



Intercontinental Youth Declaration 2024

Intercontinental Youth Forum,

17-19 February, 2024

Square of Statement Kathmandu Youth Declaration

The historic Intercontinental Youth Forum, held during the 16th edition of the World Social Forum, has created a pivotal moment where thousands of young people from across the globe convened in Kathmandu, from February 17–19, 2024. Together, we shared, learned, questioned, and laughed, yet remained resolute in our determination to challenge the status quo perpetuated by unequal power-relations, inequality, and neo-liberalism—a status quo that has silenced our dreams, undermined our present, and erased our histories.

Participating in all ten sessions of the Intercontinental Youth Forum and numerous parallel events, we, the young advocates and activist for justice, equity, and liberation, representing the collective voice of civil society worldwide, acknowledge the pervasive grip of inequality, neoliberal exploitation, and militarization on our communities. We stand unwavering in our commitment to dismantle these oppressive structures.

Throughout our deliberations, we have confronted a spectrum of injustices. Therefore, we demand, confront, and commit to:

1. **Standing against all forms of injustice** perpetuated by imperialistic, conservative, capitalist, and fundamentalist powers that hinder the creation of a just society for all. We stand with women, Dalits, Poor, Indigenous people, people of colour, LGBTQI+ communities, people with disabilities, and every oppressed community.
2. **Recognizing that capitalist patriarchy is the root cause** of discrimination interwoven into our everyday practices, socio-cultural-economic norms, religion, and politics. We honour all feminists who have tirelessly fought against all forms of oppression and call for an intersectional feminist lens in our practices, policies, and funding. Personal is still political. We recognize the vital role of men and boys as allies in the fight for gender equality and justice.
3. We urgently urge governments to address and **eliminate all forms of inequality**, discrimination, and untouchability, fostering an environment that upholds the principles of equality, justice, and human dignity for all.
4. **We demand public education and healthcare** liberated from deprivation, accessible to all without discrimination as commercialization in education and healthcare has restricted the basic right of people. We urgently call upon the governments of the world to prioritize and ensure inclusive, qualitative, and public education and health accessible to all.
5. **Advocating for increased investment in mental health** services and support for youth struggling with mental health challenges. We call upon the governments of the world to invest significantly in mental health initiatives, ensuring the well-being and mental resilience of individuals across all age groups.
6. Asserting that the digital space is our space to express ourselves, yet many of us are deprived to access and faced abuse and trafficking. We demand the protection of digital rights, data, privacy, and equitable access to safe online spaces for all. We urge governments worldwide to **safeguard the digital rights of young people**, working towards the elimination of the digital divide and support digital literacy.
7. We insist that governments prioritize the **creation of decent clean and just jobs** within their home countries, while simultaneously **safeguarding the right to mobility, safety and security of foreign labour migrants**. We reject exploitation and displacement, envisioning an economy founded on principles of social justice that prioritize human welfare over profit.

8. The living earth has been exploited with a narrow and ugly profit extraction philosophy of ceaseless economic growth on a limited planet. As shown by latest studies, six of the nine “Planetary Boundaries” have either been breached or on the brink of being broken. Natural resources are being exploited in global south by Northern government and corporates from the interest of few undermining many indigenous and marginalized groups and further disproportionate impacts that Profit- and growth-oriented systems of extraction, production, distribution and consumption driven and led by Global North. We resist the false solutions like Carbon offset projects & carbon markets, REDD+, geo engineering, critical transitional materials, Nature based Solutions, Big Dams, Climate Smart Agriculture, Carbon Capture & Storage CCS or CCUS, capitalist centralized mode of renewable projects and the false narratives of Net Zero Targets offered as solution to address the climate crisis. We demand real, people-led solutions that will protect the planet and communities — not false climate solutions that sacrifice frontline communities for the greed of few.

We further call for Rapid, Equitable and Just transition to 100 % Community owned renewable energy systems away from corporate-controlled fossil fuels and other harmful sources such as nuclear, mega-hydro, and biofuels to a clean, safe system that empowers people and communities and demand to address the root cause of the crisis and share about the people led real solutions from the ground up. We demand Climate finance as a reparation for adaptation and loss and damage and reject world bank and International financial institutions and private institutions role in climate finance.

9. We demand a restructuring of global power dynamics, emphasizing the equitable distribution of resources to foster social justice, economic equality, and sustainable development. We call upon governments to **guarantee land, food sovereignty, and housing rights** for all citizens, recognizing these as fundamental human rights essential for a dignified life.

10. **Calling for peace, disarmament, and the elimination of nuclear weapons** to secure a peaceful future. We demand bread over bombs, collaboration over colonialism, generosity over genocide. We demand the dismantling of nuclear weapons and a halt to the arms race, emphasizing the need for global disarmament and the pursuit of peaceful resolutions to international conflicts.

11. We stand with Palestine and strongly condemn the genocide from the Israel. We call for immediate global attention to the **ceasefire in Gaza, Palestine** and the release of hostages, urging leaders to prioritize peace and humanitarian efforts in conflict zones.
12. In **unity and solidarity**, we pledge to translate our discussions into tangible actions. We will mobilize our communities, challenge oppressive systems and advance the cause of social justice with unwavering determination. This declaration signifies our commitment to a world where dignity, equality, and solidarity are the supreme.

Another world is only possible if we partner, and work together for and with youth, for we believe that youth is not merely a demographic; it is a feeling, an emotion, a resistance, and a revolution.

We are Unstoppable and Another world is possible

On behalf of youths of the world

- 1) Naren Khatiwada, Convener, Intercontinental Youth Forum
- 2) Happymore Chibura, Zimbabwe
- 3) Phoenix Kenedy, USA
- 4) Kaniz Fatema Mousumi, Bangladesh
- 5) Satendra Kr. Satya, National Youth Equity Forum, India
- 6) Safina Maulida, Initiatives for International Dialogue, Indonesia
- 7) Lubharaj Neupane, ROYM
- 8) Muhammad Reza Sahib, KRuHA
- 9) Gita Chaudhary, Maryada Foundation
- 10) Irsad Ahmad Ansari, Nepalgunj
- 11) Dipak Soni, Grassroots Development Foundation
- 12) Sanjog Thakuri, Hami Dajubhai
- 13) Pawan Gautam, Youth Initiative
- 14) Prayash Adhikari, Digo Bikas Institute
- 15) Nirmal Kumar Upreti, Forum for Nation Building
- 16) Sunita Bisunkhi, Dalit Youth Alliance
- 17) Ganesh Dhimi, Youth Advocacy Nepal (YAN)
- 18) Sabitri BK, FEDO
- 19) Diwakar Upreti, Kayapapat
- 20) Sita BK, JMC
- 21) Om Thapaliya, HomeNet Nepal

- 22) Sadhana Guragai, YAV
- 23) Kundan Kumar Ram, CWS
- 24) Bidur Subedi, Human Rights Alliance
- 25) Abhishek Shrestha, Digo Bikas Institute
- 26) Omkar Subedi, Digo Bikas Institute