



South African Institute of International Affairs

African Perspectives. Global Insights

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The 2013 SAIIA Young Leaders Declaration

Recommendations for the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Negotiated and Agreed Upon

At the 2nd Annual South African Institute of International Affairs Young Leaders Conference, Johannesburg, South Africa

Having deliberated on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, we, the born frees and youth of South Africa, as young leaders, commemorate the significant contribution of Nelson Mandela in giving us a voice. Our desire is to capture his vision of a better world in the recommendations we present to our nation and the global community. We honour his legacy and declare the following principles to be considered for the creation of global priorities after the Millennium Development Goals deadline of 2015:

The Committee on Addressing Inequalities

Section 1

Article 1

1. Recognising with deep concern that the Millennium Development Goals have not given clear incentives for policy makers and communities to proactively address inequalities in their different forms.
2. Recalling the four structural barriers for addressing inequalities that have been identified by the Addressing Inequalities Thematic Consultation Group:
 - a. Economic
 - b. Social
 - c. Political
 - d. Environmental
3. Reaffirming that human rights must represent the standard against which all policies are judged and held accountable.

4. Confident that the ideas herein will serve to achieve the goal of creating acceptance of differences and minimise detrimental inequalities in the youth of today, nationally and globally.

Article 2

We as the born frees and youth of South Africa call upon the International community to:

1. Encourage that the Post-2015 Development Agenda be adaptable to be able to be applied to contexts of different peoples to be most effective in working towards reducing inequalities.
2. Emphasise that international aid should be provided in ways that ensure that countries or organisations can be self-sustainable.
3. Encourage governments and societies to uplift economic education.
4. Acknowledge the efforts made by the international community to enrol all children in school as one of the three priorities of the Education First Initiative compiled by the UN Secretary-General, Ban-Ki Moon in conjunction with Millennium Development Goal 2 – Achieve Universal Primary Education – but recognise that the quality and comprehensiveness of education now needs to be reviewed and improved.
5. Recognise that young people are active partners in promoting development and that young people must be included through systems or organisations such as the UNDP (United Nations Development Program) and UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund).
6. Recognise that equality and equity are different and that individuality and freedom within equality is a necessary developmental priority and should be encouraged.
7. Require that marginalised groups that include LGBTI people, disabled people, gender groups, indigenous people, racial groups, ethnicities and rural populations be given adequate representation and opportunities.
8. Realise that exclusion, marginalisation and discrimination will result in a reduction of future productive human potential and propose that these potential human resources are invested in.
9. Firmly recommend shared responsibility in mitigating environmental impacts between governments and private organisations in an effort to protect those most susceptible to direct vulnerability as a result of this and ensure that parties are

held accountable for the recovery of exhausted land and natural resources that result in inequalities.

Article 3

We the born frees and youth of South Africa call upon the African community to:

1. Require that technology be implemented in developing countries to result in global economic equality.
2. Insist that labour and employment are not forsaken for the sake of technological advancement and suggest that legitimate trade unions regulate the balance between human resources and technology that is important for the advancement of economies.
3. Request the influence of powerful corporations and businesses on political structures and that representatives be monitored.
4. Insist on the introduction of an independent body to monitor and ensure more transparency regarding the distribution of government funding within the health and education sectors to promote equality.
5. Recognise the power of communities, individuals, businesses and social movements to make positive changes in societies and recommend that increased pressure be applied to encourage involvement and activism of all global citizens.

Article 4

We the born frees and youth of South Africa call upon the National community to:

1. Desire that government funds be used to implement structures that will not only benefit those in low-income brackets but the overall sustainability of populations, as well as the development of the global community and nations.
2. Observe that welfare/grant programs aim to support non-workers and their children but result in discontent as people are more satisfied with being self-sustainable.
3. Promote that companies inform workers of the appropriate channels to follow in addressing mistreatment and thus begin to mitigate exploitation.
4. Encourage governments to provide incentives to financial institutions, corporations and individuals to provide capital towards entrepreneurship and small business development.

5. Encourage dialogue facilitated by collaborative efforts of government entities, social movements, non-governmental organisations, influential figures in the community and other currently existing platforms to foster tolerance and acceptance.
6. Commit to addressing inequalities using existing goals, targets, outcomes and indicators.

Article 5

We the born frees and the youth of South Africa call upon our fellow young people to:

1. Insist that education be used as a tool to enlighten uninformed people, to promote acceptance and minimise discrimination and stigma which is the root of social inequalities. Encourage freedom of beliefs and cultural practices.
2. Request the use of independent organisations to inform members of the community and the youth on political issues, their rights and the responsibility of their government and leaders to decrease political inequalities.
3. Commit to the creation, support and active participation within NGOs, social movements, community projects and international initiatives that serve to resolve inequalities.
4. Commit to promoting equality of opportunities and of outcomes for all, and to support the South African government in implementing the National Development Plan for 2030 and the global community in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.
5. Advocate strongly that an increase in effective, positive action by governments and global citizens be taken to implement the suggestions stated herein.

The Committee on Conflict, Violence and Disasters

Section 2

We as the born frees and youth of South Africa call upon the International community to:

Article 1

Education

1. Acknowledge the lack of financial, infrastructural and human resources within the education sector and the need to create and maintain a conducive learning environment.
2. Denounce the use of excessive funds for militaristic and weaponry initiatives and recommend the diversion of funds to other needs.
3. Implement region specific skills development programmes for the youth as well as the potentially economically active population in recently conflict-free areas in order to rehabilitate society.
4. Recognise the detrimental effects of war on the education system and on children who are involved in war. We condemn the involvement of children in war as stated in the UN Security Council Resolution 1261 and demand the support of institutions that aim to eradicate the involvement of these children.
5. Encourage and emphasize the need for education during and shortly after conflict within a country through temporary initiatives such as 'Teachers Without Borders'.
6. Recommend the need to deepen the approach of the international response towards the displacement of people as a result of conflict, violence or environmental factors.

Article 2

Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons

7. Improve the basic needs of refugees, placing particular emphasis on: sanitation, basic education, security, adequate nutrition, health care and psychological wellness and sexual violence.
8. Recommend more efficient refugee application processes, as well as increasing the number of refugee centres globally.

9. Further request that initiatives to protect refugees are strengthened and that laws are adhered to accordingly.

Article 3

Conflict

1. Recommend transparency and communication between governments in order to decrease corruption as this is a prolonging factor of civil unrest.
2. Recognise the stress caused by a growing global population, climate change and food scarcity and the need to prioritise food security in conflict, violence and disaster affected areas.
3. Recognise the detrimental effects imposed upon citizens as a result of conflict and emphasise the involvement of youth and the implementation of: peacekeeping, peacemaking, preventative diplomacy and stakeholder transparency regarding resource management in order to resolve conflict.
4. Encourage cooperation across various stakeholders in the restorative processes in recently conflict-free areas.

Article 4

Violence

1. Acknowledge that inequalities are a contributing factor towards violence and conflict and recommend the implementation of inclusive governmental policies.
2. Focus on preventative diplomacy in the reduction of violence and to call upon regional organisations to aid in resolving conflict by means of mediation, mitigation and arbitration.
3. Encourage the cooperation of international organisations and further encourage the cooperation between the UN and regional organisations, especially during the planning and execution of peacekeeping operations.
4. Acknowledge the mismanagement of natural resources as a potential prolonging factor of conflict, particularly in violence prone countries.

Article 5

Disasters

1. Recommend the creation of a global network of organisations aimed at disaster relief, including the following processes: amalgamation of early warning systems, information on a global scale and the creation of multiple disaster response stations.
2. Recognise the need for disaster preparation, management and potential restorative processes within disaster prone countries such as Small Island Developing States, whereby developed and developing countries aid in disaster preparation, management and restorative processes.
3. Encourage states to allocate a budget towards efforts for disaster relief, response and management within their own states.

Article 6

We the born frees and the youth of South Africa call upon our fellow young people to focus on the following youth Solutions:

1. Discrimination:
 - Youth voicing out their opinions at school and around the community in order to lessen discrimination that may perpetuate conflict and violence.
2. Media:
 - Encourage the use or improvement of TV, radio and social media to reduce ignorance and intolerance that may trigger violence.
3. Youth Leadership and governance
 - The promotion of youth councils in order to groom future leaders and create a global platform for youth participation to advise on issues of conflict, violence and disaster.
4. Schools:
 - Encourage sports and cultural activities to increase youth integration.
 - Promoting the involvement of learners in community service projects to raise awareness on global conflicts and disasters.

The Committee on Environmental Sustainability

Section 3

Article 1

We as the born frees and youth of South Africa call upon the International community to:

1. Establish more inclusive ways to allow the voice of the Global South to be heard, including adapting measures of development.
2. Acknowledge that common but differentiated responsibilities exist between developed and developing nations with regards to the achievement of sustainable development.
3. Encourage large companies that use a significant amount of water in their production process to research ways in which they could purify and re-use water to promote efficiency.
4. Acknowledge global food insecurity, and recommend that hunger is reduced through the implementation of sustainable agricultural practices. Furthermore, as mentioned in the South African Durban Youth and Children's Protocol of 2011, we encourage international and national NGOs to implement sustainable agricultural education programmes for subsistence farmers, specifically women.
5. Ensure food security by safeguarding genetic diversity, while being cautious of Genetically Modified organisms, foods and monoculture.
6. Encourage sustainable farming practices in order to reduce hunger by ensuring that all global citizens have access to satisfactory, safe and nutritious food.
7. Encourage international leaders to take note of the current strain on natural resources, and thus call upon them to promote energy efficiency while working towards creating sustainable, renewable energy sources.
8. Encourage the actual implementation of key environmental sustainability agreements such as the Green Climate Fund.
9. Extend and build upon Millennium Development Goal 7- *Ensuring Environmental Sustainability* in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, as we are deeply concerned and disappointed with the progress of the International Community towards the execution of this goal.

10. Recognise the need to balance economic development with environmental sustainability, whilst protecting human rights.

Article 2

We the born frees and youth of South Africa call upon the African community to:

1. Seek direct employment strategies that reduce environmental impact and mitigate damage to biodiversity and ecosystems under the title of 'Green Jobs', outside and within the Green Economy Mechanisms.
2. Encourage the creation of 'Green Jobs' in the public transportation sector.
3. Recognise and appreciate the role that Youth Development Programs (YDPs) play with regards to education and awareness of environmental sustainability and recommend that international organisations and platforms should assist with the implementation of more YDPs in African states.
4. Request the African Union to propose a sustainable human rights-based approach when addressing water, sanitation and hygiene issues.
5. Restructure and implement regional development models, which balance environmental, economic and social needs.
6. Empower women in their role of ensuring environmental sustainability by promoting family planning, and breaking down traditional stereotypes, thus influencing the future population.

Article 3

We the born frees and youth of South Africa call upon the National community to:

1. Welcome the re-introduction and improved monitoring of Environmental Management Plans, which focus on community responsibility and eco-tourism.
2. Improve the quality of teaching with regards to environmental sustainability and reassess as well as extend the existence of environmental issues in mandatory school subjects from a primary level.
3. Reaffirm commitment to current alien plant legislation and encourage further scrutiny, monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of this legislation.
4. Continue to encourage youth platforms at municipal, provincial and national levels by further initiating Youth Development Programmes.
5. Be deeply concerned with the exploitation of the natural resources in South Africa and express hope for policies which enable our abundant natural resources to directly benefit the South African economy and thus improve the quality of life.

6. Realise the buying power of the upper class and educate consumers to be aware of the negative impacts caused by waste production and unnecessary wastage of resources. We further demand the rest of South Africa adopt the same practices as Mariannhill Landfill and Conservancy in Durban and similar projects.
7. Ensure that all new building and housing developments be required by law to install water recycling and collection mechanisms and renewable energy systems, such as, grey water recycling, water tanks and solar geysers.

Article 4

We the born frees and the youth of South Africa call upon our fellow young people to:

1. Use social media to create environmental sustainability awareness and interest amongst fellow youth.
2. a) Encourage our peers to fully participate in YDPs, which focus on environmental sustainability.

b) Use YDPs to hold the government accountable for bad environmental practices and to seek transparency in local governance.
3. Further invite learners to participate in school societies and thereby promoting interest in environmental sustainability. By drawing attention to the importance of the natural environment we can enable a change in the perceptions of our peers.
4. Promote a sustainable consciousness especially through recycling as well as offering incentives to green enterprise.

We pledge to:

- a. Establish environmentally sustainable projects such as local food gardens, as well as integrate environmentally sound practices within the communities.
- b. Volunteer to educate our fellow peers about pressing issues regarding environmental issues and sustainable development at our schools and in our communities.

The 2013 SAIIA Young Leaders Declaration was submitted to representatives of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Information Centre, and the Department of Basic Education on 12 December 2013 at an official handover at the United Nations Information Centre Library, Pretoria, South Africa

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