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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: Conclusions of the World Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth
2019 and Youth Forum "Lisboa +21" (Lisbon, 22 - 23 June 2019)
- Information from the Portuguese delegation

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Portuguese delegation on the above subject, which has been put on the agenda under 'Any other business' for the next Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting on 21-22 November 2019.

Information on the conclusions of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019 and Youth Forum, “Lisboa+21” – Lisbon, 22 and 23 June 2019

The World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019 and Youth Forum Lisboa+21 took place in Lisbon, from the 21st to the 23rd of June, with the participation of almost one hundred national delegations from all over the world and the presence of representatives of national and international organizations (both governmental and non-governmental), as observers, in a total of more than eight hundred attendances. The Conference and Forum were organized by the Portuguese Government and the Portuguese National Youth Council, with the endorsement of the United Nations Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, ILO (International Labour Organization), UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), UNICEF (United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund), UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) and UN DESA (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs).

Fifty-seven national delegations were present, with members of Government as heads of delegation (ministers, vice-ministers, secretaries of State). The UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, the President of the UN General Assembly, María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, and the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, Jayathma Wickramanayake, attended the event.

“Lisboa+21” was carried out with the participation of one hundred and five youth delegates and had the active collaboration of one-hundred volunteers, under a Volunteer Programme, promoted by the Portuguese National Youth Council in cooperation with the Portuguese Institute of Youth and Sports. Alongside the formal programme of the event, twenty-two side events took place, hosted by various promoters such as UN agencies, municipalities, Intergovernmental platforms, NGOs.

The Programme of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019 included two discussion sessions, with invited keynote speakers. The first one “From the commitments of 1998 to the current megatrends impacting Youth”, focused on what happened on Youth Policies and Programmes since the Lisbon Declaration of 1998, as well as on the current global megatrends and how they impact on youth. The second one “On the commitments to shape future Youth Policies and Programmes”, focused on the new and renewed commitments, 21 years after the Lisbon Declaration, in order to address current and future challenges impacting young people in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In the Youth Forum, the discussions addressed several cross-cutting issues: Youth Transitions, Skills, and Decent Work; Innovation and Digital Transformation; Population and Development; Human and Youth Rights; Governance and Participation; and Sustainable Development.

Together with the Ministers, Youth Representatives shared their considerations and exchanged views on what should be the priorities to improve Youth Policies and Programmes in the framework of the SDGs.

On June 23rd of 2019, the Lisboa+21 Declaration was adopted by acclamation as the main outcome of this global initiative, consisting of a set of 19 commitments based on cross-cutting topics that renewed the 1998 Lisbon Declaration’s commitments, in the framework of the 2030 Agenda, such as *Human rights of youth in all their diversity, No one left behind, Meaningful and effective youth participation, Young women and girls, Education and Empowerment, Sustainability: social, economic, environmental.*

The Lisboa+21 Declaration, which is the result of an intense work of consultation and negotiation with national delegations, reflects the fundamental goal of the initiatives that took place in Portugal, of producing and agreeing on a renewed policy document with an international impact on youth. It truly embodies a step forward on youth mainstreaming on policies and programmes and a path for the implementation of the SDGs.

Stress should now be placed on the importance of collectively making efforts and actively coordinate action for the realization of the 19 commitments that were established. This means a full engagement in the implementation of the Lisboa+21 Declaration, promoting initiatives that can contribute to the imperatives embodied in the Declaration and discussing concrete measures that place young people as actors in their lives and partners in sustainable development at all levels (from local to global), thus helping to shape the future and the wellbeing of younger generations.

Further information on Lisboa+21: <https://www.lisboa21.gov.pt/>
