

JU UN

Strengthening Youth Participation
by Reducing Inequalities

Dialogue Conference Report



Gefördert durch die
Österreichische
Entwicklungs-
zusammenarbeit

The JUUN Dialogue Conference unfolded on November 8th and 9th, 2023, in Vienna, as a pivotal component of the "JUUN" project. This initiative, spearheaded by the Austrian National Youth Council in collaboration with the African Union Office of the Envoy on Youth and co-funded by the Austrian Development Agency, aims to address global inequalities and explore the dynamics of international cooperation with a specific focus on their implications for young people. Overall, the project activities should contribute to raising awareness of the need for, but also concrete measures for youth participation at the international level, reduction of inequalities and sustainable cooperation between young people from the Global South and Global North.

The two-day conference brought together a diverse cohort of 60 young participants hailing from various African Union countries, Austria, and neighbouring nations. The event served as a unique platform for dialogue, fostering a rich exchange of perspectives and experiences among the youth attendees. Central to the conference was the pinpointing of eight paramount thematic areas concerning global inequalities and international cooperation in their relevance for young people, followed by the formulation of proposals rooted in these identified areas. Another highlight of the conference was the engaging dialogue that transpired between these young individuals and influential figures, including political decision-makers, as well as diplomatic and foreign policy representatives.

The discussions at the JUUN Dialogue Conference transcended geographical boundaries, offering a nuanced exploration of the challenges and opportunities faced by young people in the context of global inequalities. This report encapsulates the key themes, insights, and outcomes of the conference, shedding light on the collaborative efforts undertaken to address these pressing issues. As a result, this compilation stands as a valuable resource for multipliers, providing a snapshot of the collective endeavours and perspectives that emerged from this impactful event.



Conference Participants



Around 70 young people from various countries of the African Union, Austria, and neighbouring nations participated in the JUUN Dialogue Conference. These participants, aged between 18 and 35, represented a diverse range of backgrounds.

Some had been actively engaged in the JUUN project since spring 2023 as members of the Youth Reference Committee, comprising 40 young individuals, with 25 residing in different African countries and 15 in Austria.

A special delegation, consisting of 17 members from the African segment of the Youth Reference Committee and the African Union Youth Envoy, visited Vienna for a study visit during the conference week and actively took part in the conference proceedings.

The conference also featured chairs and board members of the Austrian National Youth Council, representatives from Youth Council member organizations, and members of JUUN project partner organizations. The Austrian UN Youth Delegates also participated in the conference.

Furthermore, an open call in Austria allowed interested young people to apply for conference participation. The selection process for these applicants was deliberate, considering factors such as gender, origin, current occupation, and more to ensure a balanced and diverse representation.

In addition to the young participants, the conference saw the valuable participation of political decision-makers and diplomatic and foreign policy representatives, including Austrian members of parliament, representatives from the Austrian Foreign Ministry with a focus on human rights and development, representatives from the Austrian Development Agency, as well as delegates from the African Union Youth Envoy Office and embassies African countries. They actively engaged in a substantive dialogue with the young attendees during the second day of the conference.



What happened at the dialogue conference?

Conference Opening

The conference commenced with warm greetings from moderators Joanna Egger and Biftu Abdujelil, extending a heartfelt welcome to all participants. For the official inauguration, the floor was gracefully handed over to BJV Chairperson Rihab Toumi and African Union Youth Envoy Chido Cleopatra Mpemba, who delivered impactful opening statements. In their addresses, Rihab Toumi and Chido Cleopatra Mpemba



BJV Chairperson Rihab Toumi opening the JUUN dialogue conference © BJV / Kirill Lialin

underscored the imperative for global collaboration among young people and emphasized the importance of providing opportunities for youth to participate on a global scale as a means to combat inequalities.

“We stand together as representatives of our generation, united by a shared commitment to advocate for meaningful policy change.”

Rihab Toumi

The opening session further served as more than a ceremonial introduction; it was a strategic platform for setting expectations, offering insights into the conference program, unravelling the objectives and outcomes of the overarching project, and establishing a foundation for informal learning among participants. Through a diverse array of interactive methods, the session facilitated an engaging environment for participants to familiarize themselves with one another, creating a sense of connection essential for the collaborative endeavours that lay ahead.

Approaching the topics

During the introductory theme-focused session, the emphasis shifted towards more informal learning methods, fostering a dynamic exchange among participants. Engaging discussions revolved around key themes such as inequalities and the imperative of young people's participation in global-level political decision-making. The need for a meaningful dialogue between youth from the global north and south took centre stage.



Thematic Focus

The thematic focus session featured compelling presentations by participants Chimdi Neliaku and Miriam Egger, representing the global south and north, respectively. They delved into global inequalities affecting youth, emphasizing the collaborative efforts required across borders and regions to surmount these challenges. The presenters also shed light on vital aspects such as intersectionality, post-colonialism, and the responsibility that comes with youth advocacy.



Chimdi Neliaku and Miriam Egger presenting about global inequalities affecting youth © BJV / Kirill Lialin

An insightful thematic input on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a specific focus on SDG 10 and 17, was provided by Joanna Egger. Additionally, AU Youth Envoy Chido Cleopatra Mpemba delivered a presentation offering an African perspective, exploring the African Youth Charter and its connection to the African Agenda 2063 and to the SDGs. The interdependence of these frameworks underscored the necessity for global collaboration and visibility of African youth.

The session concluded with participants engaging in reflection, identifying the most significant insights and relevant messages that resonated with them. This reflective closure aimed to consolidate the learnings and set the stage for the subsequent phases of the conference.

Identifying the most pressing issues

An inspiration session served as a comprehensive overview, offering participants insights into the wealth of input already generated by a diverse group of young people involved in various project activities leading up to the conference.

This included outcomes from a young virtual south-north dialogue conducted among members of the Youth Reference Committee in early summer 2023. Additionally, results from JUUN workshops held with young people across Austria were showcased, providing a mosaic of perspectives.





Prototyping of proposals © BJV / Kirill Lialin

The session distilled the essence of consultations with young people, capturing their thoughts and ideas regarding global inequalities, international cooperation, and youth participation. The amalgamation of these varied inputs not only enriched the dialogue but also laid the foundation for a more inclusive and nuanced exploration of the overarching themes

during the conference. The inspiration session served as a testament to the diversity of voices contributing to the JUUN project and underscored the importance of incorporating a broad spectrum of perspectives in the discussions that followed.

Following the inspiration session, participants collaboratively identified eight focal topics, chosen for their prominence in existing results and their relevance based on participant experiences and insights. These themes, namely Political Participation, Economic Inequalities, Health, Climate Crisis, Education, Gender Equality, Decolonisation, and Human Rights, were selected to serve as focal points for in-depth exploration, connecting them to the overarching themes of global inequalities, international cooperation, and youth participation.

In-depth thematic exploration

Having identified the themes, participants delved deeper into the exploration of these topics through a world-café session, guided by three key questions:

- How are young people (under 35) affected by this issue?
- What can be done to reduce global inequalities in relation to this issue? (SDG 10)
- How can we succeed in establishing strong international partnerships on this topic? (SDG 17)

This structured approach allowed for a comprehensive examination of each theme, fostering discussions on the specific impacts on young people, strategies to address global inequalities related to each issue, and the means to forge robust international collaborations in alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 10 and 17.



The world café setting facilitated active participation from all attendees, ensuring that each participant contributed to various topics through multiple rounds. The insights gathered from these discussions served as the foundation for developing the recommendations.



By providing a platform for diverse perspectives and collaborative exploration, the world café sessions played a crucial role in generating the rich and varied input needed to inform the subsequent stages of recommendation development.

Participants engaging with chosen topics in a world café setting © BJV / Kirill Lialin



Participants presenting their group outcomes from the world café © BJV / Kirill Lialin

Proposal Lab

The Proposal Lab session was meticulously designed to harness the collective insights and creativity of participants, transforming discussions and ideas generated from the



world café into actionable proposals. The process began with a review of the Padlets from the previous day's world café outcomes, prompting participants to reflect on any overlooked aspects or additional insights they wished to incorporate.



Participants work on their individual proposals © BJV / Kirill Lialin

Following this reflection, participants engaged in individual work, identifying the most salient topic for them and formulating a personal proposal. This exercise encouraged attendees to distill their thoughts into concrete proposals, setting the stage for collaborative refinement. After crafting their individual proposals, participants engaged in peer discussions, sharing their ideas with neighbours to garner feedback and refine their concepts further.

Simultaneously, the organizing team distributed the world café outcomes, each topic represented on separate tables. Participants then had the opportunity to self-organize, gravitating towards tables corresponding to topics aligning with their proposals. This self-selection process facilitated the formation of groups unified by shared interests, setting the stage for collaborative proposal development.

Within these groups, participants collaborated to articulate comprehensive proposals, documenting their ideas directly on the table's paper surface. This hands-on approach fostered collective creativity and enabled groups to synthesize diverse perspectives into cohesive proposals. Following this initial drafting phase, groups presented their proposals to the plenary, receiving feedback in the form of "green" or "pink" responses, fostering a constructive and supportive environment for refinement.



Prototyping of proposals © BJV / Kirill Lialin





Prototyping of proposals © BJV / Kirill Lialin

Building upon the feedback received, groups revised their proposals, integrating insights and suggestions to enhance their concepts. An innovative aspect of this session involved the visualization of proposals using prototyping materials. This prototyping process facilitated a tangible representation of ideas, enhancing comprehension and fostering innovative thinking.

To culminate the session, groups showcased their revised proposals and visualizations, facilitating a gallery walk where participants could explore and engage with the diverse range of ideas presented. This dynamic and interactive process empowered participants to collaboratively generate, refine, and visualize proposals, harnessing collective expertise to address complex challenges and opportunities effectively.

Dialogue

To carry the results further, the conference also included a dialogue session featuring political decision-makers and diplomatic- and foreign policy representatives. Both the young participants as well as the dialogue partners were briefed for the dialogue beforehand.

Representatives of all political parties represented in the Austrian parliament and of all embassies representing countries whose citizens we had as young conference participants were invited to the conference by the Austrian National Youth council.

The dialogue session started with short presentations about the recommendations and proposals by the young conference participants.



Participants engage in a dialogue with decision-makers © BJV / Kirill Lialin

Subsequently, the participants convened around tables, fostering intimate dialogues where 6-8 young individuals collaborated with 1-2 dialogue partners from political and diplomatic spheres. This structured dialogue unfolded through two iterative rounds, each lasting 20 minutes, facilitating vibrant exchanges and diverse perspectives on pivotal issues.



Throughout these dialogues, dialogue-partners were prompted to envision actionable contributions, contemplating avenues to amplify youth voices, foster inclusivity, and fortify international collaboration between the Global North and South to address global inequalities.



A participant shares her impressions from the dialogue © BJV / Kirill Lialin

Concluding this enriching dialogue, dialogue-partners encapsulated their commitments on paper speech bubbles, symbolizing tangible pledges to advance shared objectives. The session culminated in reflective insights from both young participants and dialogue partners, encapsulating the dialogues' essence and charting pathways for future collaboration.



Dialogue closing remarks by Ms. Chido Cleopatra Mpemba, African Union Youth Envoy © BJV / Kirill Lialin

Closing remarks by African Union Youth Envoy Chido Cleopatra Mpemba emphasized the significance of youth engagement, dialogue, and partnership in driving positive change. The session culminated with an invitation to an informal exchange over coffee and cake, fostering community and reinforcing the collaborative spirit that permeated the dialogue, setting a precedent for continued engagement and action.





Group picture after the dialogue with young participants, political decision-makers, and diplomatic- and foreign policy representatives © BJV / Kirill Lialin

Closing & Reflection

The culminating session of the conference centred around reflection, consolidation, and forward planning. Key outcomes, insights, and recommendations stemming from the conference were succinctly summarized, providing participants with a comprehensive overview of the proceedings.

Participants were actively encouraged to introspect and articulate their personal commitments post-conference. They delineated actionable steps, highlighting where they intended to propagate the conference's recommendations and how they envisaged implementing them in their respective spheres. This reflective exercise not only underscored individual accountability but also fostered a collective commitment to effectuating change.

Participants were invited to share their individual reflections, emphasizing the key learnings, insights, and experiences they garnered from the conference. This sharing mechanism facilitated knowledge exchange, promoted empathy, and underscored the multifaceted impact of the conference on diverse stakeholders.

Furthermore, the session offered an insight on what is going to happen with the results of the conference, including the proposals, beyond the conference within the JUUN project.



The conference was officially closed by BJV-chairperson Rihab Toumi, highlighting the key takeaways of the conference.



FBJV chairperson Rihab Toumi and conference moderators Joanna Egger and Biftu Abdujelil closing the conference © BJV / Kirill Lialin

Other Methods

Beyond the methods already presented above, the conference harnessed a myriad of non-formal learning methods. These innovative approaches aimed at fostering connections, facilitating exchanges, and nurturing mutual learning among participants. Through interactive activities, group discussions, and collaborative exercises, attendees were encouraged to engage actively, share experiences, and co-create knowledge, ensuring a rich and diverse learning environment.

The conference also incorporated digital platforms such as Mentimeter and Padlet. These digital tools facilitated real-time interactions, enabled anonymous feedback, and promoted collaborative brainstorming.











Results

Priority Topics

Based on existing project results and their experiences and insights, participants collaboratively defined eight focal topics that they consider most relevant in their connection to global inequalities and international cooperation for young people: Economic Inequalities, Education, Health, Climate Crisis, Political Participation, Gender Equality and Human Rights.

Proposals & Recommendations

For each of the priority topics chosen, the young participants developed proposals and recommendations. While all those topics have their specific proposals, there are also some general recommendations regarding global inequalities and international cooperation in their relevance for young people.

							
Economic Inequalities	Education	Health	Climate Crisis	Decolonisation	Political Participation	Gender Equality	Human Rights
Transparent and fair youth budgeting	Skills for the future for everyone	A physical and digital globalised health system	Climate checks on all policy-making	Affected populations as key stakeholders	Education as the principle for meaningful participation	People affected by gender inequalities as consultants	Full state accountability

Economic Inequalities

- Participants at the JUUN conference advocate for greater transparency in budget allocations specifically designated for youth initiatives.
- The JUUN conference attendees urge increased allocation of resources for youth-focused budgeting at national, regional, and international tiers.
- The JUUN conference participants emphasize the need for the formal establishment and institutionalization of youth councils and representative bodies.
- Participants of the JUUN conference propose the enactment of supply-chain legislation. This would mandate legal accountability, ensuring equitable trade agreements and upholding fair labour practices.

Education

- Participants of the JUUN conference recognize education as the cornerstone for nurturing a new generation equipped to navigate and address global challenges. As such, they strongly recommend prioritizing funding for primary education to ensure equitable access, quality instruction, and foundational learning for all young individuals.
- The JUUN conference attendees advocate for the integration of technology in educational settings, emphasizing that its implementation should be under the supervision and control of trained teachers. This balanced approach ensures that technology serves as a tool to enhance learning experiences while

preserving the essential role of educators in guiding and facilitating instruction.

- Participants of the JUUN conference highlight the importance of incorporating social skills education within curricula. By emphasizing interpersonal communication, collaboration, empathy, and cultural awareness, educational systems can better prepare students to engage meaningfully in diverse settings and contribute positively to society.
- The JUUN conference proposes empowering teachers through professional development opportunities, competitive compensation, and reduced classroom ratios. By investing in educators, educational systems can foster environments conducive to personalized instruction, student mentorship, and holistic development.
- Participants emphasize that education for sustainable development must commence from the elementary stage to instill values, awareness, and practices that promote environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and global citizenship from a young age.
- The JUUN conference underscores the imperative of integrating children's rights and human rights education within curricula, especially in an increasingly unstable world. By fostering understanding, empathy, and respect for rights-based principles, educational institutions can empower students to become advocates for justice, equality, and dignity, contributing to a more equitable and harmonious global society.
- Furthermore, participants emphasize that education is pivotal for the younger generation to overcome global inequalities. By equipping youth with the necessary tools, knowledge, and capacities, they can actively participate in international cooperation efforts, fostering understanding, collaboration, and collective action on pressing global issues.

Health

- Participants of the JUUN conference propose the active engagement and involvement of youth in health-related initiatives and decision-making processes. Recognizing the unique perspectives and innovative ideas that youth bring, integrating them into healthcare planning and implementation will foster more inclusive and effective strategies for addressing health inequalities.
- Participants of the JUUN conference recommend that the World Health Organization (WHO) collaborates with local governments to deploy mobile medical units in rural areas, drawing inspiration from successful models such as the EU's initiatives in Romania and Covid-19 vaccination trucks, aiming to alleviate strain on existing healthcare facilities.
- The JUUN conference attendees emphasize the need for specialized, contextualized training programs for medical personnel, advocating for cross-border and national exchange initiatives facilitated by global healthcare NGOs.
- Participants of the JUUN conference propose the establishment of a collaborative framework between global entities and local governments to build both



digital and physical infrastructures. The goal is to create a globally interconnected healthcare system from its foundational level, ensuring equitable access and quality care.

Climate Crisis

- Participants of the JUUN conference recommend the development and dissemination of comprehensive educational materials and information campaigns tailored to both the Global South and North. This initiative aims to raise awareness, foster understanding, and promote collective action on climate-related challenges across diverse regions.
- The JUUN conference attendees emphasize the critical need to enhance global policy accountability concerning climate initiatives. To achieve this, they propose the implementation of "youth and climate tests" as a mandatory evaluation tool for new policies and laws. This mechanism would ensure that youth perspectives and environmental considerations are integrated into decision-making processes.
- Participants of the JUUN conference highlight that addressing the climate crisis necessitates frequent, transparent, and fair exchanges between the Global South and North. Including youth in these dialogues is paramount as they bring fresh perspectives, innovative solutions, and a sense of urgency to climate discussions. Collaborative efforts between these regions are essential to develop equitable and effective strategies that address the root causes and impacts of climate change.
- Recognizing the interconnected nature of climate challenges, the JUUN conference proposes fostering international cooperation and collaboration. By creating platforms for dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and resource mobilization, stakeholders from both the Global South and North can work collectively towards achieving sustainable and resilient futures.

Decolonisation

- Participants of the JUUN conference advocate for a profound decolonisation of institutional structures, emphasizing the need for transformative change in policy-making processes. This entails challenging and revising historical imbalances, power dynamics, and systemic inequalities embedded within existing frameworks, ensuring inclusivity, representation, and equitable participation across all levels.
- The JUUN conference attendees endorse a bottom-up approach to research, emphasizing grassroots priorities. By conducting research transparently and ensuring accessibility for all stakeholders, this approach facilitates a comprehensive understanding of community needs, challenges, and aspirations, driving informed decision-making and responsive policy formulation.
- Participants of the JUUN conference emphasize the importance of mandatory inclusion of affected parties in policy-making processes. By ensuring that those directly impacted by policies, decisions, and systemic structures have a substantive role in shaping outcomes, policies become more relevant, effective, and equitable, reflecting diverse perspectives, and lived experiences.



- The JUUN conference proposes equitable trade agreements among regional blocks and countries, fostering collaboration, mutual respect, and shared prosperity. By prioritizing fairness, transparency, and mutual benefit, trade agreements can contribute to sustainable development, economic growth, and poverty reduction, while addressing historical inequalities and fostering inclusive global partnerships.
- The JUUN conference highlights the critical role of diaspora youth in formerly colonizing countries, emphasizing the need to address their unique perspectives, experiences, and contributions. Recognizing their insights and voices enriches discussions, policies, and initiatives, fostering meaningful engagement, collaboration, and reconciliation.
- Participants underscore the importance of including youth on the ground in development projects across all stages. By involving young individuals in planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation processes, projects become more responsive, sustainable, and impactful, harnessing the energy, creativity, and insights of youth to drive positive change and transformative progress.

Political Participation

- Participants of the JUUN conference advocate for the allocation of resources towards establishing more collaborative spaces for young individuals from the Global South and North to engage, collaborate, and work together. By fostering meaningful exchanges and partnerships, we can harness diverse perspectives, insights, and innovations to address global challenges and advance shared objectives effectively.
- The JUUN conference attendees emphasize the importance of ensuring active participation of young people in international dialogues focused on reducing inequalities. Special attention must be given to achieving proportional representation of youth from different regions, continents, and backgrounds. This commitment aims to prevent underrepresentation, amplify diverse voices, and foster inclusive discussions that reflect the multifaceted realities and aspirations of young individuals globally.
- The JUUN conference attendees advocate for transformative reforms within political systems, aiming to dismantle barriers and inequities that inhibit equitable participation. Emphasizing cross-regional collaboration between the Global South and North, these reforms seek to foster shared learning, innovation, and best practices that enhance representation, engagement, and empowerment across diverse contexts.
- Participants of the JUUN conference propose targeted initiatives to enhance civic- and political education and awareness, emphasizing the importance of exchange programs, partnerships, and collaborations between youth and marginalized communities from the Global South and North. By fostering cross-cultural dialogue and understanding, we can build bridges, challenge stereotypes, and cultivate informed, inclusive, and participatory political cultures.



Gender Equality

- Participants of the JUUN conference stress the significance of elevating voices and experiences that are often marginalized or overlooked in gender equality discourse. By centring the perspectives of those directly impacted, particularly beyond political realms, policies and interventions can be more holistic, relevant, and effective in addressing systemic issues and fostering genuine societal change.
- Participants of the JUUN conference underscore the critical importance of inclusivity in shaping gender equality policies. To ensure diverse perspectives and lived experiences inform decision-making, they recommend that a minimum of 60% of individuals consulted on gender equality policies, encompassing issues such as GBV, human trafficking, harassment, etc., are directly affected by these issues. Crucially, these consultations should prioritize individuals whose lived experiences provide authentic insights, distinct from political perspectives.
- The JUUN conference attendees emphasize the need for gender inequalities frameworks to recognize and respect cultural specificities. While advocating for universal principles of equality and justice, policies and initiatives must be sensitive to diverse cultural contexts, traditions, and values. Importantly, irrespective of cultural implications, the well-being, rights, and empowerment of women and other marginalized genders must remain the primary priority. This approach ensures that strategies are tailored, inclusive, and prioritize the fundamental rights and dignity of individuals across different cultural settings.
- Participants of the JUUN conference highlight the imperative to amplify the voices of young representatives from marginalized genders in the global south within international fora. Recognizing the unique perspectives, challenges, and insights they bring, increased representation and inclusion of these individuals in global discussions and decision-making processes are crucial. Their inclusion ensures a more comprehensive understanding of issues and fosters collaborative efforts to address gender inequalities effectively.

Human Rights

- Participants of the JUUN conference emphasize the fundamental principle that every member state must be held accountable when breaching international law and committing human rights violations. Upholding accountability ensures justice, reinforces the rule of law, and safeguards the inherent dignity and rights of all individuals, irrespective of geographical, political, or social contexts.
- The JUUN conference attendees advocate for reforms concerning the Veto Power within international bodies. Specifically, they emphasize that the application of the Veto Power should not impede or obstruct efforts aimed at promoting human rights, peace, and security. This reform seeks to ensure that collective global interests and human rights considerations prevail over individual state interests or geopolitical considerations.



- Participants of the JUUN conference propose the creation of a global movement comprising young individuals educated and empowered on their human rights. This movement would serve as a platform for youth to advocate, raise awareness, and mobilize action on pressing global inequalities, injustices, and human rights violations, amplifying their voices and fostering meaningful change.
- The JUUN conference highlights the essential role of youth in advocating for financing and protection for global activists and civil society organizations. Recognizing the risks, challenges, and contributions of activists and organizations working to advance human rights, democracy, and social justice, youth-led initiatives and advocacy efforts can bolster support, resources, and solidarity, ensuring their resilience, impact, and sustainability.

Commitments

After the dialogue, dialogue partners from political decision-making, diplomacy and foreign policy were invited to articulate and share their commitments aimed at facilitating the ideas, proposals, and recommendations put forth by the young participants.



A dialogue partner writing down his commitment © BJV / Kirill Lialin



“Engage and motivate colleagues (+ cross-party) to engage with: demands and needs of young people, grassroots realities (esp. of women), youth representation in terms of budget, youth representation in climate change conversations.”
- Faika El-Nagashi



Faika El-Nagashi (Greens)
Member of the National Council

“Africa Strategy, more diplomatic embassies, fair trade agreements”
- Helmut Brandstätter



Helmut Brandstätter (NEOS)
Member of the National Council

“SDG-impact assessment of budget & laws (youth sensibility: trace budgets, gender balance: address inequalities) and Access to health services: sexual and reproductive health and rights via EPF”
- Petra Bayr



Petra Bayr (Social Democrats)
Member of the National Council

“Enough young participants at the upcoming final SDG-event”
- Michaela Schmidt



Michaela Schmidt (Social Democrats)
Member of the National Council

“Encourage young people to get involved, stand up for political education as a school subject, proper funding for youth representative bodies, oppose certain trade agreements.”
- Sascha Obrecht



Sascha Obrecht (Social Democrats)
Member of the Federal Council



“We will take stock of youth-related projects in our portfolio”
 - Josef Lusser



Josef Lusser
 Austrian Foreign Ministry
 (Development Section)

“Strengthen access to and accountability for Human Rights + (re-) gain Trust”
 - Mourad Mahidi



Mourad Mahidi
 Austrian Foreign Ministry
 (Human Rights Department)

“We will integrate Youth in the consultation for the Austrian Development Strategy”
 - Raimund Magis



Raimund Magis
 Austrian Foreign Ministry
 (Development Section)

“I commit to contributing for youth to be a stakeholder in the project design of development projects, not just a beneficiary.”
 - Gunter Schall



Gunter Schall
 Head of Development
 Communication
 Austrian Development Agency
 (ADA)

“Awareness Raising”
 - Fouad Hetta



Fouad Hetta
 Third Secretary
 Republic of Egypt in Austria



What happens next?

The proposals and recommendations developed by the young participants during the conference are set to go beyond just the conference's immediate impact, laying a solid foundation for advocacy and heightened awareness on multiple fronts. Spearheading this initiative, the Austrian National Youth Council and the Office of the African Union Youth Envoy will champion these ideas forward. Additionally, a dedicated social media series will be instrumental in amplifying public awareness around these propositions. These insights will also be integral to the lobbying efforts of both organizations, culminating in presentations at esteemed international platforms, including the AU Summit in February 2024 and the UN General Assembly in September 2024.

Contact & resources

For questions, please contact the international team at the Austrian National Youth Council: international@bjv.at

All event photos can be found [here](#).

Information about the JUUN project is available on the website of the Austrian National Youth Council in [English](#) and [German](#).



The JUUN Dialogue Conference 2023, held in Vienna on November 8th and 9th happened as part of the project “JUUN” - a collaborative effort between the Austrian National Youth Council and the African Union Office of the Envoy on Youth, co-funded by the Austrian Development Agency. Focused on global inequalities and international cooperation concerning young people, the conference facilitated a meaningful dialogue among 60 young participants from African Union countries, Austria, and neighboring nations, engaging them with political decision-makers, diplomats, and foreign policy representatives.



Gefördert durch die

