

CONCEPT NOTE

INTERNATIONAL PEACE20 YOUTH SUMMIT (IP20YS) 2023

KOCHI, KERALA, INDIA

Background and Introduction

The International Peace20 Youth Summit had its inception in Bali, Indonesia in 2022. Prior to the G20 Leaders meeting in Bali, Indonesia, the Youth and Civil Society met in Bali on November 1st and 2nd, 2022, where they organized an International Peace20 Youth Summit (IP20YS) to promote a culture of peace and harmony amongst the Youth. The Summit was organized through the patronage of Prince Dr. Damien Dematra, Princess Natasha Dematra and Princess Cheryl Halpern. An outcome of the Summit was the “Peace Pledge” taken by all participants. They also announced to support and celebrate Indonesia’s G20 leadership and called on G20 Leaders to take effective measures to solve the global multiple crisis – Conflicts, Climate Change, Covid, Cost of Living (Inflation), and in particular to make a pathway for a Fair and Better World for future generations. Also 23,000 signatures were collected from all over the world by fixing their signatures for “Peace Pledge”.

Such initiatives by the Civil Society with the leadership and participation of the Youth presented a ray of hope, especially in the context of rising conflicts, inequality, environmental degradation, public health deterioration and other deprivations faced by people across the world. There is increasing acknowledgement that such initiatives, in addition to instilling hope in the Youth, help hone their capacities for civic engagement thereby becoming active citizens. This also presents a great opportunity for the Youth to become active collaborators promoting the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations Agenda 2030, which are unequivocally adopted and supported by the Member States. The G20 is a powerful grouping to whom such appeals and efforts from the Youth can usher positive change in the world through global citizenship. Youth are effective ‘Agents of Change’, and should become increasingly aware of the powerful agency they are endowed with for bringing positive change, through non-violent and peaceful means.

Building on the Legacy – IP20YS, Kochi

Building on the legacy of the IP20YS in Bali, a similar summit is planned to be held in Kochi, India a month prior to the official meeting of G20 Leaders in India, September 2023. The International Peace20 Youth Summit will be a Civil Society initiative for, of and by the Youth to promote peace and sustainable development, locally and globally, and call on the G20 Leaders to advance peace, end conflicts and promote sustainable development. The summit would serve as a platform for the Youth to express solidarity with millions of people suffering, due to conflicts and climate change.

Like in Bali, the Peace Pledge will be continued as a commitment and vision of the Youth for peaceful and harmonious co-existence between all living beings. The Summit is planned to be held on the 11th and 12th

August 2023, coinciding with the International Youth Day, at the Multi-purpose Auditorium, RSET, Rajagiri Valley, Kochi, Kerala. Additionally, youth from outside Kochi and India, can participate in the Summit through online mode.

Supporting India's G20 Presidency and Theme

The IP20YS Kochi supports India's G20 Presidency and theme - "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or "One Earth · One Family · One Future" - drawn from the ancient Sanskrit text of the Maha Upanishad. Essentially, the theme affirms the value of all life – human, animal, plant, and microorganisms – and their interconnectedness on the planet Earth and in the wider universe. The theme also spotlights LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), with its associated, environmentally sustainable and responsible choices, both at the level of individual lifestyles as well as national development, leading to globally transformative actions resulting in a cleaner, greener and bluer future¹. The IP20YS seeks to support and amplify this theme through the Summit.

Supporting UN Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations views Youth as an integral means and end of the global agenda on Sustainable Development. The following statement from the UN Youth Strategy encapsulates this succinctly:

Young people's empowerment, development and engagement is an end in itself, as well as a means to build a better world. The UN recognizes it cannot achieve its mission without partnering with young people and ensuring they are not only heard but understood, not only engaged but empowered, and not only supporting but leading global efforts and processes. Young people need to be full-fledged partners in the United Nations work to build a better world for all, as they are both beneficiaries and partners².

Though Goal 16 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals directly promotes Peace and Justice, every other goal is inextricably linked to long term peace, as they intersect with education, health, gender equality, decent work and good living environment, all having direct implications for the young and future generations. The IP20YS parallels the letter and spirit of Goal 17: Partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals, as the Summit would be a convening platform wherein various partners from civil society, educational institutions, students and representatives from the Government and United Nations gather to interact, inform and learn from each other to better integrate their work on Peace and Sustainable Development with participation of the Youth.

IP20YS - Merging the Global and Local Discourse on Sustainable Development

¹ <https://www.g20.org/en/g20-india-2023/logo-theme/>

² United Nations Youth Strategy, pg. 6, web access:

https://www.unyouth2030.com/files/ugd/b1d674_9f63445fc59a41b6bb50cbd4f800922b.pdf

The United Nations has set the global meta discourse on Sustainable Development, also through the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. To implement this and achieve localization of SDGs, wide stakeholder engagement is essential, especially at the local level. In this context, the IP20YS would be an effective platform for representatives from the United Nations to present their views and in turn listen to experiences and initiatives from the ground in implementing Sustainable Development Goals. The Program Schedule of the Summit has been curated with this objective in mind – to link the global and local discourse on Peace and Sustainable Development, which would give a fillip to advancing sustainability consciousness globally, while rooted in local realities. This will also feed into the roadmap for continuing the peace process by working with the Youth even after the conduct of the Summit, through various activities, including by being a channel partner between international organizations such as the UN and local organizations/educational institutions working with the Youth, especially through the UN Youth Office and UN Academic Impact program.

Peace Pledge

The signing of the Peace pledge will promote a commitment and culture of Peace amongst the youth having multiplier effects for world peace. The pledge can be taken online by the global youth by clicking on this link <https://www.peacegate.in/ip20ys-pledge>. The signatures will be collated and handed over to the G20 Leaders through Honorable Prime Minister of India and to the UN Secretary General. The contents of the Peace Pledge are as follows:

PEACE PLEDGE

We, the participants in the International Peace20 Youth Summit 2023, together with the Visions of Peace Initiative, make the following pledge, to declare our commitment to promote civility, peaceful co-existence and harmony in the society.

1. We understand that even though there are many different ethnicities, languages, customs and beliefs in the world, we are all members of the one human race and as such our differences are a core aspect of humankind.
2. We understand that whatever be our differences and whatever conflicts we face, we could resolve it amicably and we will empower ourselves to resolve such disputes in a consensual manner, preserving the relationship among people and peace in the community.
3. We understand that Peace will co-exist only with sustainable development, environment harmony, individual liberty and compassion towards all species. We, humans, share our planet earth with plants and animals and we have no right to infringe on the livelihood of any other species and understanding of nature obliges us to maintain the integrity of the environment, so that it can contribute to a healthy planet.
4. Therefore, we promise that, should any strife or dispute arise in our life, we will try to manage it amicably and peacefully by negotiation or mediation as the first step to resolve such issue and we understand that such a culture could lay the foundation to a long term process of positive social transition by making the society just, equal and fair and will instill a commitment to peace and faith in humanity and nature.
5. We sign this Pledge in commemoration of the International Peace20 Youth Summit to be held on 11-12 August 2023 at Kochi, India..

* For the purpose of signing Peace20 Youth Pledge, Youth is defined as a person between the age group 18 to 31 years.

ACCEPT

For further details contact:

IP20YS SECRETARIAT

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