



Y20 2020 ESSAY

First of all, what does youth actually mean? For Oxford dictionary, a period between childhood and adult age. For Roman mythology, the allegorized form of *Juventus*, protector when abandoning childhood and start wearing the toga adult dress by the age of 12 (female) or 14 (male). Nowadays, the beliefs of this stage isn't guided by a goddess nor abruptly defined at a specific time in life, but by the progressive transition of ourselves as transcendent beings in our ecosystem. Despite being more in absolutes, youth population share is decreasing, from 55% of total population under 26 by 1970, to 41% expected by 2020 and 31% in 50 years, as an unbalanced result of an elder Europe with pensions sustainability at risk and undeveloped countries uncertain to fulfill the job demands for upcoming generations. So, why are efforts being made to listen an each time less representative age range? Because we believe that it is our duty to ensure the social, economic and climatic sustainability, regardless not being responsible for prior decisions.

As youths, we inherited generations that went out to the streets and shouted out the world the first paradigm detachment: we are not the future, but the present. We now know that we belong to our own transition, not child nor adults. We must maximize capabilities, and the fuel to make things different will be empowerment. It implies not

to create a hierarchical structure to place roles and labors, but to facilitate the decision-making process by being heard and mentored in order to bring the best outcome. Youth's insertion at social, economic and political dynamics can be no longer circumstantial; undervaluing youth's potential is to burry world's future with biases.

My proposal for empowering youth is "Y-not?". This is a 3 step Project with global scalability to harvest the best ideas and share them all around the world. These are:

- Step 1: Targeted for students at High School. Every 2 weeks, each classroom will receive an actual problem form anywhere in the world. After brainstorming the solution, the best idea will be selected and enriched in a 30 seconds video, later to be contrasted with others' and repeat the selection round in a local, state, country and regional level, where the trained professor –in a coach role- will guide students at every step and share all students the progress and thoughts. At the end, regional videos will be seen at every classroom and students will discuss about them and enforce the value of thinking different, thinking globally.
- Step 2: Focused on undergraduates. Each university will appoint an individual to define, in a quarterly basis, a local problem to be solved and manage workgroups with diverse faculties to define a solution roadmap. The project will be digitally uploaded and engaged with similar cases –via neural networks- to discuss best practices and share ideas, allowing students to manage projects cross-functionally and cross-borders. Implementation process will count as social service and entities –either public or private- could hire them on mentorship training.

- Step 3: Graduates will be able to submit ideas to promote social, environmental and economic sustainability on any business vertical, where enterprises can revise them on a repository and “crowdfund” them having fiscal benefits and a recognition for supporting youth entrepreneurship. Each sector will have representatives in a state and national level to build councils that will interact with private and public groups to share ideas and globally connect with world’s representatives. Y20 and G20 will ensure that ideas, once top leveled, go back to postgraduates in a simple and seamless way to be constantly pushed by a global way of thinking.

I am convinced that my participation on Y20 will bring back value to the investment made on me and enforced leadership will prevail even when agenda is met. I will provide a statistical long-term vision combined with a philosophical approach for an actual foreseeing of the local and international landscape, pursuing not only to the macroeconomic growth but for also a development that minimizes the variance of the economic sustainability for the globe. I will collaborate with my Y20’s pairs to stablish a strong strategy for empowering youth to take the best of humankind’s past acknowledgment and actual innovative mindset for addressing local and global affairs. It is not only our possibility, but also our duty to promote a profound footprint for upcoming generations to continue the goals that we aim today.

We received this world indeed with liabilities created not by us, but let’s try to give Earth a surplus, let’s try to transcend and sustain this place, let’s learn the basis from the most experienced generations to build a constantly moving identity as global citizens, and –if you decide so- let’s represent Mexico in Y20 2020 at Arabia Saudi to demonstrate that youth is the future, is the now, and we’ll figure how.

Resources:

Youth. In *Oxford Dictionary*. Retrieved from

<https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/youth>

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