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Human rights bodies and mechanisms

Written statement* submitted by the European Youth Forum, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.


[17 March 2017]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Written statement on the Report of the Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law

The European Youth Forum welcomes the report from the first session of the Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, which focused on “widening the democratic space: the role of youth in public decision-making.” We strongly support the recommendations, many of which are much needed and long overdue, and we urge States to implement them, involving relevant stakeholders and youth organisations in particular.

Various recommendations put forward but not reflected in the report remain crucial to achieve truly meaningful youth participation. We stress the importance of developing mechanisms for permanent, structured youth participation in the work of the UN. Such mechanisms must involve youth-led organisations, particularly Regional Youth Platforms, as the democratic, legitimate and representative voices of young people.

Furthermore, involvement of youth in the Sustainable Development Goals must go beyond awareness-raising. Representative youth-led structures or youth organisations must be provided with the space, support and resources to participate in decision-making, policy-making, budgeting, implementation, follow-up and review for sustainable development at all levels.

Finally, bolder steps are necessary to improve young people’s access to rights, such as a mapping of the obstacles youth face and the gaps and strengths of the current human rights framework in addressing such obstacles, as well as the establishment of a special procedure of the Council on the human rights of young people.
