

- **S**tudent today

---

- **A**nd

- **L**eaders

- **T**omorrow



## Recommendations for Increased Youth Engagement in Development

---

### *The Recommendations of the Youth Dialogues*

Asha-Gaye Cowell

2017-2018 UWI STAT President





SALT



- 
- Sounds Familiar?

*'Salt is born of the purest parents:  
the sun and the sea'*

*Pythagoras*

- **S**tudent today - *Education*

---

- **A**nd - *Collaboration*
- **L**eaders – *Governance*
- **T**omorrow – *Sustainability*

# *Improving knowledge sharing, partnership, cooperation and coordination*

---

- Support the maintenance and utilisation of a comprehensive youth-friendly Web platform such as those created by the Caribbean Regional Youth Council (CRYC) and the ECLAC Youth Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean (JUVELAC) An “AND” component
- Encourage the establishment of a digitalised registry of all youth organisations in each country



## *Awareness raising on youth and youth involvement in sustainable development frameworks*

---

- Conduct a desk review of good practices in the subregion in the promotion of young persons in sustainable development
- Promote awareness-raising campaigns in order to change attitudes towards youth, including the concept of positive youth development, as well as to foster intergenerational dialogues and interactions, social inclusion and cohesion, with particular focus on youth at risk in urban, rural and remote areas.
- Promote the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals at the national level, with a youth perspective, including in schools and university curricula,

## *Including Cross-cutting issues in youth and sustainable development frameworks*

---

- Promote inclusiveness and participatory approach in all phases of the development and implementation of youth policies and programmes, which will facilitate the buy-in and leave no-one behind,



# *Mainstreaming Youth in development policies and related frameworks*

---

- Promote youth mainstreaming in any national and subnational development framework, including policies, programmes, poverty eradication strategies, budgets, among others.

## *Strengthening youth institutional frameworks and networks*

---

- Promote the strengthening and establishment of sustainable national youth councils, by identifying solutions to the challenges that prevent performance: making national youth council's acts of parliament, and making the National Youth Councils an umbrella organisation of all youth organisations in the country.
- Improve coordination and identify synergies among the different youth organisations and networks at the national and subregional level, to have an increased impact at the government and community levels and avoid competing for the same limited government recourses



## *Establishing implementation and follow-up mechanisms of youth policies and programmes*

---

- Develop a funding strategy for youth development in the subregion, considering the specificities and needs of each country.
- Emphasize the importance of establishing indicators in the implementation plan of national youth policies, and identification of departments in charge of monitoring the implementation.

## *Reforming Education and lifelong learning systems*

---

- Promote non-traditional education and training programmes, including personal development skills, such as public speaking, entrepreneurial training in the school curriculum, vocational training and career guidance by well-trained and coach experts to assess student's competencies; and more technical vocational schools.



## *Transforming Youth Employment, including through Market-Driven Skills and Entrepreneurship*

---

- Increase youth employment opportunities and entrepreneurship trainings by developing youth employment strategies/policies that would match the skills gaps needed in the private sector, with particular focus on the green, blue and creative industries and be included in high school and university curriculum where possible.

## *Promoting meaningful Youth Participation, Mobilization, and Empowerment*

---

- Promote the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals at the national level, with a youth perspective, through multiple trainings and then campaigns
- Promote the participation of young persons in subregional, regional and international forums, including in the preparation of reporting mechanisms



## *Adopting a holistic approach to youth health care*

---

- Adopt or effectively implement comprehensive up-to-date sexual education with a focus on HIV/AIDS and other STIs, and reproductive health and family life planning, with the objective of reducing teenage pregnancy, that addresses the specific needs of girls, boys and adolescents. Adequate trained staff should be introduced in both primary and secondary schools to teach the necessary content and best practices.
- Promote or expand psycho-social support for students who were subject to crime, violence, and abuse, as well as those impacted by disaster-related situations in the subregion.

## *Addressing multidimensional poverty, violence and crime*

---

- Create content and the ICT based applications that connect youth and promote citizen security, safe cities and alert others when violence occurs, following existing applications and platforms, such as U-Report which can be integrated into the juvenile justice system with the aim of reducing recidivism



# *Fostering intergenerational relations and dialogues*

---

- Promote or expand the involvement of young persons in the care of older persons, especially those in institutionalised care and in need of home-care services, and further develop and include gerontology, geriatrics, and palliative care in curricula at all levels, and in nursing and caregivers training programmes, while encouraging young males to consider careers in the caring professions. Similarly, encourage parents to allow grandparents to take care of younger children, by raising awareness on the benefits of intergenerational interactions.

# *Building climate resilient young generations*

---

- Promote the inclusion and promotion of youth in the creation, implementation, and decision-making processes aimed at combating climate change; risk assessments, preparedness, prevention, response, reconstruction processes after disaster-related situations to foster their resilience.
- Encourage the involvement of youth in the promotion of alternative energy, sustainable agriculture, and eco-friendly practices, through training programmes, and awareness-raising campaigns engaging them to shape change on environmental sustainability.



Thank you!

---

- Asha-Gaye Cowell
- Recommendations coming from the Youth Dialogues



**Always have a  
unique character like  
salt.  
It's presence is not  
felt but it's absence  
makes all things  
tasteless.**