

DECLARATION ON HEALTH AND EDUCATION

We are young people of diverse ethnic, religious, cultural, and economic backgrounds from all regions of the world. We affirm that each person has inherent dignity. This dignity is the foundation for all human rights and authentic development. We recognize that authentic development and poverty eradication cannot be achieved without health and education efforts grounded in the dignity of the human person.

Authentic development starts with the responsibility of the individual, and extends to the family, community, national and international levels. It addresses the fundamental needs of all people such as clean water, nutrition, sanitation, housing, security, employment, healthcare and education. Health and education in particular enable and empower people to contribute to development in their communities, nations, and the world.

We recognize the right of each person to the highest attainable standard of health. Health affects individuals' participation in the work and social spheres. Good health requires not only medical care, but also clean water, sanitation, good nutrition, psychological well being and the education necessary to comprehend medical advice and make informed decisions. Noting that maternal and reproductive health present a continuing challenge and particular concern in both developed and developing nations, efforts should be made to promote knowledge-based healthcare for all.

We recognize that vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities and conflict-affected populations are disproportionately affected by lack of access to healthcare and education. Therefore they deserve responses that meet their needs and enable them to participate fully in the life of society.

We acknowledge that the primary responsibility of education rests on the parents and it is the obligation of the State to support them in this role. Quality education must be available to all on an equal basis and should flow from an authentic understanding of the human person, and foster respect for self and others in solidarity.

Good health and quality education are essential for authentic development. They equip people with opportunities to thrive as individuals and as members of their communities. Health and education foster human creativity and ingenuity facilitating prosperity, equality and responsible management of natural resources.

We call upon individuals and the public and private sectors at the local, national, and international levels, to implement policies that respect the dignity of the person by ensuring health and education for all. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the human person must be at the center of development.