

Bulgaria – 2015

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UN Youth Delegate Programme

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41. **Mr. Dimitrov** (Bulgaria), speaking as a youth delegate, said that all States should ensure meaningful participation of youth at all levels and consider them [*7*] equal partners in facing global issues. Bulgarian young people considered quality education and professional development key prerequisites for youth development. Education must meet the constantly changing needs of the market, and youth should be included in drafting educational strategies, policies and curricula, thereby allowing young people to obtain adequate skills and capacities for their future professional development.

42. A quality education was even more important for young persons with disabilities in order to ensure their social inclusion, economic participation and active involvement in the processes affecting their lives. Organizations of persons with disabilities, civil society, youth representatives, the private sector and other stakeholders should be involved in developing measures that promote greater involvement of persons with disabilities in social and public life. One possible solution was the introduction of non-formal educational practices. Educational institutions should also be more accessible to young persons with disabilities and should recruit qualified young teachers who could meet the needs of students with disabilities

43. **Ms. Yovkova** (Bulgaria), speaking as a youth delegate, said that youth unemployment was one of the most pressing youth issues. Many Member States considered non-formal education and volunteering efficient tools that encouraged young people to engage in lifelong learning and acquire the skills needed to increase employability and competitiveness in the job market. Bulgarian youth had consistently called for the private and public sectors to recognize the knowledge obtained through non-formal education.

44. Sustainable development was inextricably related to youth development. The Bulgarian youth delegates had raised awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals in their country, where young people were prepared to contribute to implementing the 2030 Agenda. Individuals and their rights must remain at the core of the 2030 Agenda and the actions undertaken towards its implementation.

45. The Bulgarian youth delegates had established an initiative to promote better communication between young Bulgarians and refugees, which could encourage

more young people to volunteer in projects related to refugees' integration in society, especially those from Syria and Iraq.

