

17TH MELAKA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DIALOGUE
“OUR ROLES IN SOLVING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY”

9-13 JULY 2017

MITC HOTEL, MELAKA, MALAYSIA

DECLARATION

1 PREAMBLE

- 1.1 We, the 160 young people from 43 countries around the world, attending the 17th Melaka International Youth Dialogue (MIYD), convened in Melaka from 9th – 13th July, 2017 for an annual programme organised by the World Assembly of Youth (WAY).
- 1.2 Recognising the vital role of young people on juvenile delinquency, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), WAY has made an obligation to fulfill the principal opinions and roles of young people towards combating both juvenile violence and solving delinquent behaviors and themed the 17th Melaka International Youth Dialogue “Our Roles in Solving Juvenile Delinquency.”
- 1.3 An interactive dialogue on this topic was of significance to form, educate, increase awareness on the challenges and entitlements of youth towards non-violence, peaceful and secure environment that assures and supports their development fully at the different levels of society that they represent. Therefore, with the above anticipated theme, all participants present, such as: the young people, youth leaders, representatives from public and private sector, media persona, law enforcers, and members of various NGOs and CSOs, gathered to call for action and structure experiences on the issue of Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Development. The outcome document also enhanced youth contribution towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- 1.4 This theme has emphasised the actions that young people and other stakeholders should take towards combating juvenile delinquency and attaining the SDGs. This dialogue has identified the roles and concerns of all stakeholders towards juvenile violence and solving delinquent behaviours. The dialogue culminated in the fact that now is the right time and opportunity to act in partnership.

The guiding principles for this declaration were based on the following objectives, to:

- Promote awareness and analyse problems and inventories of programmes, services, facilities and resources available towards juvenile violence and delinquent behaviours;
- Foster action and establish methods for effectively reducing the opportunity to commit delinquent acts among young people;
- Identify the roles and contribution of different sectors i.e. public sector, private sector, NGOs and others, in solving Juvenile Delinquency and supporting constructive youth development as well as youth leadership;
- Gather and select good practices, challenges, experiences, and lessons learned from the national youth councils towards improving or amending the current policies in order to solve Juvenile Delinquency;
- Distinguish well-defined responsibilities for the qualified agencies, institutions and personnel involved in preventive efforts;
- Form and advance the national, regional and international policies governing the Juvenile Justice;
- Foster networking, collaboration and partnership among youth and all stakeholders in order to address the issue of Juvenile Delinquency;
- Advance the role of youth and actively involve them in the social development and attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Participants have identified key recommendations for implementation by relevant stakeholders including: public sector, private sector, NGOs/IGOs, media, society, and young people alike. In addition, participants also established commitments and recommendations in support of youth to grow into healthy and responsible adults.

2.1 **PUBLIC SECTOR**

- 2.1.1 To establish regional and international policies that would encourage collaboration among the nations towards reduction of juvenile violence and delinquent behaviours;
- 2.1.2 To establish or amend laws related to juvenile delinquency in order to distinguish between the crimes committed by adults or minors;
- 2.1.3 To create juvenile courts based on adolescent development and evidence based practices;
- 2.1.4 To provide training to all stakeholders working with juveniles and youth at-risk;
- 2.1.5 To provide multiple pathways for youth to attain education, knowledge and relevant skills, based on their interests, needs and strengths;

- 2.1.6 To provide resources for youth-based programmes and initiatives geared towards youth development, aimed at preventing juvenile violence and delinquent behaviours;
- 2.1.7 To endorse policies and programmes that would provide opportunities for youth to understand the impact of their actions and the consequences to the society;
- 2.1.8 To create compulsory school curricula that raises awareness and understanding for students on the juvenile justice system;
- 2.1.9 To create safer school environment by allocating resources, including deploying more counsellors to address behavioural and mental health issues;
- 2.1.10 To encourage collaboration between the courts, schools and all relevant stakeholders pertaining to juvenile delinquency;
- 2.1.11 To provide incentives for companies that engage in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects related to juvenile delinquency;
- 2.1.12 To research, monitor and collect accurate and up-to-date data on the current status of youth issues, in particular on juvenile delinquents.

2.2 PRIVATE SECTOR

- 2.2.1 To offer resources for youth that have been through the juvenile justice system in order to advance their education and/or future careers;
- 2.2.2 To leverage on innovation and drive entrepreneurship in order to provide viable pathways for livelihoods;
- 2.2.3 To utilise Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds and resources in order to create programmes and activities for juvenile offenders and youth at-risk;
- 2.2.4 To remove barriers, conduct training and create opportunities for juveniles;
- 2.2.5 To establish youth centres that would provide incubator infrastructure for skills development on social entrepreneurs and recreational programmes.

2.3 NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

- 2.3.1 To design, implement and evaluate evidence-based youth programmes, projects and activities for the betterment of society;
- 2.3.2 To intensify community based engagement in advocacy and prevention of youth issues, in particular juvenile delinquency;
- 2.3.3 To facilitate and report on data collection on juvenile delinquency and other youth related issues;
- 2.3.4 To organize awareness programmes and activities for youth, families and community at large, on juvenile violence and delinquent behaviours;
- 2.3.5 To communicate with all relevant stakeholders in order to address the social, economic and political conditions that perpetuate juvenile delinquency;
- 2.3.6 To create training and capacity building programmes designed to empower the youth on decision making process at all levels;

- 2.3.7 To promote role models that leverage on strong effective relationships and support systems that would positively influence youth.

2.4 MEDIA

- 2.4.1 To periodically share youth issues and impactful programmes and campaigns in order to shift attention of the public away from punitive attitudes and promote rehabilitation and community reintegration;
- 2.4.2 To act as a powerful channel in sensitising the society in understanding juvenile delinquency and the system;
- 2.4.3 To create and share educational programmes for young people in order to teach them about the consequences of juvenile violence and delinquent behaviours;
- 2.4.4 To encourage collaboration with other stakeholders in order to contribute related content that would lead towards reduction of juvenile violence and delinquent behaviours.

2.5 SOCIETY

- 2.5.1 To create awareness and adoption of best practices across cultures for increased acceptance of juvenile offenders, victims and youth at-risk;
- 2.5.2 To establish community centres that would educate and address underlying needs of youth and families;
- 2.5.3 To promote volunteerism and enhance community engagement in order to prevent juvenile violence and delinquent behaviours;
- 2.5.4 To encourage community involvement and ownership to reinforce a positive cycle of resources provision to actively engage youth and families at-risk;
- 2.5.5 To pursue socio-economic, ethnic, age, and gender equity in the juvenile justice system.

2.6 YOUTH

- 2.6.1 To form youth-led platforms that would address and tackle youth issues, in particular juvenile delinquency, at all levels;
- 2.6.2 To design and implement programmes and activities on leadership and peer to peer advocacy;
- 2.6.3 To call for partnership among all stakeholders working towards the reduction of juvenile violence and delinquent behaviours;
- 2.6.4 To encourage active participation among peers involved in various platforms, in schools and community at large;
- 2.6.5 To fully provide youth with opportunities in order to speak out, construct and shape their ideas in pursuit of their preferred future.

3 CONCLUSION

We, the participants of the 17th Melaka International Youth Dialogue, recognise the importance of empowering and equipping the young people with the right knowledge, skills and proper attitude required to counter youth violence and juvenile delinquency. Recognising that in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular Goal 4, 16, and 17, we, the young people should be at the forefront of universal transformation in taking actions and encouraging our peers to enter adulthood as responsible and proactive citizens. Hence, partnership formation among all stakeholders, would drive us to reach our desired goals, which are the reduction of juvenile violence and delinquent behaviours.

Albania
Angola
Australia
Bangladesh
Botswana
Chad
China
Democratic Republic of Congo
Egypt
Equatorial Guinea
Fiji
Ghana
Indonesia
India
Iraq
Japan
Kenya
Malaysia
Malawi
Mongolia
Mozambique
Namibia
Nepal
Nigeria
Pakistan
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
South Korea
Singapore
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Tanzania
Timor-Leste
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
United States of America
Vanuatu
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe