

FINNISH YOUTH PACT FOR THE FUTURE



SUOMEN
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Finnish Youth Pact for the Future

This Finnish Youth Pact for the Future brings together young people's demands for the action needed to build our common future. The Youth Pact is the Finnish youth's response to the UN Pact for the Future, which will be negotiated as part of the UN Summit of the Future in autumn 2024.

The Youth Pact was drafted at the Finnish Youth Summit of the Future in Espoo on 24-25 August 2024, which was attended by around 100 young people and representatives of youth organisations from 16 cities.

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Sustainable development and financing development

- UN member states must commit to eradicating extreme poverty by devoting 1% of their GDP to the goal.
- UN member states are encouraged to toughen sentences for environmental crimes, including prison sentences. Establish an international environmental tribunal.
- The UN should include risk assessment in its sustainability monitoring mechanisms, including major climate risks and tipping points. UN member states should be obliged to include these indicators in their national reports, such as the NDC reports under the Paris Agreement and the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) on the Agenda2030 for Sustainable Development.
- UN member states should report on their climate-damaging business support and its impacts as part of their UNFCCC reporting. The UN should develop recommendations and policies for member countries to phase out climate-damaging subsidies.
- The UN should create a Convention on the Protection of Animal Rights, including an end to fur farming.
- The UN should promote access to free contraception and sexual health care in all countries, including by promoting research and education, strengthening funding and targeting resources on quality and access to sexual health services.

2

International peace and security

- UN member states commit to spending as much on peacebuilding as on armament.
- The role of the Youth, Peace and Security resolution in the UN Security Council should be strengthened, for example by establishing a Youth, Peace and Security Working Group within the Security Council, inviting youth delegates to Security Council meetings and integrating the implementation of the resolution into the mandate of UN peace operations.
- Integrating water diplomacy into broader peace-building strategies, including by strengthening the resources and mandate of UN-Water to cover peace and security issues.
- The delivery of aid to crisis areas should be made more effective and faster, including by making decision-making in the UN's emergency mechanisms more flexible and by raising the ODA target for member states to 1% of GDP.
- The UN should support peace education projects and youth peace-building initiatives, for example through the PBF. UN member states are encouraged to integrate peace education into the basic curriculum of education systems.

3 Science, technology, innovation and digital cooperation

- The UN should invest in the development of low-carbon technologies through multinational RDI activities.
- The UN should invest in: (1) technology literacy for all children and young people in education, (2) access to technology in schools and (3) promoting opportunities for girls in STEM fields.
- The UN should promote regulation and restrictions on the integration of AI and weapons of mass destruction by creating a binding international treaty to limit their use and monitor their implementation, as well as through establishing a committee of experts to address these issues.
- UN member states should negotiate a convention on the ethics of AI and its relationship to the realisation of human rights.
- The UN should negotiate a cooperation agreement with the major social media platforms to ensure the ethical principles of the platforms. UN member states are encouraged to impose reporting obligations on political actors on the ethics of campaigning.

4 Youth and future generations

- A Youth Assembly will be established alongside the UN General Assembly allowing this assembly to submit proposals to the UNGA. The General Assembly will be obligated to respond to the proposals.
- The UN should develop an International Mental Health Strategy, including free low-threshold mental health services and access to peer support.
- In the spirit of the UN Transforming Education Summit, the UN should increase international cooperation in schools, especially in the area of democracy education. The UN should establish a coalition with UNESCO and UNICEF to promote international cooperation in schools.
- The UN should guarantee access to and sustainability of education in all member states, for example by supporting free textbooks for all and the quality of vegetarian food.
- The rights of future generations will be recognised and acknowledged through the creation of a Future Generations Impact Assessment and the election of a UN Special Envoy on Future Generations.

5 Transforming global governance

- Supporting cooperation between cities in adapting to climate change, e.g. by strengthening the mandate of UN-Habitat and funding urban sustainability projects.
- The UN should improve minority rights through the inclusion of recommendations on the implementation of minority rights in the UPRs and by strengthening the role of the Special Rapporteurs on the implementation of minority rights.
- The actual costs of implementing important UN treaties, such as human rights conventions, should be assessed as part of the decision-making process.
- The participation of civil society, especially young people, in the UN should be strengthened, for example by giving them the right to participate in meetings of all UN decision-making bodies, by increasing opportunities for remote participation and by obliging member states to organise open consultations with civil society.
- The UN should strengthen sustainable and evidence-based decision-making, including by developing foresight analysis and early warning systems and integrating the use of these results into all UN decision-making