneurs, technical servicemen/servicewomen and innovators. Also, the education system should create second chance programmes for youth who may have face challenges to return to their studies.

In addition, too many young people are convinced that they have to be ruthless and underhanded to thrive in their socio-economic realities. Violence, including self-inflicted violence is a major problem in the Caribbean and have been normalized. Also, there’s a lack of mentorship, which is a barrier to youth participation. Tokenism and nepotism from government officials or heads of influential organizations is a challenge to youth participation.

In addition, there needs to be modern technology to build stronger and more resilient infrastructure. Also, there needs to be opportunities for green entrepreneurship and jobs. Also there needs to be stronger environmental education programmes.

YOUTH SOLUTIONS AND ACTIONS

(What are youth doing to address the current situation and leverage opportunities? And what are some of the most transformative solutions?)

The young people of the Caribbean recognize the need to revise and update the education system in the Caribbean. Where the system should serve to educate and train its pupils to become producers of job opportunities in the Caribbean. As such, there’s a call for the system’s curriculum and services to educate and train young people in areas of entrepreneurship, information and communications technology, soft skills and other technical & innovative areas.

We must seek to create spaces that enables young people to actively participate in key decision-making processes – especially as it pertains to national budgets and development planning. Where spaces may exists in the region – there’s a need to strengthen their structure and capability where young people from diverse backgrounds are included and are actively contributing to the work responsible for reducing inter-generational poverty, language barriers, gender inequality, crime and violence and other socioeconomic issues that affect the development of young in the Caribbean.

It’s a must that we empower young people – so whereas a collective young people can actively work together towards achieving our rights via our collective strength to seek for the implementation of policies and programmes to achieve the SDG and Agenda 2030. Of those policies and programmes – initiatives with the objective to safeguard our region from climate change while providing economic opportunities for young people where they can develop and
employ critical innovation and technology that protects the beauty and serenity of our region for future generations of young people.

**LOOKING TO THE HORIZON**

What can the UN and youth do together to make sure young people’s contributions have a deeper and wider impact, and that they are better served and engaged by member states?

In conclusion, young people should be recognized as key drivers in the successful implementation of the Agenda 2030. In doing so, we must ensure that young people are actively participating in development processes at all levels within the UN, CARICOM, in our countries and in our communities.