



## 2017 Vienna Declaration

We are some of the 1.8 billion young people aged between 15 – 30 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 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 globe, are dedicated to advancing the voices of youth in civic and political processes and recognize that there are different challenges facing youth around the globe, including:**

- Rigid cultural and societal barriers that inhibit change and limit youth ability to progress;
- Disinformation and limited access to fact-based journalism which alters societal perceptions and actions in the political sphere, and more importantly, a lack of relevant content that addresses youth needs;
- Corruption across multiple levels of society, and particularly in the electoral process which fosters impunity, and encourages citizen distrust and apathy;
- Lack of youth inclusion especially in decision-making on issues that affect young people; and
- Lack of skills, capacity and opportunity to engage in politics which further excludes youth from decision-making processes.

To overcome these challenges, we, the young people of Generation Democracy, as part of the #NoVoteNoVoice campaign, pledge to:

- **Empower** youth to take action and build better communities;
- **Advocate** for responsive and inclusive policies which will give youth the opportunity to access and with relevant media content;
- **Demand** stronger, independent and transparent electoral and judicial institutions to tackle corruption;
- **Fight** for youth inclusion and provide fellow youth with the tools and spaces to make their voices heard on the issues and problems that affect young people; and
- **Provide** civic education and opportunities for youth to gain experience and skills in political, social and economic processes.

*Positive change for a greater quality of government starts with us. We are the generation to solve these challenges.*

*We are Generation Democracy!*