

Austria – 2016

Mr. Dennis Vetter

UN Youth Delegate Programme

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Youth Delegate Search: <https://youthdelegatesearch.org/austria-2016/>

22. **Mr. Vetter** (Austria), speaking as a youth delegate, said that the many concerns affecting young people pointed to the need for youth participation. Numerous countries had recently established organizations or schemes that strengthened the voice of the young. But, too often, young people involuntarily or voluntarily continued to stand on the sidelines of politics and decision-making: involuntarily because of laws made by people who considered experience a prerequisite for positive action, and voluntarily because some young people considered voting irrelevant. Young people had a stake in the future, and short-sighted policies would come at their expense. As a matter of intergenerational equity, the international community should further strengthen the voice of the young on the issues that affected them most. In that connection, he suggested that his fellow youth delegates should urge their countries to lower the voting age to 16, as Austria had done.

