global summary of young americas forum

Promoting Youth Participation
Promoviendo la participación juvenil

+23 000
Youth Involved
Jóvenes Involucrados

On site Dialogues
Diálogos Presenciales

Virtual Community
Comunidad Virtual

Virtual Consultation
Consulta Virtual

V Young Americas Forum 2018

92
Youth-led National Dialogues - Diálogos nacionales dirigidos por jóvenes

2,200
Participants - Participantes

4
Virtual Hemispheric Dialogues - Diálogos Hemisfericos Virtuales

975
Inputs through virtual consultation - Aportaciones a través de la consulta virtual
The Young Americas Business Trust (YABT) is a non-governmental organization working in cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Organization of the American States (OAS) to promote social and economic development amongst young people around the world. This allows YABT to support the OAS mission and the Summits of the Americas mandates through entrepreneurship and participation of young people in the Americas, as means to overcome poverty, articulate initiatives and create economic opportunities for our youth.

Young Americas Forum was developed for the first time in 2005, providing an official space for youth, who in the framework of the Civil Society Dialogue made their contributions at the Summit of the Americas held in Mar del Plata, Argentina. Since that moment the Young Americas Business Trust has been in charge of coordinating the Forum, its dialogues and events within the framework of the General Assemblies of the Organization of the American States and the processes of the Summits of the Americas.

The Young Americas Forum is now the official platform for the participation of young people in the Summits of the Americas Processes, it provides with permanent, inclusive spaces for youth to contribute proactively in defining priorities and mandates for the region.

At each in-person event, held every three years, as part of the official Summits Agenda, a Youth declaration of commitment is adopted directly responding to the mandates of each Summit. This is how young people are able to make concrete proposals to governments, while at the same time setting their own agenda for action and follow-up to the agreements reached at the Forum.

From each statement, the youth themselves will take action and responsibilities to meet challenges of the region.
The First Young Americas Forum took place August 2005 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. It was attended by 300 young people who contributed to the central theme of the IV Summit of the Americas “Creating Jobs to Confront Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance.”

There, the real articulation between young people from schools, universities, NGOs, entrepreneurs, civil society actors and the private sector began to take shape. As a result of joint efforts among youth and local and international partners. More than 8,000 participants sent contributions to conform an “Action Plan” focused on decent youth employment.

This was the first opportunity for young people to present their recommendations, opinions and actions to the Heads of State and Government of the Hemisphere. This gives rise to a new platform that allows young people to take up the challenge of being promote change agents.
The Second Young Americas Forum was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. They were convened under the themes of youth, entrepreneurship, innovation, migration, and business opportunities for young people in environmental issues and development of alternative energies, as well as the promotion of technologies that could connect to the Americas. The Forum promoted a platform for participation through a series of online and live consultations: 400 young people discussed and adopted the “Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain,” which was presented at the Dialogue of Ministers of Foreign Affairs with Social Actors of the VII Summit of the Americas.

The forum was preceded and resulted from a process of participation that lasted more than eight months and included an online consultation and four sub-regional dialogues in Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic. Through these activities, an estimate of 1200 of young people from different social backgrounds in the region contributed their opinions and commitments to the Summits of the Americas process and presented the youth perspective in relation to the priority themes of the Fifth Summit: Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability.
COLOMBIA
Cartagena

2012

The III Young Americas Forum held in 2012 in the city of Cartagena, Colombia; establishing young people as “Partners for Prosperity”

More and more tools for participation are starting to be incorporated, like virtual consultations and face-to-face dialogues take place in the different countries with the participation of more than 3,500 young people. The Young Americas Business Trust identifies that this is possible through local partners, youth networks, NGOs, universities, incubators, chambers of commerce and others.

300 Young People attended the III Young Americas Forum to discuss and adopt the Youth Declaration of Commitment of Cartagena and its Plan of Action which has resulted in three major commitments: 1. Generate a Youth Network of the Americas and strengthen the work of existing networks and youth organizations at local, national and regional level; 2. To create a Youth Observatory for Monitoring and Control of the proposals and agreements of the Summit, through which the youth of the Americas, their networks and their organizations are vigilantes of the tasks of governments and, if appropriate to propose contributions and improvements (effective action depends on accurate diagnosis and measurement); And 3. Organize the youth and participate in the process towards the VII Summit of the Americas, carrying out the IV Forum of Young of the Americas to continue initiatives and projects in progress, promoting them and generating added values through a collaboration network.

The first Youth Conference of the OAS under the topic “Youth in Action: For Democracy and Entrepreneurship,” took place in December 2012 in Washington D.C. An initiative led by the Office of the Assistant Secretary General of the OAS and YABT. The conference held a second and third edition in 2013 and 2014 respectively, generating high-level discussions and follow-up on youth mandates. In this sense, the mandate of the 38th OAS General Assembly in Medellín, Colombia, in 2008, where Member States entrusted the General Secretariat of the OAS to “incorporate the perspective of young people in Programs and activities of the OAS, in particular those that focus on the promotion of democratic principles and values.”
The IV Young Americas, an official event of the VII Summit of the Americas, focused on the theme “Prosperity with Equity: The Challenge of Cooperation in the Americas.” YABT, partner organization and youth networks, worked with an estimated of 2,550 young people between the ages of 18 and 30, during the preparatory process of the Forum to provide inputs for the “Youth Declaration of Panama 2015”, both via virtual consultation and 39 National Dialogues.

More than 350 young people from different sectors and organizations attended the Young Americas Forum in Panama. It should be noted that the Youth Network of the Americas, the Ibero-American Youth Network, the International Youth Organization for Iberoamerica, the Latin American Youth for Democracy Network, Club “Botánico Ambiental”, Association Vale Emprender Association, and others partnered with YABT in this effort.

Among the participation components of the IV Forum, it is worth highlighting: 1) Face-to-face Dialogues: Regional, National and Local Dialogues led by young people will be developed in the different OAS Member States. 2) Virtual Community: Space of interaction where the social actors who debated and presented projects, recommendations and actions for the VII Summit of the Americas. 3) Virtual Consultation: Served as a channel to receive suggestions, proposals and concerns that will be taken into account for the development of the next Declaration of Commitment of the Youth of the Americas.

The IV Forum also had an implementation component, through which young entrepreneurs contribute innovative solutions and actions to the sub-themes of the VII Summit, the Talent and Innovation Competition of the Americas “TIC Americas 2015,” an international platform of entrepreneurship and accelerator of start-ups.

The Young Americas Forum in Panama was the first official event within the framework of the Summit of the Americas that welcomed the attendance of 60 young Cuban citizens, marking a historic milestone for the Americas. For the first time, Luis Almagro, Secretary General of OAS participated at a Young Americas Forum reaffirming the commitment and vision of the organization with the youth, at a time when young people are marking the productive and social transformation in the Americas.
Youth and Sustainable Development

Sustainable Development was another of the topics that recently achieved a “Declaration of Young Americans United for Sustainable Development” that was presented at the Dialogue with Civil Society in the framework of the Meeting of High Authorities of Sustainable Development developed in Tela, Honduras. This is another example of the follow-up to the proposals put forward by young people in April, in this case, to the Working Group on Environment.

PERU
Lima

2018

Participation Process

On site Dialogues
Regional, National and Local Dialogues led by young people will be developed in different member states of the OAS.

Virtual community
Interactive platform for young people to post and upload project, actions and other initiatives that respond to previous Youth Declarations of Commitment.

Virtual consultation
Open consultation to receive suggestions, proposals and concerns that will be taken into account for the development of the next Youth Declaration of Commitment of the

As of February 28th, 2018 the V Young Americas Forum accounts:
Youth-led National Dialogues: 92
Participants: 2,200 – (reports are still being received)
Virtual Hemispheric Dialogues: 4
Inputs through virtual consultation: 975

Connection with Ministerial and other Hemispheric Events in the Inter-American Agenda

Youth and Sustainable Development
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Youth and Social Inclusion

From this IV Forum emerges the need to work on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the different areas of the Organization of American States. That is why, accompanying a proposal that emerged in Panama, a project for social inclusion for persons with disabilities “Accessible OAS” was presented to the new Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity of the OAS. In this way YABT accompanies the youth in their concern to guarantee access to information and contents in the OAS for people with disabilities.

Youth and Indigenous Groups

Another important aspect of the Forum was that, for the first time in the framework of the Summit of the Americas, the young members of indigenous peoples had a space and made their voices heard. They drafted a “Declaration of the Indigenous Youth” which was presented to the presidents of the Member States. This was a historic Forum, where voice was given to those who had no voice.

General Assembly of the OAS

Another event where youth is represented every year is the General Assembly of the Organization of American States. It is a goal of YABT to include young people in the OAS process as drivers of change. In Washington DC and later in Santo Domingo, the youth made their recommendations regarding the pillars of the OAS and were listened to by the highest authorities of the Organization and the heads of Delegation, so that their word reaches every corner of the hemisphere. Prior to the Assemblies, YABT develops virtual dialogues and virtual surveys that involve hundreds of young people from all over the hemisphere making their contributions to the OAS.

Annual Meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund

Another historic milestone was the World Bank and IMF Annual Meetings held in Peru in 2015, which, after more than 50 years, were held outside of Washington D.C. Jim Kim, President of the World Bank, was the keynote speaker at the event that convened more than 500 people to talk about youth and entrepreneurship in the Peruvian capital. “Young entrepreneurs: drivers of sustainable growth” was the title of the activity that took as a prelude 4 months of interaction with the youth of 43 countries to know and be able to replicate their success stories in Lima. There the Young Americas Business Trust coordinated the development of a report that shows how young people have become drivers of innovation, economic growth, and positive impact on their societies. The same came from the contribution made by thousands of young people who participated in the different channels that YABT made available during the months prior to the meeting in Lima: 3 global dialogues, in English, French and Spanish, 25 National dialogues covering 5 continents and more Of 1,000 responses to virtual queries.
Youth and migration
The Committee on Migration Issues of the OAS, provided a prominent place for Youth in the Forum “Migration and Development: Towards the implementation of the Agenda 2030”. The results of this dialogue as well as 27 hemispheric dialogues developed in partnership with the Ibero-American Youth Network, the Youth Network of the Americas and other local, national and regional initiatives were presented at the Dialogue of Social Actors with the Heads of Delegation to the General Assembly of the OAS.

Youth and Youth employment
In December 2016, the “Intersectoral Workshop on Youth Employment: an articulation between education and work” was held in Brasilia, bringing together authorities from the Ministries of Education and Labor and other key actors to analyze experiences and discuss youth employment strategies. There, a youth spokesperson had the opportunity to share the contributions of 24 national dialogues held during that year in follow-up to the Forum process. The meeting sought to recognize the changes that are taking place in the world of work and the demands imposed by the new technologies and the so-called ‘fourth industrial revolution’ in employment, education and training and YABT had the task of bringing the youth vision To that workshop.

Open dialogue with the Secretary General of the OAS
In May 2016, the young people had the opportunity for the first time to participate in an open dialogue with the Secretary General of the OAS. More than 500 young people from 26 countries from all over the continent participated in the celebration of the 4th anniversary of the formation of the “Youth Network of the Americas” in response to the “Action Plan” of the Young Americas Forum in Cartagena.

Annual United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum
In 2016 and 2017 the YABT played a central role in these Forums. In 2016, YABT Executive Director Valerie Lorena was a panelist at a plenary session on promoting alliances that involve youth in the implementation of Agenda 2030. In 2017, YABT CEO Luis Viguria was in charge Moderation and presentation of the results of the session on the challenges of youth in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Youth and Inequalities
It is worth noting the participation of YABT in the International Meeting on Policies for Youth and Inequalities in Latin America developed in Mexico in November 2016. This event defined an overview of the problem of social inequality in Latin America and its relationship with young people approaching Themes such as: Youth, public policies, social inequality and Development in Latin America among others.

Youth Network
In addition to facilitating a Dialogue with the Secretary General of the OAS, in 2016, YABT had the honor to support and be part of important youth-led summits; in Medellín the Youth Network of the Americas had its first International Meeting, and Bogota was the scenery of the First Summit of Entrepreneurship and Democracy, organized by the Ibero-American Youth Network. Five virtual follow-up meetings were also held for networks and partners at the local level.