



SUMMIT MANIFESTO



"Do not say, 'I am too young,' for you must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to rescue you," declares the Lord.
Jeremiah 1:7-8





YOUTH PRESENT, **CONSCIOUS FUTURES!**

We, young people from Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Kenya, come from diverse territories but share the same calling: the urgency to transform our realities. We are part of a generation that does not settle for what exists, because what exists hurts, excludes, pollutes, and kills.

We live in contexts of deep social inequality, accelerated climate crisis, structural violence, education systems disconnected from our realities, and economic models that reproduce poverty while benefiting only a few. But we also live in places full of hope, creativity, community, and resistance.

This manifesto is our collective voice. We do not want to be listened to out of courtesy, but because our voices bring solutions. With our hearts in the territory, our minds in the present, and our feet in action for a dignified future, we present our agendas for change:

YOUTH AND CLIMATE ACTION



“We do not inherit the earth from our parents; we borrow it from future generations.”

We face a real climate emergency, not a future one. Forest fires, droughts, biodiversity loss, plastic pollution, lack of awareness, and soil degradation are not empty statistics — they are our daily experiences.

The data is clear:

- In Latin America, 17% of forest area has been lost in the last three decades (FAO, 2022).
- Africa loses around 4 million hectares of forest every year (UNEP, 2023).
- 75% of Latin America’s population already feels the effects of climate change today, and 74% see it as a serious problem.
- Among young people in the Global South, 70% are “very or extremely worried” about the climate crisis; in Brazil, 77% (UNICEF–Lancet, 2021).

Latin America and Africa share a history where nature has been exploited in the name of “development,” leaving our communities more exposed to crises and inequalities. As young people, we firmly say: we will not accept sacrificing our territories to sustain a model that destroys life and the future.



What do we propose?



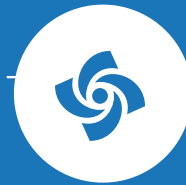
Start



Environmental education in schools and vulnerable communities, with a territorial and intercultural focus.



Community projects for rainwater harvesting, creative recycling, and waste management through a circular economy.



Local public policies that ensure access to water, restrict single-use plastics, and promote clean energy.



Youth climate watchdogs to monitor compliance with national and international commitments.



Youth fairs and networks for ecological economies to highlight and strengthen sustainable ventures.

We don't want to be the generation that tried. We want to be the generation that achieved it.

YOUTH, EDUCATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND THE FUTURE



“Education must be the key that opens doors, not a cage that limits dreams and goals.”

Today, millions of young people face an education system that does not respond to our realities. We learn formulas but not how to transform our communities. We receive diplomas but still lack real job opportunities.

□ According to the ILO (2023):



- More than 73 million young people worldwide are unemployed.
- 1 in 5 neither studies nor works.
- UNESCO reports that 244 million children and youth are out of school.
- Over 160 million young people live in Latin America and the Caribbean; many of them in poverty or exclusion (ECLAC, 2022).



The economic future of our regions and the world cannot be built without young people — without our hands, our ideas, and our solutions.



What do we propose?



Start



Education reforms with youth representation that include critical thinking, digital skills, leadership, mental health, and rights.



Partnerships with universities and technical centers for practical and accessible training everywhere.



Youth employment and entrepreneurship centers with access to microcredits, legal advice, and digital economy tools.



Laws requiring the private sector to open real opportunities for vulnerable youth.



Hackathons and innovation labs to design solutions from our realities.

Talent exists in neighborhoods, rural communities, and indigenous peoples. It only needs recognition, funding, and space to grow.

YOUTH AND PEACEBUILDING



“Where others see
conflict, we sow
community.”

Peace is not just the absence of weapons; it means guaranteeing rights, dignity, restorative justice, and recognition of our histories. Yet Latin America has the highest homicide rate in the world: 18 per 100,000 inhabitants, three times the global average, with many cases linked to organized crime.

The evidence is clear:

- 1 in 3 women has suffered physical or sexual violence (UN Women, 2023).
- More than 85 million people with disabilities, many of them young, face exclusion in education and employment.
- 1 in 7 adolescents suffers from a mental disorder; depression and anxiety are the main causes, and suicide is among the top three causes of death for young people aged 15–29.

We are a generation marked by conflict, but also bearers of hope and healing. In our communities, violence is not only physical — it is structural, economic, racial, and historical. Building peace means transforming the roots of pain.



What do we propose?



Start



Circles of intergenerational and territorial dialogue as bridges of reconciliation.



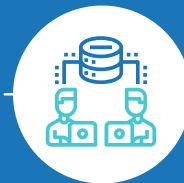
Funding for artistic, communication, and educational initiatives for collective healing.



Youth peace councils with real decision making power.



Making community mental health a right and a resilience strategy.

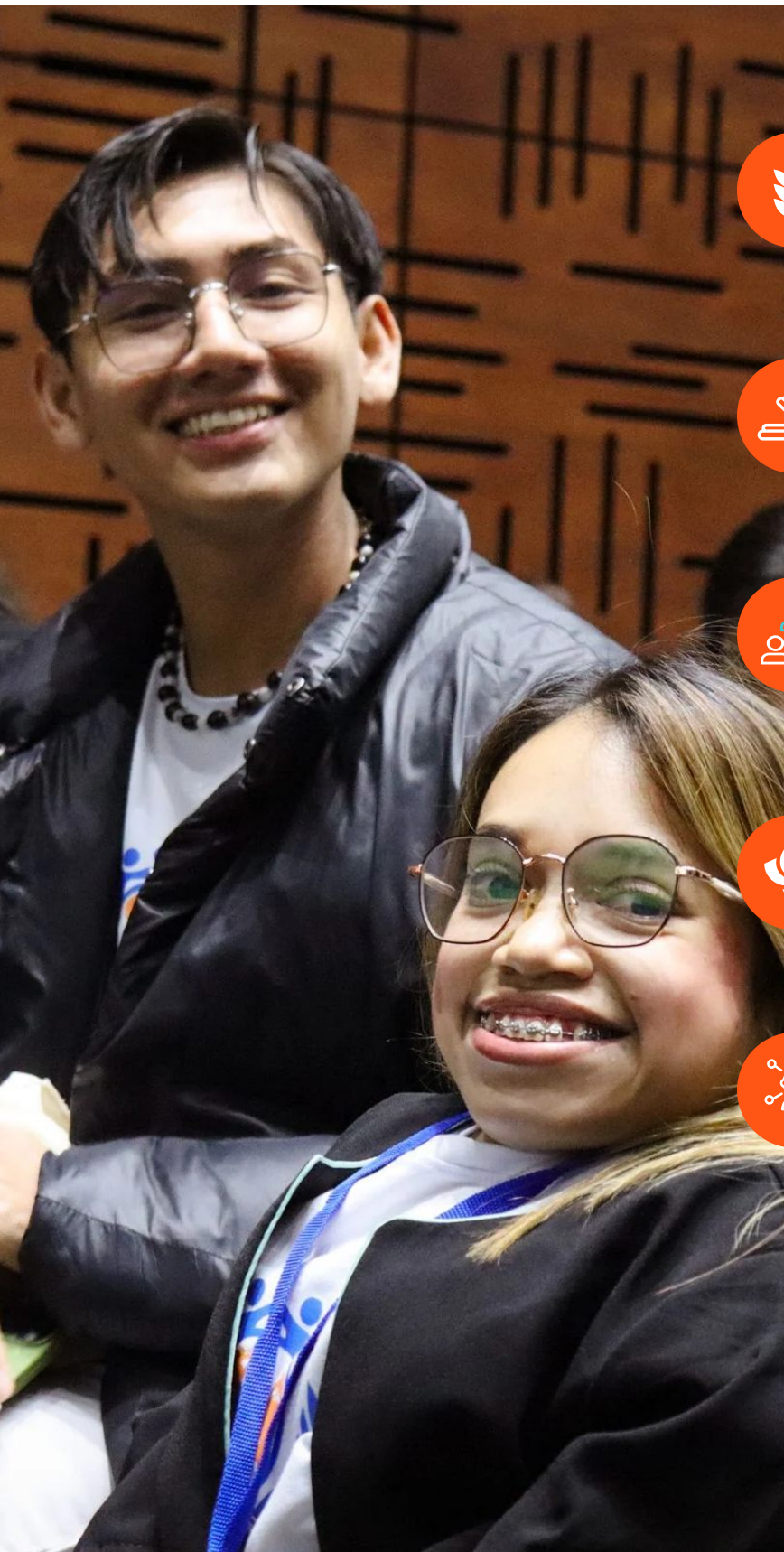


Integrating peace culture into school curricula, community spaces, and digital platforms.

Peace can also be painted, sung, danced, and told. Peace is also built through organized tenderness.

OUR COMMITMENT AS YOUTH

Young people are not only beneficiaries of policies; we are creators of solutions. We commit to:



Innovating from our territories, connecting ancestral knowledge with science and clean technology.



Influencing public policies and international agreements with real voice and vote.



Building transnational networks to share good practices and monitor environmental and social commitments.



Leading concrete actions: from planting thousands of trees to mobilizing entire communities.



Turning data and evidence into narratives that move both policies and hearts.

Our strength lies in organization, creativity, and the conviction that change is now and begins with us.



TO WHOM WE ADDRESS THIS MANIFESTO

- **To governments:** Do not legislate for youth without youth. We demand participation with real decision-making power, assigned resources, and respect for our autonomy.
- **To businesses and the private sector:** Stop seeing us as cheap labor or a “green trend.” We are strategic allies to build fairer and more sustainable economies.
- **To academia and knowledge centers:** Include our voices, ancestral knowledge, territorial experiences, and our own methodologies. There is no transformation without situated knowledge.
- **To civil society and cooperation organizations:** Walk with us, with intergenerational respect and without taking the spotlight. Real co-creation begins when privileges are set aside.
- **To all of society:** We need active, critical, supportive, and conscious citizens. We are not fighting alone or just for ourselves — we do this for all future generations.

This is not just a call; it is an invitation to build the future with concrete action, backed by data that shows our urgency and by a committed and creative youth movement. We are not asking for opportunities — we are creating them. We extend our hands to those who govern, manage, and lead development: it is time to act together.



OUR WORD IS THE PATH

This manifesto is just the beginning of a collective journey. In our hands, we carry the energy, creativity, and conviction to transform our realities.

We are a generation that not only dreams, but designs, builds, and cares. We walk with our feet on the ground but our eyes on a fair and sustainable future.

From the Andean mountains to the African savannah, from the Bolivian Chaco to the Caribbean coasts, we raise one voice:

YOUTH PRESENT, CONSCIOUS FUTURES!

LET HISTORY HEAR US, BECAUSE WE ARE ALREADY WRITING IT!

Referencias

- A los gobiernos: no legislen para las juventudes sin las juventudes. Exigimos participación con poder real de decisión, recursos asignados y respeto por nuestra autonomía.
- A las empresas y sectores privados: dejen de vernos como una fuerza laboral barata o una “moda verde”. Somos aliados estratégicos para construir nuevas economías más justas y sostenibles.
- A la academia y centros de conocimiento: incluyan nuestras voces, saberes ancestrales, experiencias de territorio y metodologías propias. No hay transformación sin conocimiento situado.
- A la sociedad civil organizada y organismos de cooperación: caminen con nosotras y nosotros, desde el respeto intergeneracional, sin protagonismos. La co-creación real comienza cuando se sueltan los privilegios.