



SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP (SIRG)
Second Regular Meeting of 2022
March 7 and 8, 2022
Virtual

OEA/Ser.E
GRIC/O.2/INF.26/22
21 March 2022
Original: English

PRESENTATION BY THE YABT

(Dawsher Charles, Trinidad and Tobago)

Hello I am Dawsher Charles from Trinidad and Tobago and I am extremely grateful to be one of the young people chosen to contribute towards the forum today.

I'd like to first begin by referencing a quote we as young people often times use "Nothing for youth, without youth" As young people, we desire to be heard, seen and included in decision making especially those that concern our future development and wellbeing.

We are able to provide greater insight into the challenges we face, what must be changed and innovative solutions to address these challenges. Giving us a seat at the table shows how committed policy makers are to ensuring that we are well represented and heard. Creating spaces for young people to contribute is necessary for our skills and leadership development so that we can work together to create a sustainable future.

In the Caribbean, young people desire to have greater inclusion in decision making and implementation of these decisions. Governments and decision makers can invite young people from the Caribbean to add value to policy development and execution through consultations and actively engaging us across various platforms to implement different projects that are geared towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals for a more inclusive society.

Our main goal in the Caribbean is to have well developed societies that are sustainable to withstand any crisis and thus including young people to contribute towards development will ensure that we work together to create the ideal framework for our future. Going beyond focus groups and forums, we as young people desire to be included in programs and project execution so that we can gain experience and understand the protocols needed to have successful implementation and policies that withstand the test of time. Some of these major areas young people must immediately be included are education development, mental health and wellbeing, decent work and employment, energy sustainability, food, and agriculture.

The Youth America Business Trust have been doing this by working together with young people to develop inclusive and open participatory channels to incorporate youth input into policy formulation and program design. Through business labs, hackathons, labs of policies, innovative laboratories youth dialogues and other similar forums a space has been dedicated for youth collaboration. Including us shows that, as young people we are recognized as innovators and agents of change for the development of countries.