

# YLP Declaration; Role of Arab Young Leaders .....

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## I. Introduction

The Youth Leadership Programme (YLP) is an initiative established in 2015 by the UNDP Regional Bureau of Arab States (RBAS) as part of its Mosharka project, aiming to support young Arab women and men in refining innovative solutions for sustainable development. YLP's mission is to invest in young women and men across the region, unleashing their potential to become social innovators and leaders in their communities, countries and region at large <sup>1</sup>.

YLP 1 was launched in 2015, bringing together around 40 inspiring young men and women from 18 countries in the Arab region. YLP2 supported 70 young men and women from across the region in addressing sustainable development challenges in four prioritized thematic areas: Gender Equality, Good Governance, Social Cohesion, and Economic Empowerment. Building on the lessons learned and momentum gained during the first two years of the programme, YLP 3 was developed. Young men and women from across the region have gathered to explore innovative approaches to addressing sustainable development challenges, strengthen their leadership skills, nurture their creativity and help them realize their ideas to improve their communities; local, national or global with a specific focus on gender equality and women empowerment.

We, as YLP fellows, united by a vision of sustainable development of our communities have developed this Declaration to serve as a reflection of our vision, principles and commitments to fellow youth, communities, governments, and international bodies. To express our identity as leaders, articulate a path of action and unite the growing YLP community in achievement of our vision. To reflect our responsibility to co-create our future, engaging all youth in the Arab world to join us along this journey.

## **II. Vision:**

### **1. Who are we?**

We as YLP fellows, identify ourselves as a network of young leaders, innovators and change makers responsible for advocating and working towards achieving resilient, equal, sustainable and peaceful communities.

### **2. What makes us special?**

We as YLP fellows, pride in the diversity of our regional network that not only connects youth in the Arab World, but inspires and emboldens us to feel capable of defeating all obstacles and implementing change.

We recognize ourselves as a Capacity Bank of young leaders, open to all Arab youth, symbolizing an investment for the future of the Arab world.

### **3. What we have to offer?**

As a regional network, with diverse experience and knowledge, we offer innovative solutions to sustainable development challenges, provide platforms, resources, and access to international expertise, opportunities, and networks, all critical for us to realize our own future.

### **4. What we want to be/see?**

We as YLP fellows, aim to play a significant role, through implementing impactful projects, and advocating for gender equality and women empowerment in the achievement of the sustainable development goals. We want to inspire.

#### 4. Principles:

1. As we represent different cultures and backgrounds, we celebrate our diversity, and we think and act as global citizens.
2. We demonstrate respect, integrity and transparency in every interaction we have, and we show consideration for others.
3. Equality is central to the ethos of our network. We challenge prejudice, we strive for fairness and equal distribution of opportunities, regardless of their gender, race, religion, geographical location or language to ensure we leave no one behind.
4. \* We exercise empowerment of women, and men through our solutions in order to actualize gender equality in our communities
5. We promote peace, justice and transparency through our solutions to build and maintain peaceful and inclusive communities.
6. We are committed to effective leadership, guided by our passion and determination to achieve SDGs through human-centered solutions.

#### 5. Call for Action:

We as YLP fellows call for the **YLP Network** to:

1. Strengthen the existing network, exchanging expertise, sharing experiences and technical skills to support YLP innovative projects through all available channels,
2. Share the updates, successes, failures and the impact of our innovative projects through all the available channels.
3. Connect the YLP network with other networks in the Arab region and potential collaborators for their projects.
4. Pledge to carry & reflect the YLP identity and principles wherever they go

We as YLP call for the **United Nations** to:

2. Support the mechanisms to reach and raise the youth voices
3. To give young men and women opportunities to break into and be part of the UN system
1. Hold peace, justice and equal opportunity for all individuals beyond barriers and borders

**We call for Youth in Arab World to:**

3. Challenge the status quo in the region by activating their role and take initiative to be the change they want to see.
4. Advocate to end racism, inequality and prejudice and make all efforts to unite as one and stand together.
5. Take practical actions toward reducing inequality between women and men, and Raise awareness about the importance of women empowerment and its positive impact on the community.

**We call for Civil Society to:**

1. Advocate for YLP declaration and principles.
2. Partner with YLP's initiatives and projects

**We call for Private Sector to:**

2. Collaborate and create smart partnerships with YLP's
3. Offer opportunities for young women and men for decent employment

**We call for our Governments to:**

1. Allow youth to voice their concerns
2. Allow youth participation in decision making and representation in all political processes
3. Put in place measures to Encourage and promote young entrepreneurs
4. Reduce inequalities among individuals and disabled communities and to ensure accessible infrastructure for all
5. Support the realization of YLP Declaration
6. Be more transparent and inclusive