



**2022 YOUTH  
DELEGATE  
COMMUNIQUÉ**

**BRIDGING OUR  
META-PHYSICAL WORLDS**

**YOUNGA®  
2022**

BridgingTheGap Ventures

**YOUNGA® was born from a passion to leverage emerging technology to bridge opportunity gaps—between generations, sectors and stakeholders—and inspire greater human connection, imagination and innovation for a better future.**

The frequented promise of technology is “to bring the world closer” by seemingly creating a community for individuals to connect, share ideas and find like-minded groups. But two years into the pandemic, the consensus was voicing a different sentiment—with the impacts of the digital divide compounding existing social and economic opportunity gaps.

The most apparent effects of global digitalization are seen and felt by young people—whose lives, education and future increasingly rely on access to technology. If technology is designed to bring the world together, why are more young people feeling disconnected, anxious and restricted in their lives?

As the lines increasingly blur between our physical and digital experiences—and our identities—ethics, access and equity of opportunity are vital considerations, as are the implications on health, socio-emotional wellbeing and personal privacy. How are we showing up in the world and what does that mean for our self-awareness?

Our 2022 theme is “Bridging our meta-physical worlds.” The prefix “meta-” comes from Greek meaning with, across or after, and denotes a change of position or condition (Oxford Languages).

## **META IS A BRIDGE**

A bridge between one condition—a way of living, learning and working—to another; a path across present challenges to our personal and collective future.

Meta innovation—such as metaverse and more broadly Web3 technologies—is blurring the lines that divide our physical and digital experiences along with the future skills, career pathways and mindsets required to thrive with it. When purposefully applied, digital innovation can create bridges of opportunity for more interconnected, accessible and inclusive experiences.

## **AT YOUNGA, WE CREATE THIS BRIDGE**

We know sustainable solutions require constructive intergenerational and multi-stakeholder collaboration where young people are active participants and part of the solution.

It is my hope that this Communiqué, and the global youth perspectives shared within, inspire new ways for us to connect and collaborate as a collective—to understand and leverage the new meta-physical world we find ourselves in to build a better future for all.

### **Kelly Lovell**

**Founding Global Chair, YOUNGA**  
**CEO and Founder, BridgingTheGap Ventures**  
[@kellyalovell](#) [@](#) [in](#)



**We have been orbiting around the metaphysical since launching YOUNGA in 2020—mixed and virtual reality (XR/VR) have always been part of what sets our global festival apart. Our theme this year—**Bridging our meta-physical worlds**—has provided the space and platform for our Youth Delegates, speakers and partners to further discover these new dimensions and ways to drive action in their own communities and around the world.**

### **BRIDGING**

Over the past three years, YOUNGA has remained focused on bridging gaps. We bridge skill gaps by equipping young people with the skills they need to adapt and thrive. We bridge access gaps for young people to meaningfully engage with celebrity advocates, industry leaders and senior decision-makers who can ensure the ideas and concerns of youth are acted upon. We bridge opportunity gaps in participation, innovation and learning so that no one is left behind.

### **OUR**

Through YOUNGA, we harness the collective power of people across generations, geographies and identities to co-create solutions for a more inclusive, sustainable world. This shared responsibility and opportunity are crucial—we can't address the global challenges we're facing if we operate in silos or fail to purposefully involve all of the stakeholders essential to enacting positive change. Our choices impact all of us so we need to take action together.

### **META-PHYSICAL**

Many label something or someone as "meta" when they're highly self-aware and self-reflective—going beyond the realm of what currently exists. Metaphysics is the exploration of our existence, purpose and being, of space and time—questioning and getting to the heart of who we are as humans. And the metaverse transcends our physical universe and opens up a new world through virtual reality. When we honed in on "meta-physical" as part of our theme, it was through the lens of these interconnected, multi-layered concepts. Intentionally stylized with the hyphen, it serves as a representation of how each world is distinct and yet can be bridged to further enrich one another. It is this intersection we explored during YOUNGA 2022.

### **WORLDS**

The interplay between the metaverse world and the physical world has become a reality—there is now more than one world that we can inhabit, form relationships and pursue our passions. Both worlds have and will continue to influence each other—the question is: How do we ensure it's for the better? We must consider the cultural, ethical and environmental impacts whenever developing and adopting emerging technologies, particularly for those who are currently excluded or could be in the future. However, these same emerging technologies have the potential to provide novel ways for us to solve challenges in the physical world, if only we employ them for social good.

With all of this in mind, we set out this year to foster greater digital literacy, collaboration, self-discovery and innovation. On behalf of the 2022 Youth Delegation, I'm excited to unveil this year's Communiqué and hope it will serve as a launchpad for increased awareness, advocacy and action.



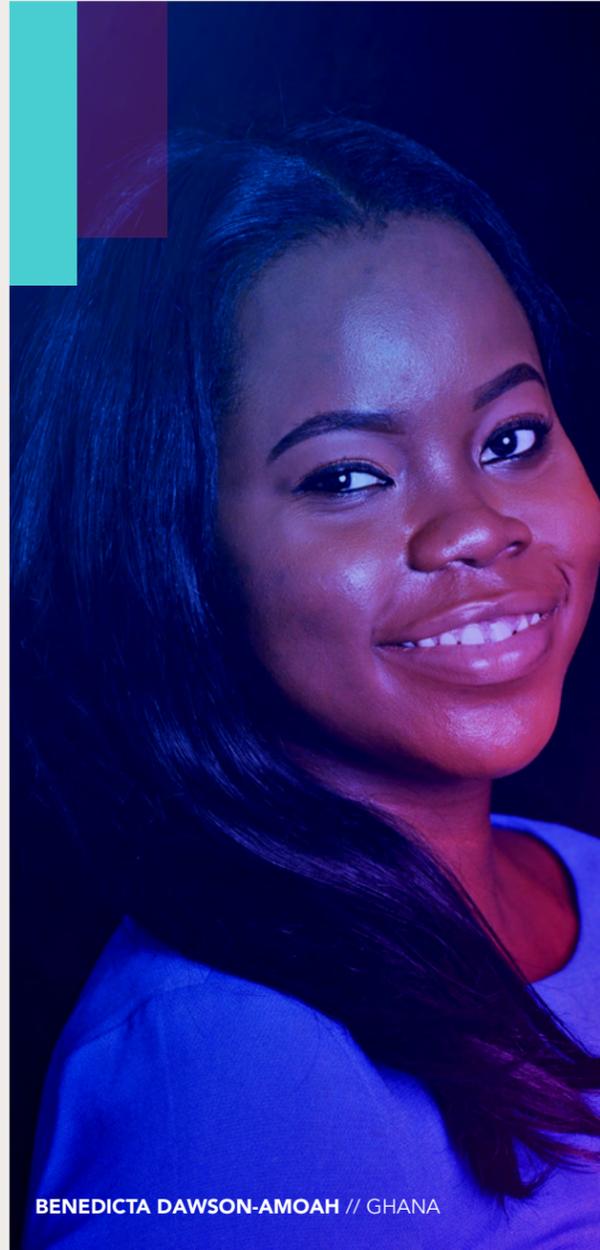
**Jaclyn Stief**

**Director of Programming and Global Policy,  
BridgingTheGap Ventures**

# CONTENTS



JOSHUA DILAWAR // PAKISTAN



BENEDICTA DAWSON-AMOAH // GHANA



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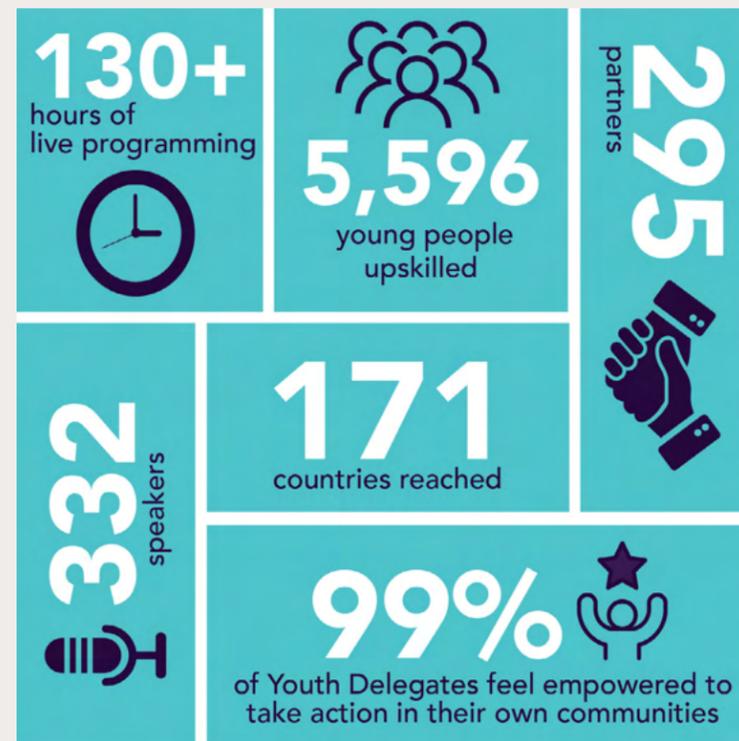
About YOUNGA	07
Climate Action and Sustainable Living	11
Equality and Inclusion	19
Future of Education and Work	27
Mental Health and Wellbeing	33
Peace and Justice	41
Contributors	49
Footnotes	51
About BridgingTheGap Ventures	53

The purpose of this report is to uplift and amplify the perspectives of young people. BridgingTheGap collected the identified issues and proposed solutions written by our 2022 Youth Delegates before editing, designing and publishing this Communiqué. We strived to maintain the integrity of their original intent—we do not claim the ideas and opinions expressed herein as our own.

# ABOUT YOUNGA

Organized by [BridgingTheGap Ventures](#), YOUNGA® is the largest global festival for impact. Using mixed reality, YOUNGA unites young people with decision-makers to co-create solutions for a more inclusive, sustainable world during the United Nations Decade of Action from 2020 to 2030.\*

Through interactive and intergenerational experiences, YOUNGA equips young people with skill-building opportunities, action-oriented programming and curated connections. As a global participatory platform, YOUNGA empowers youth to share their hopes, concerns and ideas for the future with the world's top industry leaders, celebrity advocates, brands and organizations.



\*YOUNGA® is an independent initiative organized by BridgingTheGap Ventures. YOUNGA is not owned or operated by the United Nations or directly associated with the UN General Assembly though we are grateful to welcome many UN officials, representatives and entities as speakers and partners every year. YOUNGA is not an acronym and should be referred to as a whole word/name.

## OUR IMPACT OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS

### SIX-WEEK LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING PROGRAM

Youth Delegates received access to a bespoke six-week leadership and advocacy training program by BridgingTheGap Ventures focused on scaling their impact and enriching their skills, along with curated career advancement and networking opportunities.

After orientation, each week of programming revolved around a specific theme—the first week focusing on re-thinking futures, with the following weeks sequentially focused on pathways for action, strategies and skills, and lastly, disruption and transformation.

### 2022 YOUTH DELEGATION\*



\*Of those who chose to identify themselves

Underrepresented and Underserved Groups that our Youth Delegates Identified as:

- Refugees / migrants
- LGBTQ+
- Indigenous Peoples
- Persons with mental illness
- Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC)
- Persons with mental health challenges
- Neurodiverse
- Low-income persons
- Persons with disabilities
- Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI)
- Immigrants
- Visible minorities

## TOP THREE REASONS FOR PARTICIPATING IN YOUNGA 2022

- 1 Co-create solutions to the cause(s) they're passionate about
- 2 Connect with like-minded peers and be a part of a global community
- 3 Gain the resources they need to help advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

### INNOVATION MASTERMINDS

During our 2022 festival, we hosted 30+ hours of live sessions together with programming partners to connect Youth Delegates directly with fellow changemakers, celebrity advocates, industry leaders and senior decision-makers, including UN officials, in an intimate, virtual setting. Our Innovation Masterminds gave Youth Delegates the opportunity to discuss global challenges, share ideas, co-create solutions and get their questions answered—advocating for the hopes and concerns of young people globally.

### TAKE ACTION DAY

The goal of Take Action Day is to motivate Youth Delegates to participate in service activities that drive local action toward causes important to them while also encouraging new connections with community organizations. On October 21, Youth Delegates participated in Take Action Day—creating real change individually or with peers in their communities and around the world. We further collected opportunities from partners for our Youth Delegates so they could further engage with organizations that inspired them at YOUNGA 2022 and propel their shared goals.

# THEMATIC TRACKS



Climate Action and Sustainable Living



Equality and Inclusion



Future of Education and Work



Mental Health and Wellbeing



Peace and Justice

## VR/XR NETWORKING AND AFTER PARTY

Our 2022 Youth Delegation was invited to participate in four VR/XR networking sessions with fellow Delegates on the BridgingTheGap Galactic Spaceship using AltspaceVR. Delegates were also invited to the YOUNGA 2022 VR/XR After Party—taking a trip around the world with us through an immersive experience in our spaceship. The experience was offered in mixed reality with an accessible, interactive format. Everyone could participate in avatar mode using their desktop to interact live with fellow attendees and YOUNGA Youth Delegates from around the world in virtual reality.

## POLICY WORKING GROUPS

YOUNGA 2022 invited Youth Delegates to participate in Policy Working Groups around our five thematic tracks.

Each Working Group is led by a number of Youth Delegates particularly passionate about its cause—known as Working Group Leaders—who in turn guide their Members and liaise with the BridgingTheGap team.

### These Working Groups meet over six weeks to...

- Understand the priorities
- Identify the external factors, challenges and opportunity gaps
- Summarize the results and develop recommendations for action

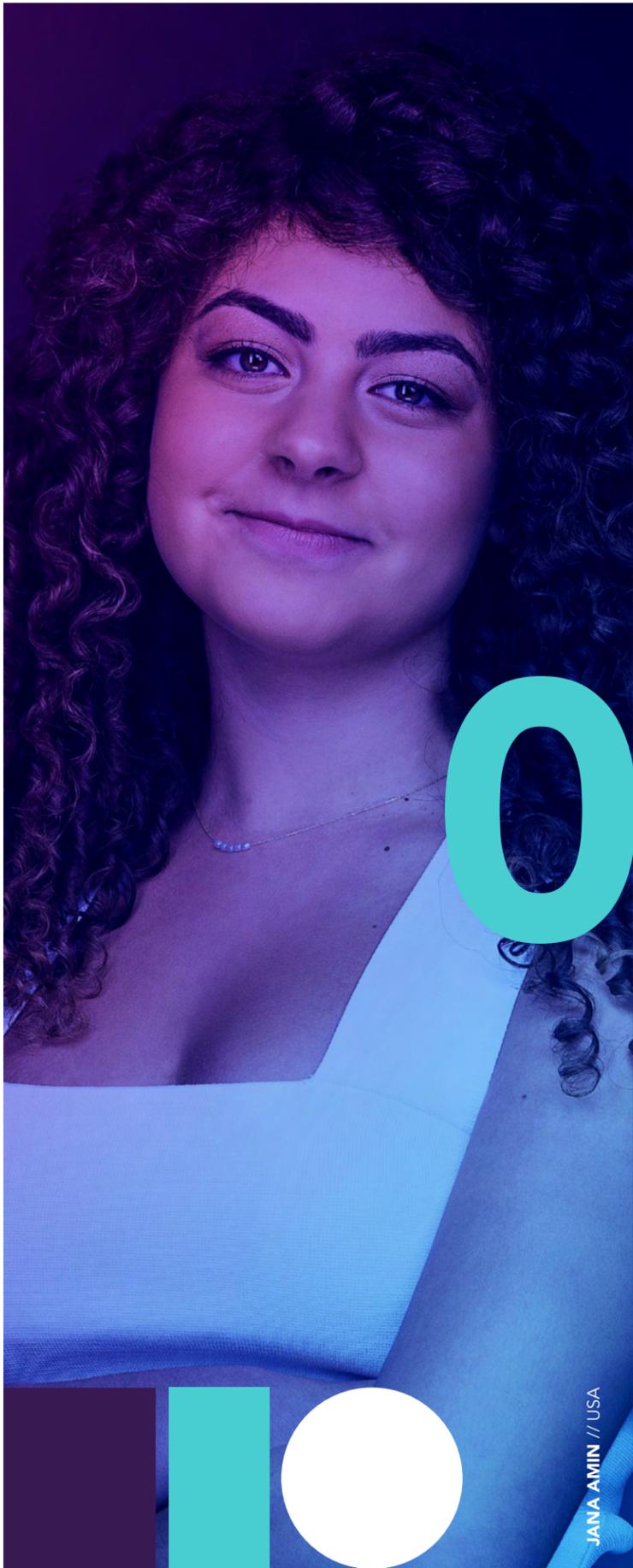
## UN WORKING GROUP SESSIONS

New in 2022, BridgingTheGap Ventures collaborated with UN entities to equip young people globally with the tools they need to lead policy discussions with their peers and decision-makers. During these live sessions with our Working Groups, UN decision-makers and high-level guest speakers shared their policy expertise and experience, provided feedback and advice, and answered questions about the policy process. Youth Delegates learned the questions, considerations and processes that are required to present ideas to decision-makers, shape important conversations for change and create policy recommendations. They also offered input on the policy work, programs and initiatives the UN is currently working on.



World Health Organization





JANA AMIN // USA



JOSEPH ORYA // NIGERIA

1  
Climate Action  
and Sustainable  
Living

2  
Equality and  
Inclusion

3  
Future of  
Education  
and Work

4  
Mental Health  
and Wellbeing

5  
Peace and  
Justice

# 01 CLIMATE ACTION AND SUSTAINABLE LIVING





# THE CLIMATE ACTION AND SUSTAINABLE LIVING

## FOOD INSECURITY AND WASTE

The climate crisis is fueling the hunger crisis, and with our food systems more global than ever, we all stand to lose. Higher temperatures, water scarcity, droughts, floods and greater CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in the atmosphere affect staple crops worldwide. Agriculture is greatly affected by climate change and is also a major contributor to the climate problem—our food system alone is responsible for a third of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.<sup>1</sup> The challenges for our food system don't stop there: Nearly one in three people (2.37 billion) did not have access to adequate food in 2020<sup>2</sup> and yet, one-third of the world's food produced for human consumption annually (1.3 billion tons) is lost or wasted<sup>3</sup>—enough to feed three billion people.<sup>4</sup>

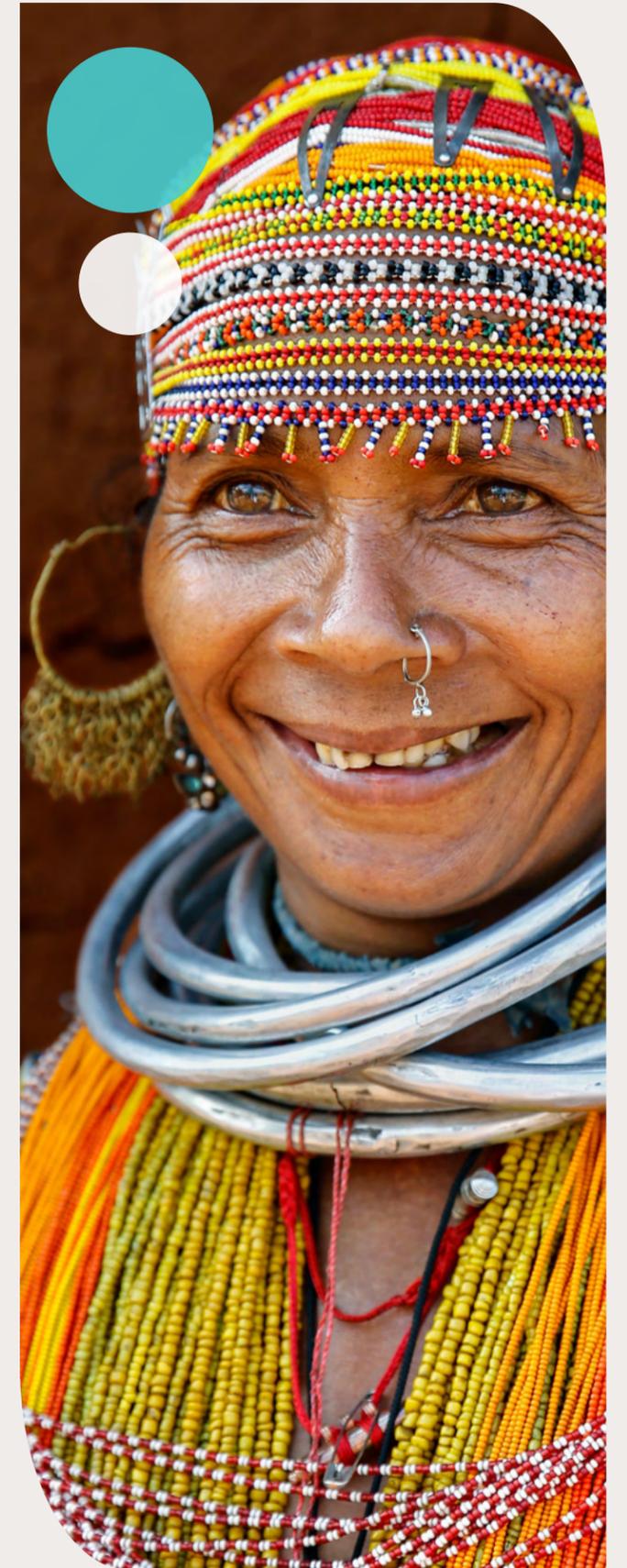
## POLLUTION, EMISSIONS AND ENERGY

Water pollution driven by unsustainable agriculture, runoff and other pollution affects the economy, recreation and health of communities. Each year, more than 3.5 million people die from water-related diseases—that's one person every 10 seconds.<sup>5</sup> Air pollution, labelled by the WHO as the leading global environmental risk factor, takes even more lives—being responsible for seven million premature deaths each year.<sup>6</sup> In fact, almost the entire global population (99%) breathes air that exceeds WHO guideline limits and contains high levels of pollutants—threatening their health—with LMICs suffering from the highest exposures.<sup>7</sup> The environmental impacts of our choices are adding up exponentially: Our use of natural resources, or material use, could more than double by 2060 if we continue down the current path.<sup>8</sup> Furthermore, the material footprint per capita is also thirteen times larger in high-income countries (27 tons) than in low-income countries (two tons).<sup>9</sup>

While 46 countries are now pricing emissions through carbon taxes and/or emission trading schemes (ETS) to limit global warming, more countries need to follow in order to create a positive impact; prices will also need to rise from a global average of USD \$6 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> to \$75 per ton by 2030.<sup>10</sup> Meanwhile, oil and gas are still being financed despite governments agreeing to phase out their financing at the 2021 G7 meeting—gas still receives more international public finance in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) than other energy sources, with four times as much as wind or solar.<sup>11</sup>

## VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

Vulnerable communities, including Indigenous Peoples and women and girls, are disproportionately affected by climate change—mental health challenges due to warming temperatures, trauma associated with extreme weather, loss of livelihoods and culture, and malnutrition, among others.<sup>12</sup> Many Indigenous communities live in climate-sensitive areas where they greatly depend on natural resources for their survival and often face social exclusion, which puts them at greater risk of climate-induced health risks and reduced access to health services.<sup>13</sup> According to UN Women, climate change is a “threat multiplier”—it escalates other issues such as social, political and economic tensions in conflict-affected and fragile settings, in turn leading to women and girls being exposed to conflict-related sexual violence, human trafficking and child marriage, among other forms of violence.<sup>14</sup> Involving these individuals and communities most impacted by climate change in a well-managed energy-just transition would not only create new jobs but also increase social justice and gender equality as well as work to eradicate poverty.



# 01.

## Implement sustainable agricultural technologies and innovations to effectively tackle food insecurity and waste

- Governments should integrate global climate data from various weather data services (i.e. World Meteorological Organization, etc.) with the aim of creating accurate weather predictions to aid farmers—helping with effective water harvesting in rural areas as well as formulating solutions and innovations from NGOs to better prepare for climate impacts.
- Global financial institutions and governments should invest in research institutes as well as research and development (R&D) for food production and agricultural innovation through sponsored research labs, hackathons and technology sharing.
- Local governments should help educate farmers on and provide subsidies for sustainable farming, crop diversification and climate-smart technologies.
- National and local governments should develop and emphasize bottom-up and participatory approaches to enable the replication of local innovations, ensuring sustainability and suitability to local contexts.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



- Public and private sectors should push for the digitalization of sustainable agriculture and food systems through capacity building, cooperation and technology transfer.
- Governments should financially support and build the capacity of farmers and the agriculture sector in their transition to resilient and diversified sustainable agriculture and food systems through agroecological approaches and other innovations.
- Governments should urgently support promoting diverse market arrangements that have greater flexibility in the face of disruptions, and in particular, supporting the market and social innovations that strengthen linkages between urban communities and food producers, with an emphasis on small-scale producers and family farmers.

# 02.

## Increase protection and restoration of land, water and air affected by climate change and the communities surrounding them

- The UNEP should work with Member States to protect water rights, access and storage as well as educate on the potential oceans have to store carbon and provide economic livelihoods for communities through fishing and other forms of commerce.
- The UNFCCC and UNHCR should create a plan for the 17 countries that are water insecure<sup>15</sup> and operationalize the recommendations the UNCHR affirmed in 2018 as part of the Global Compact on Refugees,<sup>16</sup> including assessment, support and procedures for people displaced by climate change.

- The UNEP and WTO should set guidelines for air pollution and ceilings for emissions, especially for Global North countries responsible for most emissions—including private firms owned, headquartered and financially benefiting from operations in the Global South that are emitting pollution.
- The UNFCCC should work with nations that have a high share of global fossil fuel production and consumption as measured by the Carbon Capture and Storage Storage Indicator (CCS-SI)<sup>17</sup> to invest in nature-based carbon storage projects.
- The IMF and World Bank should fund projects that address climate adaptation measures as communities lose their economic livelihoods because of climate disruption.



# 03.

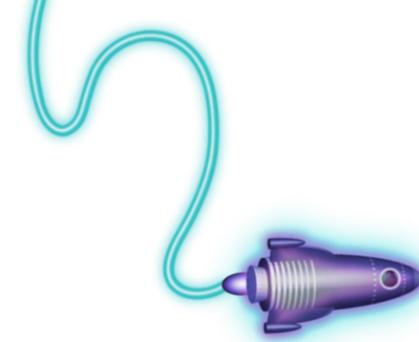
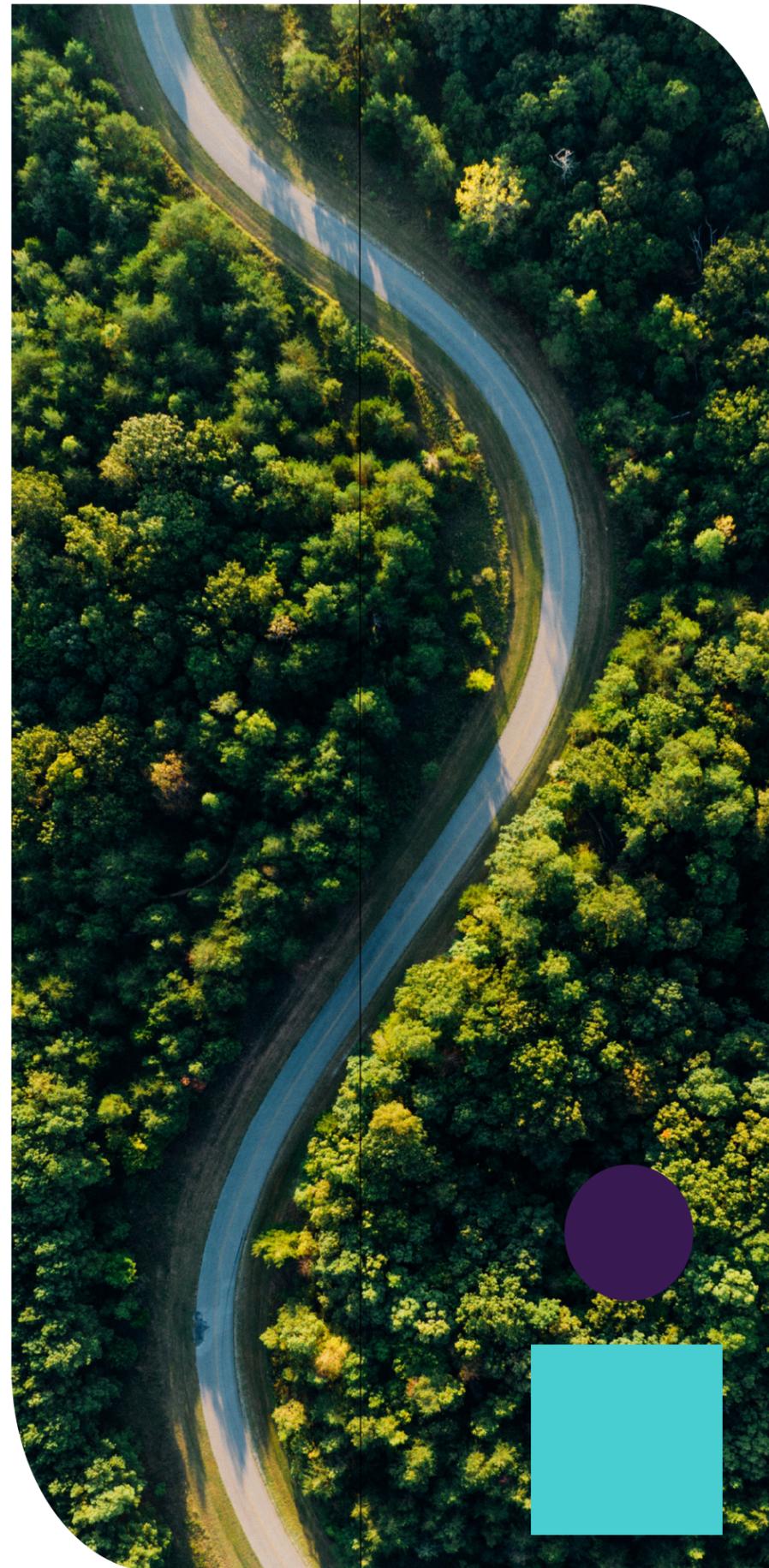
## Regulate financial accountability for emissions and invest in renewable energy solutions

- The UNFCCC and UNEP should set a price of at least USD \$135 per tonne of Co<sub>2</sub> globally and governments should uphold and enforce the price to curb climate change.
- The WTO should set international governance measures to limit corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, especially accounting for the emissions of subsidiaries and partnerships corporations own.
- The UN, WTO and governments should set climate finance standards to address the challenges in transparency and the issue of double counting (i.e. two different parties claiming the same carbon removal or reduction credit). Revenues from carbon taxes and trading systems should be considered for funding renewable energy projects.
- The World Bank and IMF should focus their public climate financing energy projects on increasing access to electricity for those with the least access to it and invest in renewable infrastructures like solar rather than expanding gas.
- The World Bank, IMF and associated partners should include local leadership and financing structures (i.e. grants and low-cost debt) as part of their public financing.

# 04.

## Prioritize vulnerable communities in decision-making processes and address the intersectional impacts of climate change

- Governments should create consultation bodies at the local and national levels to include women, Indigenous Peoples and other vulnerable communities, with the goal of extending these to the international level as a way to connect into relevant UN agencies dealing with climate change and its intersectional impacts (i.e. climate and health, climate and gender, etc.).



- Governments should adopt and implement a community engagement policy that commits to FPIC (Free, Prior and Informed Consent)—a specific right pertaining to Indigenous Peoples’ consent to projects affecting their territories, recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
- Governments should adopt and implement measures to prevent the degradation and depletion of Indigenous land and resources.
- Green businesses and industries should create networking spaces—both physical and virtual—for members of Indigenous and other vulnerable communities to build relationships and share knowledge.
- Local chapters of women’s empowerment organizations should connect green businesses and industries with women in the community interested in entering the green economy, with support from the government to set up local businesses.
- Civil society organizations should collect data to understand the impact of climate change on violence against women and girls.
  - Governments should adopt and implement policies (i.e. disaster relief funds, etc.) recommended from this research to safeguard women and girls in times of crisis stemming from climate change as well as ensure basic access to resources and health services.
  - Governments should increase investment in civil society organizations tackling violence against women and girls.
- Local governments should implement and enforce policies recommended in the “Compendium of WHO and other UN guidance on health and environment”<sup>18</sup> which would reduce and/or prevent the health impacts of climate change, especially to vulnerable and marginalized communities.
- The UNFCCC and UNHCR should endorse the term “climate refugee” in order to acknowledge the impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations and their ability to maintain a safe space to live.



MALEEHA ASIF // PAKISTAN



BRIAN LI HAN WONG // UK

1  
Climate Action  
and Sustainable  
Living

2  
Equality and  
Inclusion

3  
Future of  
Education  
and Work

4  
Mental Health  
and Wellbeing

5  
Peace and  
Justice

# 02 EQUALITY AND INCLUSION





ELIZABETH NAGASHA // UGANDA

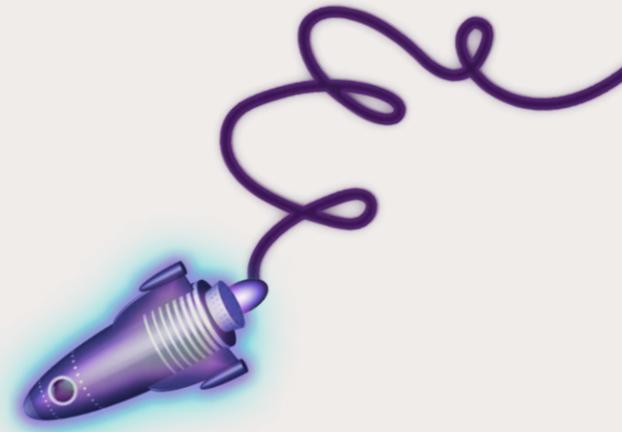
# TWO EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

## RACIAL AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION DISCRIMINATION

Victims of racial and sexual orientation discrimination can face many additional injustices—limited employment opportunities, systemic oppression, food insecurity, healthcare exclusion, pervasive poverty and targeted violence, amongst others. As of 2020, 67 out of 193 UN Member States still criminalize consensual same-sex conduct.<sup>19</sup> These issues have caused conflicts for many years and while some progress has been made, hate and prejudice are still interfering with mutual understanding and trust, hindering our progress toward a more inclusive, sustainable world. During the COVID-19 pandemic, 70% of countries experienced declines in the absence of discrimination and equal treatment.<sup>20</sup> Discrimination in any way or form is a clear affront to article one of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR): “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”<sup>21</sup> These inequalities require immediate action to reduce the stigma and other negative impacts on those affected.

## GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT

Gender equality—besides being a fundamental human right—is vital for a more productive society that is closer to reaching full human potential and sustainable development. Progress in some aspects of gender equality was slow prior to the pandemic and COVID-19 has further slowed progress, in some cases actually worsening certain issues—prolonged school closures heightening the risk of students being pushed into early and forced marriage<sup>22</sup> and existing inequalities for LGBTQ+ people are at risk of deepening.<sup>23</sup> Furthermore, the gender digital divide—real-world gender inequality replicated in the digital world—has become “the new face of inequality” with 3.7 billion people still offline, most of them women and in developing countries.<sup>24</sup>



Discriminatory laws and social norms remain pervasive—women continue to be underrepresented at all levels of political leadership, and one in five women and girls between the ages of 15-49 report experiencing physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner within a 12-month period.<sup>25</sup> Women worldwide still only have about 76.5% of the same legal rights given to men and nearly 2.4 billion working-age women are still not afforded equal economic opportunities.<sup>26</sup> It is vital that stakeholders and policymakers globally work toward uplifting women as no country can fully prosper if half its population doesn't have equity when it comes to rights, access and support systems.

## POVERTY

Poverty has been a problem present throughout history and the recent COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated it further. According to the World Bank, an additional 75-95 million people could be living in extreme poverty in 2022—in comparison to pre-COVID-19 projections—due to the lingering effects of the pandemic, the war in Ukraine and rising inflation.<sup>27</sup>

Up to twice as many people with disabilities live under the poverty line globally compared to those without a disability,<sup>28</sup> and this is further heightened in developing countries with 82% of people with disabilities living below the poverty line.<sup>29</sup> Another vulnerable group is women and girls: The COVID-19 pandemic derailed the progress previously made with the rate of women and girls in extreme poverty (i.e. under \$1.90/day) expected to rise to 9% in 2022.<sup>30</sup> This means a projected 383 million women and girls will be living in extreme poverty by the end of 2022, 938 million will live on less than \$3.20/day and 1.7 billion on less than \$5.50/day.<sup>31</sup> These inequalities create a ripple effect of other detrimental issues including unemployment, homelessness, malnutrition, lack of proper childcare and an overall reduction in health and wellbeing.



# 01.

## Formulate, pass and enforce policies, rules and regulations to prohibit discrimination and reduce poverty

- International organizations and governments need to formulate, pass and enforce specific policies to prohibit discrimination in education, employment, health, law enforcement, housing and credit, among others so that everyone will be protected.\*
- National governments should pass bills and regulations so that there are legal and financial penalties for discrimination.\*
- National governments should run programs and/or training in work settings to teach racism prevention measures.
- All employers should formulate and implement rules and regulations to encourage, provide and maintain a working environment that fosters respect among all employees.\*
- Educational institutions need to adopt and implement specific, measurable, consistent and comprehensive non-discrimination policies that protect and affirm all students,\* and prohibit discrimination against students, educators and the wider school community on those bases.

- National governments should develop and employ policies to reduce poverty.
  - National, state and local governments should determine the living wage amount that employers be required to pay employees, protecting vulnerable groups such as low-income families and part-time student employees.
  - National, state and local governments should formulate policies to provide food support programs focusing on low-income individuals including students, families with children and those who are unemployed or underemployed.
  - National, state and local governments should offer flexible repayment plans for student loans, with options to postpone loan payments.
  - National, state and local governments should develop public housing assistance to help low-income students find reliable, safe and affordable places to live.
- National and local governments, particularly statistics offices/departments, should provide support for the inclusion and methodological development of core indicators for the measurement of racial, gender and sexual orientation discrimination and poverty-related data.
- Specialized agencies and organizations with a focus on youth, gender equality, LGBTQ+ and racial equality are encouraged to collect data related to the measurement of racial, gender and sexual orientation discrimination and poverty.

\* Including their gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, ability, neurodiversity, socio-economic status, age and citizenship.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

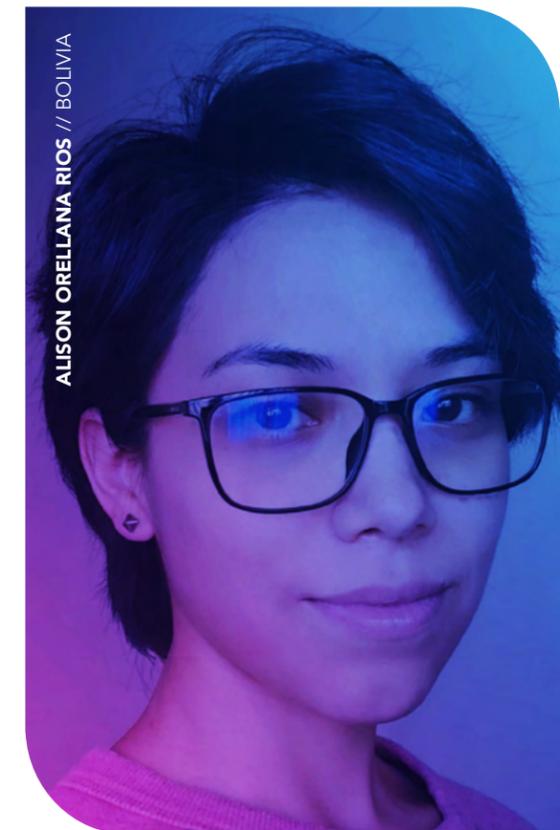
# 02.

## Allocate funding for the creation of appropriate infrastructure that upholds the dignity of everyone

- International organizations should allocate funding for technical support and capacity building—including holding international conferences, workshops and/or expert group meetings—to provide practical assistance and solutions as well as share good practices and policy recommendations for the building of national and regional infrastructures.
- National and local governments should allocate funding to build physical and institutional infrastructure to narrow the digital divide for vulnerable groups.
- National governments need to allocate funding to advance equal opportunity by increasing investment in underserved communities as well as individuals from those communities.
- National governments should adopt policies to support and subsidize immigrants, students of colour, girls, sexual minorities and students from low-income families to have access to higher education, work permits, healthcare and professional licenses.
- National and local governments should allocate funding to provide accessible places for people who seek shelter (i.e. spousal violence, rehab centers, etc.) with properly trained staff that have a deep understanding of support practices.

\* Including their gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, ability, neurodiversity, socio-economic status, age and citizenship.

- National and local governments should allocate funding to support professional development and educator resources with a focus on creating inclusive learning environments in which all students feel safe and welcome.\*
- National and local governments need to allocate funding to provide basic needs (i.e. food, stationery, books, school fees, etc.) to students from low-income families through financial aid, grants and scholarships.
- Education institutions should allocate funding to provide free sanitary products in schools for those who menstruate.



ALISON ORELLANA RIOS // BOLIVIA

# 03.

## Create education and employment environments where all can thrive, feel empowered and achieve their full potential

- Education institutes and employers should have a vision and mission statement welcoming and inclusive of all students and employees.\*
- Education institutions and employers should not have dress codes or uniform policies that discriminate against or suppress any students or employees.\* Any codes or policies should be inclusive of all ethnicities and cultures and avoid requiring people to dress differently in a way that makes them conform to cultural and/or binary gender stereotypes.
- National and local governments should create opportunities for students from low-income families to have equal access to educational resources such as ICT hardware and software as well as training opportunities.
- International organizations, and national and local governments should launch campaigns to raise awareness as well as equip women and girls with the necessary tools and skills to enter and thrive in STEM fields.
- Gender equality organizations and agencies should promote positive role models, who are key stakeholders in inspiring others, by creating events and opportunities where they can share their perspectives and journey.
- Gender equality organizations and agencies should engage policymakers and decision-makers, especially men, to dedicate resources and time to advance women's empowerment.

\* Including their gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, ability, neurodiversity, socio-economic status, age and citizenship.



TAHINA RAKOTOMAYO // FRANCE

FRANTZ ONE // HAITI

1

Climate Action  
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2

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3

Future of  
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4

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and Wellbeing

5

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# 03 FUTURE OF EDUCATION AND WORK





# THREE FUTURE OF EDUCATION AND WORK

## FLAWS IN THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

There is often a greater focus on theoretical knowledge over practical knowledge, which can hinder the development of problem-solving and interpersonal skills needed to succeed in the future of work.<sup>32</sup> Despite findings that passive teaching methods (i.e. lectures, readings, audio-visual, demonstrations) lead to 5-30% knowledge retention while active teaching methods (i.e. group discussions, practices, teaching others) lead to 50-90% retention,<sup>33</sup> there is a lack of action-oriented learning and practical applications of concepts in education. Furthermore, many teachers don't have access to complete training and modern technology—when teachers transitioned to remote and hybrid teaching, only 42% of countries provided their teachers with information and communications technology (ICT) tools and Internet access.<sup>34</sup> There is much work still to be done: Even if the 2030 Agenda voluntarily set benchmarks are met by countries who committed to improving their education systems and goals, the world would fall short of achieving universal education—with less than two in three children expected to complete primary school in 2030, equaling 300 million children who will not achieve minimum learning proficiency.<sup>35</sup>

## NON-INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

In a world that is fast-moving and complex, education, if implemented effectively, can be a powerful tool to unlock inequality, reduce poverty and reinforce sustainable development. The global education architecture, however, reveals inequity, poor infrastructure and the lack of educational opportunities, with only 10% of countries having comprehensive laws meant to ensure full inclusion.<sup>36</sup>



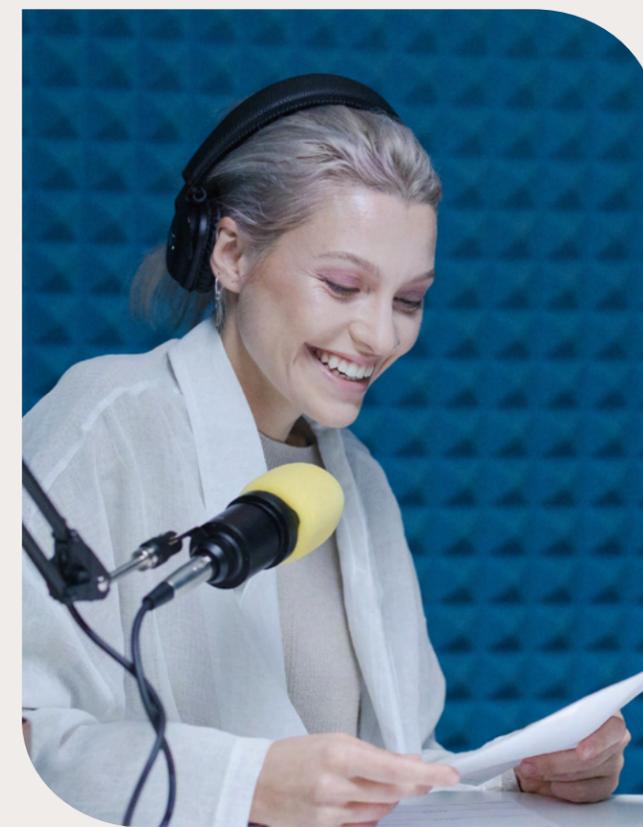
Children with disabilities are further affected, being 49% more likely to have never attended school, and if enrolled in school, more likely to drop out early.<sup>37</sup> During the pandemic, more than 90% of the global student population has been affected by COVID-19-related school closures, with social and digital divides further perpetuating forms of exclusion that have put the most disadvantaged at risk.<sup>38</sup>

## SKILLS GAP AND UNEMPLOYMENT

The COVID-19 pandemic has also exacerbated one of the biggest problems in the workforce—the skills gap. The G20 economies stand to lose \$11.5 trillion in potential cumulative gross domestic product (GDP) growth by 2028 if the skills gap cannot be bridged.<sup>39</sup> The technological revolution has radically evolved many industries—increasing the need for current and future generations to adapt to a digital world and acquire digital skills or risk being unskilled for a wide range of jobs. Yet, while three in four workers don't have the digital skills sought by employers, only one-quarter (28%) of them are enrolled in training to bridge this skills gap.<sup>40</sup> Nearly half (46%) of workers, managers and business leaders believe that their skills will be obsolete within five years and more than one-third (36%) expect it within three years.<sup>41</sup> The skill gap not only impacts workers, but other major stakeholders as well including businesses, industries and governments—increasing the rates of unemployment not because there is less demand for workers, but because there is a shortage of workers who have the right skills for the jobs available.



PAUL MENSAAH AMANOR // GHANA



# 01.

**Review the curriculum regularly to incorporate emerging trends, tools and knowledge**

- Employers should be major stakeholders involved in designing the school curriculum. Government officials and industry representatives should hold frequent meetings so employers can give insight into which skills students need to develop at school to become well-equipped for the workplace and thereby reduce the skills gap.
- Secondary students and above need to be actively involved in the process of reviewing and structuring the curriculum.
  - Every three to five years, governments should distribute both paper forms and online surveys nationwide where all students get the chance to share ideas about new subjects that are important to implement in the curriculum.
  - Once governments have piloted a few units and/or classes/courses, they should integrate them into the education system and distribute anonymous feedback forms and online surveys to collect data about the effectiveness of the modifications.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



ALEXANDRINA MEHANDZHIYSKA // BULGARIA

# 02.

**Improve access and inclusion in education**

- Social impact organizations should implement and oversee a community mentorship program with an emphasis on the value of inclusion so they can better support youth and connect them to their local communities.
- Ministries of finance along with the legislative and executive arms of governments should ensure gender-inclusive budgeting in the planning and distribution of resources in order to make for inclusive opportunities for all.
- Governments should provide teachers with better access to resources and classroom supports so they can give their students the best educational experience.
- Governments and educational institutions should provide better facilities and resources to support students with disabilities and make education accessible to everyone.
- Governments should provide financial support to students with demonstrated financial needs who currently lack access to educational institutions.
- Governments should create a more inclusive examination experience for those for whom the local language(s) is/are not their first language by allowing exams to be taken in a native language(s) in addition to the local language(s).

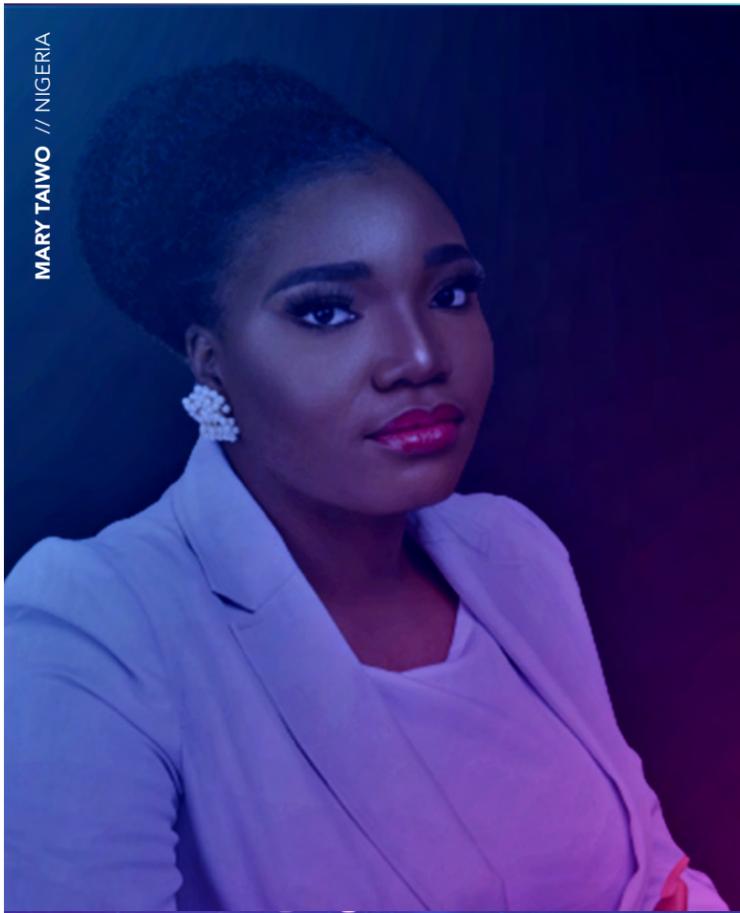
# 03.

**Rethink traditional education delivery to better prepare students for the future of work**

- Ministries of education and other learning institutions should provide experiential learning opportunities which encourage the application of knowledge and skills. Technology such as virtual and augmented reality (VR/AR) can be used to enhance and/or complement experiential learning and allow for digital skills development to bridge the digital divide.
- Educational institutions, especially primary and secondary schools, should implement gamified and project-based learning to support and equip students with adequate skills that they need so more can become job creators instead of job seekers.
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the education space should highlight the importance of volunteering as an opportunity to upskill by learning transferable and tangible skills.
- Educational institutions and non-profit organizations should provide career guidance, academic counselling and mentorship for young people to help them navigate career choices and also for guardians to better guide the next generation.
- Governments and educational institutions should connect students to the workplace through high-quality work-based learning, internships, co-op and job shadowing opportunities to create access and reduce the skills gap by ensuring that they have the skills to enter the workforce.
- Schools as well as local business and community development stakeholders should provide more entrepreneurship programs, incubators and accelerator programs to increase creative and innovative thinking, upskilling as well as employment opportunities.
- Teachers should become facilitators rather than content deliverers—upskilling and reskilling on a regular basis, especially after the integration of a new curriculum model.



MARY TAIWO // NIGERIA



YASIN ARAFAT // BANGLADESH



ARTHY SURESH // USA



- 1 Climate Action and Sustainable Living
- 2 Equality and Inclusion
- 3 Future of Education and Work
- 4 Mental Health and Wellbeing
- 5 Peace and Justice



# 04 MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING





# FOUR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

## ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES AND RESOURCES

The healthcare system has faced great disruption due to the pandemic, and for many nations, the combination of a larger influx of patients, staff shortages and lack of proper resources has inevitably led to a decline in the quality of care.<sup>42</sup> In addition to challenges in maintaining essential health services, 92% of countries are facing critical bottlenecks to scaling up access to essential COVID-19 tools.<sup>43</sup> There are many factors at play when evaluating access to quality health services including affordability, physical proximity and resource availability. Nearly one billion people are affected by mental, neurological and substance use disorders (MNS) worldwide, and yet, resources for the diagnosis, treatment and support for people with mental health issues remain extremely limited, particularly for low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).<sup>44</sup> Issues such as poverty and hunger in many developing countries are not adequately recognized as root causes of mental and physical health crises. Health institutions and practitioners must become more aware of the intersectionality between social identities (i.e. socioeconomic status, race, gender, etc.) that can often affect access, inclusion and quality of care.

## HEALTH STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION

There is a significant disparity in the accessibility to both mental and physical health-related treatments between higher-income countries and low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), primarily due to the increased stigma, discrimination and oppression that exists toward those with a condition. While developing countries have made progress in the past 50 years to reduce child mortality, a serious gap still exists: Low-income countries have on average ten times higher child mortality rates than high-income countries.<sup>45</sup> In different regions of the world, mental health is still considered a taboo subject, with religion and culture often contributing to the stigma—dismissing mental health conditions as weakness and failing to ensure representation of the spectrum of all mental health conditions.

On average, only 2% of government health budgets are allocated to mental health<sup>46</sup> with development assistance for mental health in LMICs never exceeding 0.5% of total development assistance for health<sup>47</sup>—highlighting how under-resourced and under-prioritized mental health is globally.

## ACCESSIBILITY-BASED REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS

While laws and regulations for decreasing discriminatory practices in the health workforce exist, and some policies create more access to healthcare services, there are still notable gaps financially, physically and culturally in how populations are served. Unsafe and poor-quality care cause 60% of the deaths from conditions amenable to healthcare in LMICs and costs the global economy USD \$1.4-\$1.6 trillion worth of lost productivity in LMICs each year.<sup>48</sup> Furthermore, there is fewer than one mental health worker of any kind—including mental health nurses, psychiatric social workers, psychiatrists, psychologists, counsellors and other paid mental health workers—per 100,000 in LMICs compared to more than 60 in high-income countries.<sup>49</sup>

The personnel shortages are compounded because few non-specialist doctors, nurses and clinical workers are properly trained to recognize and treat patients with mental health conditions—in fact, only 25% of WHO Member States have integrated mental health into primary care.<sup>50</sup> Frameworks and standards for mental health resources made available to healthcare workers are often not culturally diverse or sensitive. In its 2022 World Mental Health Report, the WHO proposes we look beyond health professionals to other care providers in the community to extend and expand support—people with lived experiences who are knowledgeable of local customs, attitudes and languages, making them well-suited to identify and provide timely, culturally-appropriate first-line care.<sup>51</sup>



# 01.

## Increase diversity in clinical settings to ensure all cultural, ethnic and racial groups have equitable access and treatment

- DEI organizations should provide training for clinical and social workers to recognize health disparities in different age groups, cultures and values in order to create treatments that approach and cater to many diverse populations. Cultural competence practices should be mandatory to increase awareness and sensitivity toward the diverse characteristics of all communities.
- Health institutions should provide practitioners or translators who can speak local languages. This creates a safe space where they can offer adequate information and better understand cultural, ethnic and racial groups without stigma in order to provide the best help for each person wherever they reside.
- Governments should encourage more youth from low-income areas to enroll in psychiatry by providing educational incentives, such as graduate scholarships, with the hopes of reducing the staffing gap within mental health facilities.
- Psychological and clinical organizations should include diversity criteria in the frameworks of clinical studies—developing standards to ensure greater inclusion of all practitioners, particularly young people.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

# 02.

## Revise policies for mental health accessibility and affordability

- Governments should integrate mental health check-ups into regular physical health check-ups and assessments.
- Clinics should openly provide free mental health check-ups on a regular basis for everyone.
- Local and national governments should allocate more funding to create additional clinical institutions and mental health services so they can accommodate those actively seeking treatment.
- Corporations, community leaders, educators and charities should encourage mental health talks and community meetings—making them inclusive to everyone as well as diversifying input on a community's needs.
- Governments should work alongside post-secondary institutions, practicing psychologists and those in related fields to form partnerships around the most optimal ways to approach and improve mental health in communities, starting from an individual level. This can lead to the establishment of new institutions and policies to address mental health accessibility.
- Governments and health entities should modify clinical settings to support patient-led efforts so patients can engage with each other and advocate for their mental health.

- Governments should pass legislation to ensure the affordability of health for their population, including that health insurance policies sufficiently cover the costs of mental health services.
- Governments and corporations should eliminate discrimination and discriminatory practices within mental health facilities by creating and implementing policies to reduce implicit biases and stereotypes as well as ensure no one is denied treatment on the basis of any trait or quality.

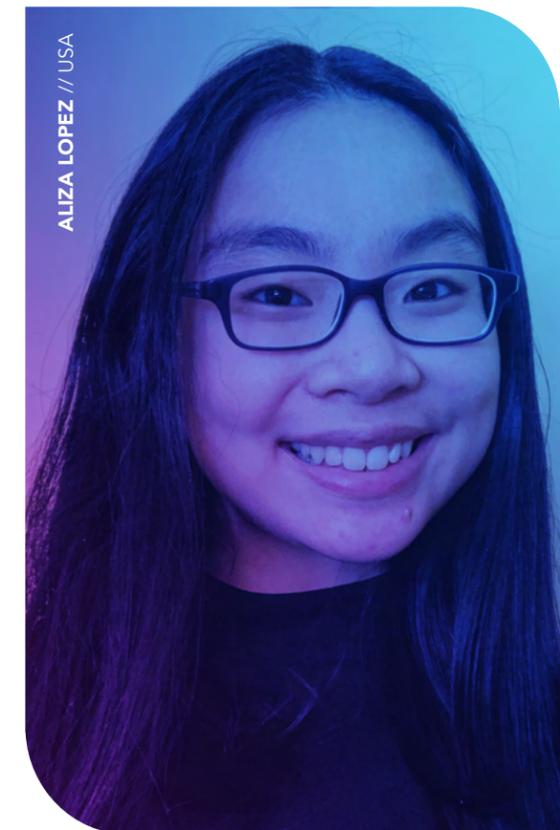
# 03.

## Prioritize health supports and services for underserved populations

- Community officials in LMICs should perform community analyses on a regular basis in order to evaluate the resources, institutions and materials they need for their population as it grows, with the goal to ensure enough resources are allocated for each community. Local governments should develop a standard resource-to-population size ratio—a measure that can be referenced when determining how many resources should be allocated to a community.
- National governments should ensure immigration services are more understanding of the needs of refugees and immigrants and provide the proper treatment as they may already be going through mental and/or physical health crises.

- Governments and national leaders should provide more concrete healthcare approaches and country-wide solutions to tackle physical and mental health crises such as poverty and hunger as root causes. Governments should collaborate with nonprofits, NGOs and educational institutions focused on poverty and hunger to develop and implement preventative techniques for the onset of mental and physical health conditions.

- Governments should develop resolutions and other frameworks that provide more innovative ways to urgently address the social determinants of health (i.e. income, employment status, education, housing, food security, etc.)—considering traditional and cultural networks as well as leveraging modern technology to expand health services.



# 04.

## Expand educational efforts for mental health and physical wellbeing

- Education community leaders should encourage conversations about mental and physical health—normalizing seeking help and talking about mental health and wellbeing in an age-appropriate way. Teachers must recognize each student has different experiences and reactions when reflecting and sharing their learning experiences.
- Education institutions should solidify more personalized and interactive learning techniques in health education.
- Educators and school boards should include topics about mental health conditions in the school curriculum, which should discuss how to recognize the signs of mental health crises, how to approach mental health crises, the normalization of mental health and more.
- Schools and teachers should establish routines and foster a calm learning environment to improve mental wellness—assisting students and families who are struggling. Where possible, teachers should break larger assessment tasks into smaller increments to help students experience success and support their engagement.
- Teachers should employ a range of activities to develop and support social and emotional learning (SEL)—including personal strengths, positive coping, problem-solving, stress management and seeking help. Social skills are interconnected with physical and mental health, creating a more overall balance in their interactions with others and themselves.
- Governments and health institutions should reduce barriers to accessing mental health support facilities while destigmatizing the need to seek mental health support. Integrated peer-to-peer programs and student-led outreach programs can open up conversations to better understand and support learner needs.



# 05.

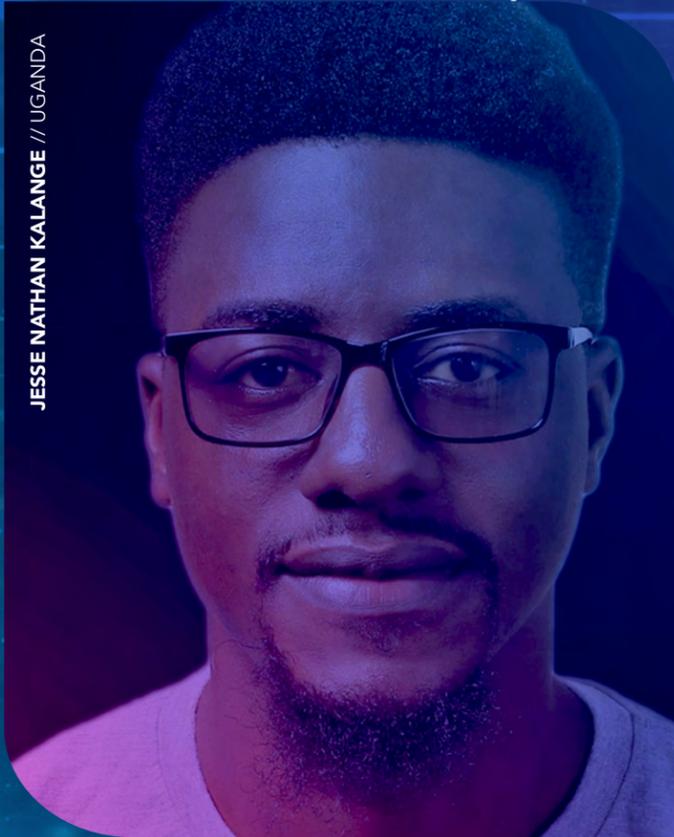


## Ensure inclusion, accommodation and support of the health and ability of all workers

- Governments, NGOs and private organizations should receive mental health training in tandem with equipping health practitioners with mental health resources, standardized toolkits and other frameworks around mental health issues so they can create safe workplaces.
- All employers should create workplaces (i.e. clinics, hospitals, etc.) that are accessible to people with disabilities.
- Large health corporations should be responsible for creating a diversity-based framework for the products they release, the media they produce and other publicized material that will be consumed and directly used by society. Depending on the specific product or group being served, complying with a framework or criteria to maximize representation of their services to as many people as possible can ensure that it is not leaving anyone behind and considers the best interests of many.



JESSE NATHAN KALANGE // UGANDA



PAULINARH BOLATITO OGUNLEYE // NIGERIA



MARIA EDUARDA ASSIS // BRAZIL



1

Climate Action and Sustainable Living

2

Equality and Inclusion

3

Future of Education and Work

4

Mental Health and Wellbeing

5

Peace and Justice



# 05 PEACE AND JUSTICE





# FIVE PEACE AND JUSTICE

## PERSISTENCE OF CONFLICT

At the end of 2020, a quarter of the world's population lived in conflict-affected zones.<sup>52</sup> During 2021, there were five indicators that recorded the largest deteriorations in peace: political instability, state-inflicted political terror, neighbouring country relations, the intensity of internal conflict, and the number of refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs).<sup>53</sup> The global economic impact of violence reached \$16.5 trillion—equivalent to 10.9% of the global GDP or \$2,117/person.<sup>54</sup> The Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) registered a 46% increase in deaths from organized violence compared to the year before.<sup>55</sup> The social, political, economical and environmental effects of conflict only add gravity to the situation. Now in 2022, the number of people forced to flee due to persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations and events seriously disturbing public order has surpassed 100 million for the first time—that's one in every 78 people.<sup>56</sup>

## YOUTH IN PEACEBUILDING AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

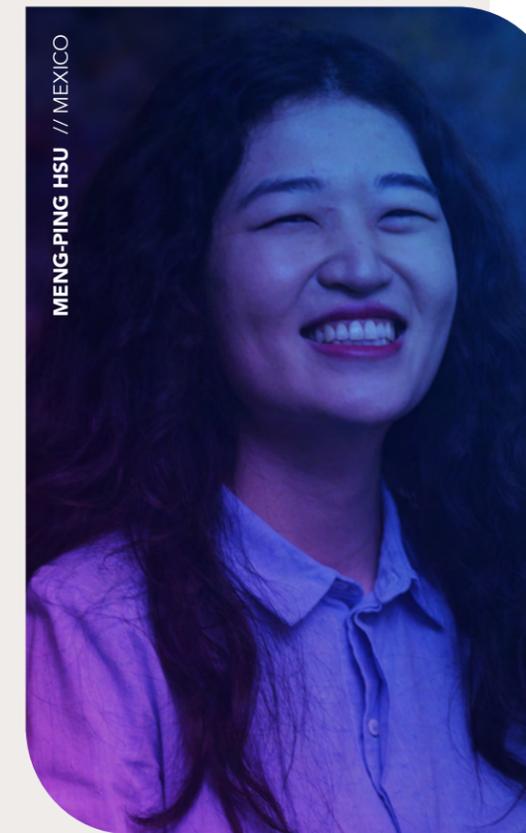
In 2020, one in every four of the 2.4 billion young people aged 15-34 was affected by armed conflict or violence.<sup>57</sup> Despite the important role of youth in peacebuilding, particularly at the grassroots level—building social cohesion and trust, opening channels for more youth from diverse backgrounds to work together as well as strengthening the capacities and skills of their peers<sup>58</sup>—many young people encounter systemic barriers to meaningful participation including closed doors, lack of recognition and marginalization.<sup>59</sup> Gaps are also prevalent in civic spaces, making it difficult or impossible for youth to advocate for themselves or their peers and for their perspectives to be considered. Globally, only 2.6% of members of parliament (MPs) are under 30<sup>60</sup> and the age citizens can run for office often does not coincide with the voting age—69% of countries impose a waiting time before eligibility.<sup>61</sup>



## GOOD AND INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

If good and inclusive governance were made possible worldwide, it could be one of the main drivers to avoiding violent conflict and promoting peaceful processes.<sup>62</sup> However, persistent challenges continue to disrupt the efficiency and effectiveness of governments around the world. During the COVID-19 pandemic, 73% of countries have shown declines in dimensions related to civic space—civic participation, freedom of opinion and expression, and freedom of assembly and association—a particularly concerning fact considering its implications on inclusivity in public spaces.<sup>63</sup> A further 58% of countries have experienced deteriorations in constraints on government powers—the measure of the extent to which those who govern are bound to the law.<sup>64</sup> In 2021, the average score of the Corruption Perceptions Index—which identifies the prevalence of corruption on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean)—was 43, with two out of every three countries scoring below 50.<sup>65</sup>

Corrupt countries were responsible for the vast majority of murdered human rights defenders around the world—together with corruption in law enforcement and impunity for serious crimes points, this points to increasing weak governance and overall threats to peace and justice.<sup>66</sup> Currently in 2022, for the fifth consecutive year, the rule of law has weakened in more countries (61%) than it has improved (39%)—affecting 4.4 billion people.<sup>67</sup>



MENG-PING HSU // MEXICO

# 01.

## Establish and implement official safeguards to ensure the security of victims during conflict

- Governments and financial institutions should prioritize the comprehensive and efficient allocation, monitoring and evaluation of aid, with special consideration to the particular needs of populations who suffer from historical injustices and inequalities.
- Government departments in charge of allocating public resources should ensure the public budget outlines resources to address emergencies, ensuring appropriate risk management and prevention as well as efficient responses to crises through established emergency preparedness organizations and institutions.
- Governments and related entities should identify root causes of conflict by considering the particular circumstances of each context and establishing the right mechanisms suited to address them (i.e. truth and reconciliation committees, civic education, diplomatic talks, information centers, education programs, more spaces for active participation, inclusive policymaking, etc.)—ensuring the rights of all people are upheld in cases of conflict and unrest.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Governments should develop public policies dedicated to preventing femicide and bringing justice to all other cases of gender-based violence (GBV) in order to decrease violence, particularly against women and girls.
- National government departments focused on public security should facilitate disarmament and establish mechanisms to track and address arms trafficking through national registries and lengthy safeguards. Official statistical agencies, academia and NGOs could participate in the generation, processing and publication of the data in open formats. By creating a rigorous system, the hope of preventing conflict, violence and tragedy through weaponry can be minimized and society can shift towards nonviolent practices that protect life.

# 02.

## Develop policies to safeguard the rights of all people in the context of human mobility

- Governments at all levels should have sustainable plans that provide guidelines to safeguard the human rights of refugees, forcibly displaced communities and individuals by providing guaranteed access to housing as a means to address the precarious living conditions in many refugee camps. Through temporary spaces monitored and protected by civic organizations and public officials, one obstacle to ensuring safe spaces and rights for all can be eliminated.

- Governments should establish official laws and mechanisms to provide adequate assistance to ease the process of application of entry for refugees.
- Local, national and/or international public health programs along with host countries, national governments and local communities should implement programs to provide socio-emotional assistance as well as address trauma and other mental health-related issues of refugees and those who are forcefully displaced
- Governments and think tanks should consult stakeholders and together create an evaluation system to review and analyze migration policies that exist at the local and regional levels to ensure their relevance and efficiency.

# 03.

## Ensure youth representation in public spaces

- Government institutions should establish a youth advisor office or figure who actively engages with stakeholders and other representatives, not just youth, on all issues and topics to represent the interests of the youth in policymaking processes at all levels, including the international arena.
- Public and private institutions should establish official open spaces and mediums for young people to actively participate in the co-creation, monitoring and evaluation of policies—strengthening the pertinence of programs and projects that impact the future of youth.

- Governments should lower institutional age limits for participating in policymaking and official consultations to allow stakeholders in decision-making spaces to identify and understand the interests of youth and develop a holistic perspective that delivers sustainable results.
- Governments should lower the minimum age to vote, where applicable, to 16-18 years old so that young people can be actively involved in the political sphere and ensure their perspectives are taken into consideration.
- Philanthropic, non-profit and research institutions should provide grants to youth-led and youth-serving organizations that promote peace and justice to support the representation of future generations and their perspectives.
- Governments and related entities must consider mechanisms (i.e. affirmative action policies like quotas, consociational arrangements, etc.) that increase representation for underrepresented and underserved groups (i.e. women and girls, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, refugees, LGBTQ+ and Indigenous Peoples, among others) to ensure no one is left behind.



# 04.

## Create educational programs that nurture conflict resolution and peacebuilding for the SDGs

- Government agencies focused on education and/or strategic planning should formulate an official education program for all levels that aligns with the principles and goals of the 2030 Agenda, including specific guidelines to identify objectives, activities and outcomes required to strengthen a culture of peace that prioritizes conflict resolution and non-violence.

- Schools and civic organizations should integrate topics related to peace, governance and citizen participation into the school curriculum to strengthen civic education and ensure peace and justice practices for all.

- Schools and education sector leaders should implement practices such as conflict resolution and mediation into the curriculum as a means to ingrain nonviolent practices in youth.

- Schools and civic organizations should create alternative mechanisms to complement, reinforce and/or strengthen the official educational curriculum and other efforts that advance peace and justice.

Through events, campaigns and social media outlets, they should open the spaces of dialogue to increase understanding and raise awareness about human rights, institutional governance, democratic values and all principles that sustain peace and justice.

- Government agencies focused on strategic planning and finance should develop an implementation plan to adapt the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to the characteristics of their particular context.

- Government agencies focused on strategic planning and finance should ensure its compliance by establishing local goals that consider local capacity.

- Government agencies focused on strategic planning and/or education should ensure compliance with the plan by developing a monitoring and evaluation system at schools for all educational levels to measure the incorporation of the SDGs, their correct application concerning local contexts and their impact on local goals.



# 05.

## Set up accountability measures for governments, organizations and institutions to ensure peace and justice are upheld

- Government agencies focused on strategic planning and/or public finance should eradicate real, apparent and potential corruption through mechanisms (i.e. operational monitoring schemes, participatory evaluation systems, etc.) to ensure open and transparent governance.

- Legislative branches of government and/or its agencies focused on public finance should provide adequate funding and institutional safeguards to ensure the independence and autonomy of judiciaries for due process in investigations.

- Governments should promote proactive transparency through platforms and legal frameworks to enable participatory monitoring and evaluation as well as integrate binding provisions.

- Peace and justice organizations should promote the safety of speech in participatory processes through transparency policies and oversight mechanisms to ensure its implementation.

- Peace and justice organizations should ensure the presence of NGOs, the media and the press in conflict resolution and justice processes.

- Governments should establish safeguards in the law to prevent retaliation and ensure witness protection.

- Local and national governments should ensure the media and press are protected under all government regulations and laws, and if necessary, international organizations such as the UN must hold governments accountable to uphold these regulations and laws in times of conflict and crisis.

- Governments should set mechanisms (i.e. audits led by citizens or NGOs, proactive open data platforms for public resource tracking, changes in the legislative framework to prevent nepotism or other non-meritocratic hiring processes, etc.) to prevent the abuse of power by opening the civic space and empowering all inhabitants to guard public resources and their correct use—finding the best way to implement the strategies depending on the resources available.

# CONTRIBUTORS

## CLIMATE ACTION AND SUSTAINABLE LIVING WORKING GROUP

### Working Group Leaders

Laura Guthrie, Kelvin Muli, Achare Elvis Ayamba, Brian Gomez, Neeshad Shafi, Anam Rathor

### Working Group Members

Dr. Abduljabbar Hassan, Sirene Shaheen, Christabel Kisang, Yusuke Sakai, Clara Brown, Geneviève Oumbouke, Laneeth Nambisan, Reet Kohli, Olufemi Balogun, Ikani Israel, Avodah Immanuel, Abdul Latif Khan, Kanto Fiderana, Sydney Fisher, Amina Musa, Rahuldeep Singh, Mohamed Sabaa, Bhumi Sharma, Ángela María, Wasike Jnr, Carla Mae Toling, Linda Moyo, Dilbur Aliyeva, Tatenda Maona Kanengoni, Gabriella Stephanie, Laura Pamela Aranda Medrano, Ursule Rebecca, Ayadi Mishra, Shreyaa Venkat, Verah Torres, Zehra Khan, Kohtem Princewill, Christiana Hunsaker, Rahma Kiriwe, Rahimatu K. Salihu, Sandra Ruhizi, Jasmine Delgado, Yahuza Ismail, Nicole Ignacio, Ruby Kryticous, Christopher Jonadab Maduabughichi, Emmanuel Oluma, Babagana Bulama, Jean-Marc Mba, Adhiraj Miglani, SueEllen Mumbi, Sila Soysal, Vanessa Chisakula, Musa Bangura, David Kindo Kamara, Sumaia Hassan, Abdulai Sesay, Md.Durjoy, Maria Paz Dakota Ormeño Vasquez, Castello Zodo, Mahir Daiyan, Almoktar Harouna, Omar Marena, Kujar Amos Somirmanj, Katia Sofia S. Gomes, Isiaka Alani, Janet Wu, Zongo Kiswendsida Romuald, Abdulrazak Golo, Masereka Eric Sikahwa, Coumba Diakité, Ali Osman, Angelina Nyachol Tut, Farouk Bashir, Christabel Altraide, Ampaire Patience Ritah, Paulina Idris, Adesina Sherif Kayode, Kennedy Auma,

Sharna Akter, Chibili Aroakeh Melvis, Lindsey Madisson Huahuamullo Papa, Gnan Suchir Gupta Paruchuri, Jimmy Wu, Pamela de la Rada, Milagros Quevedo Beltrán, Anjali Patel, Sara Valentina Matos Pérez, Sarah Maulina, Alfred Sigo, Miranda Deeths, Sonde Iyanuoluwa Dunsin, Lionceau Clovis Agre, Maricielo Chalco Espinoza, Moses Emio, Aayus Keshri, Arowolo Emmanuel, Saundarya D Nair, Xiao Han, Aastha Singh, Imeldah Juma, Jaagrit Gaur, Sethvictor Wasike, Apoorvi Jain

## EQUALITY AND INCLUSION WORKING GROUP

### Working Group Leaders

Grace Chenxin Liu, Lydia Gara, Simran Sahni, Jehan Idsassi

### Working Group Members

Shreyaa Venkat, Brianna Shaw, Nicole Ignacio, Babagana Bulama, Reet Kohli, Hayley Makkay-Punk, Verah Torres, Wonga Majila, Maya Bhatt, Praise Akobo, Nyakato AnnLiz, Miray Ozmutlu, Dhruhi, Velma Ayuma, Blessmore Chikwakwa, Oluwakemi Olayinka, Kushinga Kimberley Bande, Patience Kaunda, Rima Kumari, Aisha Shaibu, Kim Herbert, Ampaire Patience, Oluma, Farah, Taliesin Ho-Devine, Riaz Boodram, Rejoice Amutenya, Faraaz Uddin, Jordana Tinto, Gnan Suchir



## FUTURE OF EDUCATION AND WORK WORKING GROUP

### Working Group Leaders

Alexandrina Mehandzhiyska, Daniel Orieveruwwe, Frantz One, Maneeza Khan, Paul Mensah Amanor

### Working Group Members

Abdoulkadir Bello Mamadou, Abdul Latif Khan, Abiola Dorcas Toluwaleke, Adesina Kayode, Aforfem Ngozi Afobunor, Alice Privey, Alukhanyo Xonti, Amina Musa, Ampaire Patience Ritah, Annastaysha Marcano, AnnLiz Nyakato, Azka Sarmad, Basna Hakkim, Bharati Sahani, Bradley Downer, Brainna Shaw, Cavine Dache, Chibili Aroakeh Melvis, Daniel Olajuyigbe, Dhruhi Dheda, Ebenezer Zotoo, Emem Showell, Emmanuel Oluma, Fahima Khal Shayeq, Favour Aiyegbeni, Florence Namugwere, Ibrahim Garba Garbati, Ifunanya Isoje, Jordana Tinto, Jose Tun, Joseph Mshana, Joseph Zotoo, Kachollom Yusuf Pam, Kaigama Ismael, Laneeth Nambisan, Laura Pamela Aranda Medrano, Laurent N'wolé, Leah Rea, Linda Moyo, Lindsey Madisson Huahuamullo Papa, Lorna Wanyenze, Lydia Attoe, Margaret Valentine Oguna, Maria Clara Petry, Mary Egorp, Masereka Eric Sikahwa, Miray Özmutlu, Mofopefoluwa Adefuye, Moses Ekwang, Muhammad Fasees, Mwonge Eric Andrew, Narcisse Zoo Evina, Nicole Ignacio, Nijimbere Cynthia, Obiechina Omeje, Oluwakemi Olayinka, Pamela Aranda, Parisha Giria, Pauline Laufer, Rahuldeep Singh, Rebecca Ursule, Reinfrida Ostack Mwalongo, Ritah Hellen, Ruby .N. Kryticous, Tebogo Palesa Molatlhegi, Urmi Sumant, Velma Ayuma, Verah Torres, Wasila Salihu Sanusi, Yahuza Ismail, Zillah Nangobi

## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING WORKING GROUP

### Working Group Leaders

Aliza Lopez, Arthy Suresh, Chijioke Nwokocho, Mary Taiwo

## Working Group Members

Nicole Ignacio, Verah Torres, Praise Akobo, Eni Quincy Fosaah, Joseph Mshana, Pellagia Banda, Tobiloba Sijuade, Samantha Leal, Reet Kohli, Ampaire Patience Ritah, Abeeha, Gabriella Stephanie, Amina Musa, Valentine Oguna, Elicana Nduhuura, Sila Soysal, Urmi Sumant, Stephanie Butler, Samuel Ogundipe, Hannah Geauvreau-Turner, Aastha Singh, Ariadna Veliz Echevarria, Ruby Kryticous, Dallas Scott, Adeoye David, Christiana Hunsaker

## PEACE AND JUSTICE WORKING GROUP

### Working Group Leaders

Meng-Ping Hsu, Doha Maaty, Sergey Shkolnikov

### Working Group Members

Fiona Brown, Emmanuel Oluma, Aishat Shaibu Queen, Fahima Khal Shayeq, Equere David, Ursule Rebecca, Fancy Sheila Aromorach, Karim Pakodtogo, Yuho Tanizaki, Lydia Attoe, Leah Rea, Mariam AlTaweel, Jinming Liu, Alejandra Gutiérrez Rodríguez, Matias Roa, Ruby Kryticous, Zehra Khan, Ayesha Perveen, Aziza Chugh, Angelina Schülke, Joshua Zyzak, Verah Torres, Kohtem Princewill Sambit, Maymunah Hussain, Chaima Zelloufi, Lexi Donnelly, María Paz Dakota Ormeño Vasquez, Carla Mae Toling, Grace Hosea, Rita Ofori, Maria Helena Oliveira da Silva, Dheman Mahamud Khan, Joe Conciatori, Ibiso Longjohn, Ilana Drake, Hannah Geauvreau-Turner, Maina Vadya, Almoktar Harouna, Paulinarh Ogunleye, Sarira Takahara, Miray Özmutlu, Bhumi Sharma, Vatsalya Chaturvedi, Jubi Oladipo, Ampaire Patience Ritah, Ruhamah Ifere

## 2022 YOUTH DELEGATE COMMUNIQUÉ

**Working Group Mentor and Communiqué Lead:** Jaclyn Stief  
**Communiqué Research and Editing Support:** Flavia Marin  
**Design:** Lydia Gudz

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# About BridgingTheGap Ventures

**BridgingTheGap Ventures** was founded with the goal of bringing together young changemakers with the world's top industry leaders, decision-makers and influencers to usher in a new era for humanity that is more connected, collaborative and empowered than the status quo.

We curate content, agency and audience for influential talent and global brands—giving them a platform to connect with young people around the world in an authentic and relevant way to drive meaningful results.

Providing access is central to all that we do—bridging opportunity gaps for underrepresented and underserved groups in order to foster inclusive innovation, prepare for the future of education and work, and co-create solutions to community challenges.

Through interactive, intergenerational and intersectional live experiences, we create spaces for youth-led innovation and future skills development so the next generation can adapt and thrive.

Our policy efforts and research insights not only inform the work that we do but are leveraged and highly valued by partners to understand, engage and amplify the youth voice.

We've built a global, curated community of active youth champions and passionate young people that organizations, brands and thought leaders can directly tap into—whether it be to showcase new initiatives, gather youth input or scale social impact.

## OUR NETWORK

Through the BridgingTheGap Alliance, our global community of youth-led and youth-serving organizations...



**131**  
members



**243**  
nations and  
territories reached



**30,056,115**  
young people served annually

# B.



[BridgingTheGapx.com](https://BridgingTheGapx.com)

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