



교육부
Ministry of
Education



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Korean
National Commission

2023 GLOBAL YOUTH FORUM

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In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice

Call to Action

Peace in the Minds of Youth: Beyond War to Sustainable Peace

We, the participants in the 2023 Global Youth Forum, are united in our call for urgent action to work towards sustainable, global peace. Together we represent a global constituency of young people, determined to actively pursue a sustainable future based fundamentally on world peace. To put this vision into action, from July 26th to 28th, 2023, a total of 68 young people aged between 19 and 34 from 20 different countries gathered to participate in the 2023 Global Youth Forum held at the President Hotel in Seoul, Republic of Korea. Divided into eight groups, each with its own sector of interest, we sought and discussed innovative ideas for effective ways to create and preserve sustainable peace in the current world.

We are thankful to have had the chance to attend this highly interactive and participatory forum, hosted by the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Education and organized by the Korean National Commission for UNESCO with the support of numerous experts, lecturers, advisors, and facilitators. The 2023 Global Youth Forum has been a priceless opportunity to share and collaborate with our peers, to form a collective vision for fostering and sustaining peace and establish a global network among youth for open discussion. As a result, in spite of our dissimilar cultural backgrounds and roots, we are now more than ever strongly united on the objective of moving beyond war to sustainable peace and the action needed to achieve this.

BACKGROUND

On July 27, 1953, military commanders from the United States (representing the United Nations Command), the Korean People's Army, and the Chinese People's Volunteer Army signed the Korean Armistice Agreement, ending roughly three years of fighting in the 1950-1953 Korean War. Since then, the people of South Korea have achieved enormous economic development and a greatly increased role in global society. This year, 2023, marks the historic 70th anniversary of the Armistice Agreement that allowed this development. Unfortunately, however, the agreement does not fully symbolize peace, as the two Koreas are technically still at war, with an ongoing potential threat of conflict. Reinforcement of national defense has always been a priority for both North and South Korea, resulting in an emphasis on the military and ongoing state-mandated enlistment for national service in both Koreas.

Apart from traditional warfare, many other threats to peace exist, not just on the Korean Peninsula, but globally. Structural and cultural violence inherent in the social system, poverty, climate change, and natural disasters pose massive threats to humanity. These threats to our future demand that we, as youth, make active efforts to recognize an extended concept of "peace". And as this extended concept covers a broader range of aspects of our society, the act of fostering peace accordingly requires broader and more diverse approaches from younger citizens than ever before, whether in respect to what the term "peace" indicates or in respect to how this peace can be achieved.

Therefore, in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice Agreement, the 2023 Global Youth Forum aimed to bring together young people from 20 countries including the Republic of Korea and 19 countries that participated in the Korean War by sending combat units or by providing medical support, to rediscover and reflect on the meaning of peace as it relates to eight different aspects of society (education, culture, science & technology, people, media and information literacy, the environment, international organizations and militarism). Consequently, at this particular juncture in time, when world peace is in danger from so many different forms of threat, we, the world's youth, urgently call for concrete and bold actions to ensure sustainable peace for us and future generations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Education

Make learners and educators the main agents in constructing peace education.

By providing agency for people to define their own peace, reflecting individual and sociocultural contexts, we can further develop peace education into a platform where people can recognize a broad spectrum of meaning within the concept of peace and understand the diverse meanings of peace to people from different backgrounds.

Promote and acknowledge the importance of peace education.

By delving into different aspects of peace education, such as trends in its history, how it has been narrated in different contexts and by whom, we hope people can apprehend the limitations, challenges, and complexities of peace education, and ultimately be proactive learners who view and understand peace education through a critical lens.

Culture

Advocate movies as an essential art form to connect people and promote peace.

Movies allow us to truly identify with characters on an emotional level; they have the power to help us understand each other better and are therefore an essential art form, enabling us to reflect on culture and perhaps even effect change. However, minorities and particular populations can sometimes feel deeply excluded when they encounter stories and narratives that do not fit or apply to their lives. There remain many places on Earth where divisions among communities still exist, including those caused by the pain of past and present conflicts. There remain many places on Earth where divisions among communities still exist, including those caused by the pain of past and present conflicts. Sharing our own stories and connecting with other people by hearing and understanding their stories can bridge these gaps, but it can be difficult. To overcome these divisions, we encourage the creation of a safe online space where movies can be showcased and alternative perspectives can be voiced, exchanged, and promoted.

Based on this analysis, we propose and promote Moovex, an online platform for movie exhibitions and a space for exchanging opinions, viewpoints, and narratives on war and peace.

By introducing movie projects that prioritize peace-building, by providing a space for alternative viewpoints, and by helping artists and organizations affected by war to express themselves, learn from each other, and connect on the subject of peace-building, Moovex wishes to explore the subject of war and peace, help foster understanding, social cohesion, cultural diversity and inclusion, and ultimately promote peace.

Science & Technology

Strengthen the inherent interdependency between science and peace-building.

By advocating for sustainable development in both domains, let us unite science for peace-building and peace-building for science. Since progress in one sector catalyzes progress in the other, it is essential for us to recognize the importance of interdependency between scientific achievement and peace-building.

Promote endorsement of scientific collaboration on peace-building.

Scientific achievement that ultimately contributes to peace-building is not possible without collaborative input of capital and human resources. By encouraging all decision-makers and stakeholders to wholeheartedly endorse and actively participate in initiatives that foster robust scientific collaboration among different communities, vital channels for peace-building efforts globally can be built.

People

Emphasize the importance and centrality of all people in peace discourse, negotiations, and narratives.

By acknowledging each individual's centrality in their own narrative, and the importance of the diversity of people's opinions, we can challenge the dominant narratives and discourse and recognize, honor, and respect the lived experiences, sufferings, and trauma they have gone through. We emphasize the criticality of including all people in peace discourse, narratives, and negotiations in formulating a more inclusive, representative, and sustainable peace for the future.

Recognize the criticality of people's meaningful participation in peace processes and negotiations.

By highlighting the importance of meaningful participation of all people, to challenge traditional statism and androcentric institutional mindsets, we can create avenues for more diverse perspectives in decision and policy-making, giving more agency and representation to marginalized people and creating safe and inclusive spaces for their meaningful participation in peace processes and negotiations.

Media & Information Literacy

Expand the multi-stakeholder partnerships of the UNESCO Media and Information Literacy Alliance in order to promote media and information literacy education and drive the development of media and information literacy in the international community:

By maintaining and expanding the partnerships between UNESCO and the private and public sectors and making best use of the pioneering initiative of the UNESCO Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Alliance, efforts can be made to create and adopt into formal education a universal educational model that allows students in primary and secondary schools to receive MIL education and learn how to respond effectively to disinformation.

Encourage high-profile social media platforms to take more responsibility for fighting against disinformation:

By promoting dialogues between social media platforms that create a multi-layered infrastructure of disinformation and emphasizing their importance in modifying the current media platform environment where the spread of disinformation is accelerated, we can encourage social media platforms to come together and find ways to deal with issues that lead to disinformation, including sensationalism, algorithms, and generative AI.

Environment

Collaborate to achieve sustainable development and develop integrated solutions to mitigate climate change consequences.

Taking into account the destruction that war causes to the environment, and how it deeply affects our natural resources and endangers people as well as ecosystems, aiming to maintain peace through multilateralism must be a priority. All the more, as climate change will, in all likelihood, increase world political and social tensions, we believe that working together toward sustainable development is the only way to achieve sustainable peace.

Implement comprehensive policies and interdisciplinary actions that prioritize the environment and people, in order to address intertwined issues for more resilient societies.

Achievement of the environmental goals of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will only be possible by implementing policies that prioritize environmental sustainability and facilitating the development of new innovative and concrete solutions such as sustainable urbanism and infrastructure; by funding priority research around sustainability; and by applying policies to regulate industrial pollution. The defense sector should not be exempt from this framework. Seeing as the issues are interconnected so must be the solutions. Awareness of climate change challenges should be reflected in every institution and company's policies, even the military, and educational curricula should incorporate education for sustainable development. Prioritizing environmental preservation and biodiversity restoration needs to become a collective reflex.

International Organizations

Harness international and community leadership for sustainable economic revitalization.

Understanding the combined potential of global interconnectivity and local wisdom in confronting unequal economic structures and value systems that encourage marginalization, we accentuate the indispensable involvement of international policymakers, local community leaders, grassroots economic actors, and local entrepreneurs in the processes of economic project ideation and implementation. We exhort them to exercise their leadership in decision-making, thereby fostering an environment that holistically advances sustainable economic recovery and growth.

Unleash the collaborative power of inter-organizational synergy for effective global aid.

By further emphasizing the urgency of the need to enhance inter-organizational collaboration mechanisms, we spotlight the transformational potential of a unified, holistic approach in magnifying the efficacy of international bodies in their global development endeavors. Such an inclusive and cooperative architecture can ensure timely, effective aid, enhanced accountability, and a shared sense of responsibility among international organizations, aid agencies, research institutions, and other relevant stakeholders. By fostering this integrative approach, we advocate for these entities to leverage their collective influence to promote an agile, responsive, and effective international aid infrastructure, thereby ushering in a new era of global development marked by solidarity, effectiveness, and transformative impact.

Militarism

Promote peace education and conflict resolution training in schools.

To address militarism and foster sustainable peace, it is essential to start by equipping youth with the necessary tools to understand and resolve conflicts peacefully. Implementing peace education programs in schools can significantly impact young minds positively. These programs should focus on teaching students about the consequences of militarism and war, the importance of diplomacy and negotiation, and the value of nonviolent conflict resolution methods.

Encourage dialogue across generations about military participation and national service.

By recognizing the complexities surrounding military participation and national service through open discussion, we must bridge the gaps between the older and younger generations' understanding. Open and respectful dialogue will help younger individuals understand the importance of national service beyond just fulfilling its legal obligation, while recognizing the sacrifices and experiences of their elders who may have directly participated in past conflicts, such as the Korean War. Moreover, this will allow concerns to be addressed constructively, which over time will allow the system to become more inclusive and adaptable to the changing needs of society.