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The UN Sustainable Development Goals (#14) and Youth Participation

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is an excellent initiative promoted by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in recent years. In the 21st-century human being is facing various global problems which require vast partnerships between governments, civil society, enterprises and youth representatives. Regardless of the fact that some countries do not experience a negative impact of such problems as poverty, food and water security, inequality and ethnic and gender discrimination, lack of education and economic resources, etc., the situation in various parts of the developing world remains critical owing to failure to deal with the problems stated above autonomously. Thus, the importance of global participation in solving global problems is undeniable.

Our rainwater, drinking water, weather, climate coastlines, much of our food, and even the oxygen in the air we breathe, are all ultimately provided and regulated by the sea. That is why concerning the core content of the SDG #14, the issue of conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources have to be stated on the agenda. The majority of the people does not realize the gravity of this problem unless they find a plastic bag inside fish that was bought yesterday on the local market, for instance.

The younger population, who is meant to live on this planet in the future decades, has responsibility and motivation in protecting the marine environment in order to sustain our planet livable in the future for themselves, for their children and grandchildren. Moreover, it is youth who will suffer from the problems of air and sea pollution in the future, therefore youth seems to be the social group which has to be concerned about. First of all, the participation of youth can have a positive effect on younger people all over the globe who are not engaged in international cooperation and development. Many people are interested in preserving the environment but tend to be passive and do not take part in activities aimed at expanding regional and international cooperation.

Indeed, in this regard, youth is considered to be the main player in supporting youth volunteer programs. Volunteering contributes to the development of communication skills, cooperation and the ability to work as part of the team. The skills listed above are crucial for addressing the urgent problems of our age. Likewise, the practice of youth dialogue meetings constitutes an important contribution to identifying people who are concerned about the challenges of the new world. The more youth participation-oriented programs we have, the easier it is to stimulate a proactive attitude among young people hence encourage them to search for solutions to the global problems.

When it comes to the youth it is doubtless to neglect the fact them to be an active member of the new information society. From this point of view, actively taking part in the media landscape, the youth can play a fundamental role in sharing the vision of the SDGs, so as to evoke greater interest and engagement by a broad range of countries.