

2018 Global Summit: Vision 2020 for Advancing Youth Leadership

We are some of the 1.8 billion young people between the ages of 15 – 35 in the world today—the largest generation of youth the world has ever known. We know first-hand the ways in which youth are affected by global political, social and economic developments and believe that positive youth engagement and leadership in civic and political processes is more important than ever.

Generation Democracy is a global coalition of more than 400 young people and organizations located in 75 countries around the world, united by the desire to give voice to the aspirations and needs of young people, and to ensure that the world's youth are better served by local, national, regional and international institutions.

We, as young leaders from 35 countries across the world, are dedicated to advancing the voices of youth in decision-making processes and recognize that there is a global deficit in vision and leadership. **Young people remain underrepresented in civic, political and economic processes, and we, Generation Democracy, intend to leverage the following opportunities to promote greater youth leadership by 2020:**

- Regional frameworks and institutions committed to supporting youth leadership and representation;
- Growing youth populations who are highly engaged on social media;
- Aging parliaments and legislatures, and outdated policies that limit political participation of youth;
- Emerging youth movements around the world tied to low public trust, calling for reforms to tackle corruption and improve economic conditions; and
- Increasing interest among young people to participate in civil society or launch social enterprises as a way to engender change.

In order to maximize these opportunities and reach our vision for youth leadership by 2020, we, the young leaders of Generation Democracy, as part of the #UnitingYouth campaign, commit ourselves to the following actions:

- **Raising** awareness and highlighting institutions and frameworks committed to advancing youth participation and leadership;
- **Harnessing** social media platforms and tools to organize young people and using technology to move an issue from protest to policy to action;
- **Advocating** for youth-friendly policies such as quotas in political parties, lowering the minimum age to run for office, and overcoming barriers to youth representation;
- **Developing** national and transnational networks, action plans or agendas to move issue from protest to policy to action; and
- **Establishing** mentorship opportunities for young leaders interested in advancing their civic, economic and political leadership, and identifying and honoring role models and businesses committed to advancing youth representation.

Positive change for a more effective, transparent, resilient and inclusive government begins with us. We will exchange best practices and replicate effective actions to confront the challenges we face. We are the generation to solve these challenges.

We are Generation Democracy!