

THE HANDBOOK FOR INNOVATIVE DEMOCRACY

POLICY PROPOSALS
FOR DECISION MAKERS

FIFTH EDITION - MARCH 2026



The 5th edition comes with a
searchable web archive of
the Handbook's proposals.
Scan to see!



INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH
THINK TANK

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A brief explanation

The Handbook for Innovative Democracy presents tangible policy proposals for decision-makers originating from IYTT youth conferences. These proposals aim at strengthening democracy in the four policy areas governance, education, equity, and community.

The Handbook presents the proposals into policy areas and resource parameters necessary for policy implementation. It is a user-friendly, quick-to-use guide that inspires democracy-renewal fitting the needs, contexts, and capabilities of decision-makers.

THE IYTT

[HTTP://IYTTINK.COM/](http://iyttink.com/)



The IYTT is an international non-political youth think tank. Once a year, we recruit 24 people aged 18-24 through an open call for a four-day conference. This is the entrance ticket and training camp to become an IYTT Youth Fellow. All annual conferences produce twelve decision-making proposals that end up in this handbook. Some proposals are developed and turned into working papers and policy briefs. In addition, Youth Fellows carry out people-centric local activities to promote common ground and active citizenship. The IYTT Participation Toolbox includes Open Chair Democracy Talks, Neighborhooding Democracy, Democratic Workplace Cafés, Roundtable Workshops, Summer Camps, Democracy Festivals, and the IYTT Youth Panel, which is a global sounding board. The annual youth conference travels the world, going to places like Barcelona (2023), Stellenbosch (2024) (which ran as a Nobel Symposium in collaboration with the Norwegian Nobel Institute), Washington DC (2025), and Seoul (2026).

A quick user manual

An example:



Six resource parameters provide an overview to what extent key resources are needed to implement each policy proposal.

THE RESOURCE PARAMETERS



HUMAN RESOURCES



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



TIME HORIZON



DEPENDENCE ON EXISTING REGULATION



MONETARY RESOURCES



SCOPE: LOCAL, NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL

DISCLAIMER: The resource parameter categorization has not been done based on a quantifiable measurement criteria but based on the proposals' resource needs in relation to the other proposals in the Handbook.

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1. REVIVING THE DEMOCRATIC TREE



CREATING LOCAL ASSEMBLIES AND NATIONAL CIVIC COMMITTEES TO RE-ENGAGE CITIZENS IN DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES



2. REPURPOSE ECONOMICS



RETHINKING ECONOMIC POLICIES BASED ON WELL-BEING TARGETS



3. ENHANCE SUPPLY CHAIN DISCLOSURE



INCREASING TRANSPARENCY TO HELP CONSUMERS MAKE INFORMED CONSUMPTION CHOICE



4. GLOBAL CHARTER FOR TRUTH



PRESERVING JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY, ACCESS TO RELIABLE INFORMATION AND DATA PRIVACY



5. UNITED NATIONS IN THE 21ST CENTURY



EQUIPPING THE UN TO RESPOND TO THE CHALLENGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY



6. YOUTH DELEGATIONS & YOUTH BUDGETS



INCLUDING YOUTH IN POLICYMAKING PROCESSES FOR INNOVATIVE GOVERNANCE



7. KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE NETWORK



PROMOTING COMMUNICATION OF LOCAL GRASSROOTS ORGANISATIONS FOR CRISIS RESPONSE



8. COUNCILS FOR THE FUTURE



TACKLING UNDERREPRESENTATION THROUGH NON-PARTISAN CITIZENS' COUNCILS



9. NEEDS BASED MODEL TO MEASURE WELL-BEING



REPURPOSING ECONOMICS THROUGH A NEW ECONOMETRIC MODEL



10. SUPERVISE HUMAN RIGHTS IN ELECTIONS



MONITORING ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNS ON THE BASIS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW OF HUMAN RIGHTS



11. JUNIOR ELECTIONS



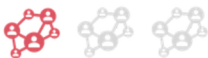
PROMOTING VOTING IN JUNIOR ELECTIONS TO FOSTER ACTIVE LEARNING ABOUT ELECTIONS AND ELECTORAL SYSTEMS



12. LOWERING THE VOTING AGE



LOWERING THE VOTING AGE FOR ALL ELECTIONS TO 16 AND EDUCATING YOUNG VOTERS



13. CONTENT RECOMMENDATION REGULATION



REGULATING THE AMOUNT OF NON-PERSONALIZED CONTENT SHOWN ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO COUNTER ONLINE POLARISATION



14. DEMOCRACY LIVE - A POLICY TRACKING APP



INCREASING DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION THROUGH AN APP CALLED "DEMOCRACY LIVE", ALLOWS CITIZENS TO INFLUENCE POLICY PRIORITIES AND TRACK THEIR PROGRESS DIRECTLY.



15. POLICY-LED COMMUNITY PLATFORMS



MOVING BEYOND POLICY TO PEOPLE



16. MAINSTREAMING COLLABORATIVE DECISION-MAKING



NOTHING ABOUT US
WITHOUT US



17. REGULATING OWNERSHIP



BALANCING POWER
IN MEDIA OUTLETS



18. ENSURING DATA SOVEREIGNTY AND PRIVACY



DATA GOVERNANCE WITH INTEGRITY



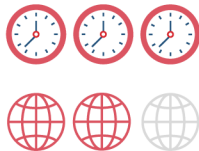
19. THE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL

ENHANCING COLLABORATION FOR GRASSROOTS DRIVEN GOVERNANCE



20. CITIZEN SCIENCE

GROUNDING SERVICE DELIVERY IN COMMUNITY REALITIES



21. CONVERSATIONS FOR TRUST

PUBLIC FORUMS WITH A PROMISE



22. SOCIAL MEDIA REGULATIONS



COMMON-SENSE COOPERATION
WITH CORPORATIONS



1. REFORMING THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

INCLUDING PRACTICAL DEMOCRACY, MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY, AND INTERNATIONALLY ORIENTED LEARNING IN EDUCATION



2. RESHAPING EDUCATION

FUTURE-PROOFING EDUCATION THROUGH A SERIES OF STRUCTURAL CHANGES



3. TRAINING FOR POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

MENTORING YOUNG ACTIVISTS AND POLITICIANS, TO INCLUDE THE YOUTH'S PERSPECTIVE IN THE DECISION-MAKING



4. MANDATORY CAREER SERVICE AT ALL EU HIGH SCHOOLS

WIDENING PARTICIPATION FOR EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION



5. 21ST CENTURY SKILLS EDUCATION

ADJUSTING SCHOOL CURRICULA THROUGH DEMANDED AND NEW SKILLS FOR A VASTLY TRANSITIONING WORLD



6. BIG COLLABORATION PROJECT

IMPLEMENTING CROSS-SECTORAL PARTNERSHIPS TO TEACH PROJECT-BASED PRACTICAL SKILLS



7. REGIONAL CRITICAL EDUCATION

IMPLEMENTING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR CONSCIOUS COMMUNITIES OF CRITICAL THINKERS



8. PUBLIC SERVICE DRAFT

INTRODUCING PAID EMPLOYMENT FOR HIGH SCHOOLS IN PROVIDING PUBLIC SERVICE



9. "DEAR MAYOR" PROGRAM

TEACHING HOW TO WRITE OFFICIAL LETTERS TO THE POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES THROUGH SCHOOL WORKSHOPS



10. CEFD FRAMEWORK



TRANSFORMING MANDATES
INTO IMPACT



11. MY RIGHTS, MY RESPONSIBILITIES INITIATIVE



YOUR RIGHT
TO KNOW



12. INTEGRATING SOUTH AFRICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTO THE CURRICULUM



HANDS
THAT SPEAK



13. CRITICAL WANDERER



CRITICAL THINKING GAME
FOR A CRITICAL AGE



14. MOCK DEMOCRACY IN SCHOOLS



INCENTIVISING DEMOCRATIC VALUES
IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS



1. ENFORCE HUMAN RIGHTS

HOLDING GOVERNMENTS ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITMENTS BY EMPOWERING CITIZENS LEGALLY



2. PUT YOUTH IN CHARGE

ENABLE ELECTORAL QUOTAS FOR YOUTH TO FIGHT THEIR UNDERREPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENTS AND GOVERNMENTS



3. DEMOCRATIZE TAXES

ALLOWING AGENCY OVER A PROPORTION OF TAXATION TO ENHANCE CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION TO DEMOCRATIC LIFE



4. EQUALIZING ACCESS TO HIGHEST RANKING POSITIONS



DEMOCRATISING THE PATH TO POLITICAL POWER,
TO MAKE SURE NOBODY IS LEFT BEHIND



5. TRUE LEGAL EQUALITY



STRENGTHENING MINORITIES' ABILITY TO
PARTICIPATE AND MAKE THEIR VOICE HEARD



6. NEW MEASURES OF ECONOMIC SUCCESS



FOCUSING ON HUMAN WELL-BEING AS A
CENTRAL GOAL OF THE ECONOMY



7. UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME

PROVIDING THE SAME CHANCES FOR EVERYONE



8. WORKER EMPOWERMENT

SHARING THE PROFIT AND THE DECISION-MAKING POWERS EQUALLY AMONG WORKERS AND LEADERS



9. THE RIGHTS OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

CHANGING CONSTITUTIONS FOR EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE LONG-TERM POLICYMAKING



10. UN INDIGENOUS CLIMATE CONFERENCE

EMPOWERING AND SPREADING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE FOR SUSTAINABLE CLIMATE ACTION



11. INTERGENERATIONAL GLOBAL LOANS SYSTEM

IMPLEMENTING A FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE LOAN SYSTEM FOR INTERGENERATIONAL JUSTICE



12. GLOBAL DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

ACHIEVING EQUITY IN ACCESS AND SECURITY FOR AN INCLUSIVE DIGITAL TRANSITION



13. THE GRANT FOR CHANGE



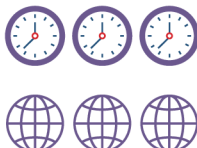
ESTABLISHING A FINANCIAL GRANT TO ENHANCE DIVERSITY IN POLITICS



14. DEVOLVED, DEMOCRATIC BUDGETING



UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME TO IMPLEMENT THE NEW ECONOMETRIC MODEL



15. RESHAPING HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS



RECOGNISING AND TACKLING INTERSECTIONAL INEQUALITIES THROUGH EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT



16. EXPERTS BY EXPERIENCE & BY EDUCATION



ALIGNING EXPERTS BY EXPERIENCE AND FORMAL EDUCATION LEVELS WITH KEY FULL-TIME DECISION-MAKERS



17. QUOTAS FOR YOUTH IN PARLIAMENT



INCLUDING YOUTH PERSPECTIVE THROUGH RESERVED SEATS IN PARLIAMENT OR QUOTAS IN THE PARTY LISTS.



18. PUBLIC POSITIONS FOR YOUTH



RESERVING JOB POSITIONS WITHIN PUBLIC SECTOR DEPARTMENTS FOR AGED 18 TO 30 AIMING FOR 5 TO 10% YOUTH REPRESENTATION.



19. GROUP SPECIFIC QUOTAS AND CAUCUSES



SEATS AND VOICES
AT THE DECISION MAKING TABLE



20. MINC INDEX



MEDIA INCLUSION
AND VOICES THAT MATTER



21. ENHANCING ACCESS



INFORMATION
WITHOUT BORDERS



22. THE ONUS IS ON US

EMPOWERING CITIZENS
AND DEFENDING THEIR RIGHTS



23. INCREASING VOTING EQUITY

BUILDING A MORE ACCESSIBLE DEMOCRACY BY
REMOVING BARRIERS TO VOTING



24. PREVENTING ELECTION BUYOUT

REDUCING THE INFLUENCE OF WEALTH
IN ELECTORAL POLITICS



25. IMPROVING MICROECONOMIC EQUITY

FACILITATING ECONOMIC JUSTICE THROUGH COMMUNITY BASED WOMEN'S BANKING



26. THE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT HUB

A CENTRALISED DATABASE FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES



1. EXPANDING ACCESS TO EDUCATION



RECOGNIZING VOCATIONAL TRAINING, LIFELONG LEARNING, LANGUAGE LEARNING, AND INTERCULTURAL EXCHANGES



2. COMMUNITY CENTRED DECISION MAKING



ESTABLISHING REGULAR REGIONAL SURVEYS TO DETERMINE "FACTOR X"



3. EMPOWER THROUGH LEGAL KNOWLEDGE



EMPOWERING CITIZENS AND POLICYMAKERS THROUGH KNOWLEDGE COURSES IN LEGAL SUBJECTS



4. YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH STEERING GROUPS



EMPOWERING PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE TO IMPROVE PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



5. COMMUNITY ACTIVISM PLATFORM



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR INCREASED LOCAL ACTIVISM



6. COMMUNITY-BASED PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT GROUPS



INCREASING PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT WHILE INCORPORATING LOCAL AND INDIGENOUS PRACTICES



7. COMMUNITY BUILDING THROUGH SPORT



ACHIEVING INCLUSION AND BUILDING TRUST THROUGH SPORT



8. CITIZEN MAIL WEBSITE

PROVIDING A COLLECTIVE PLATFORM TO ENABLE CITIZENS' INTERACTION WITH THE POLITICAL AND LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES WHILE PROMOTING POLITICAL EDUCATION



9. PUBLIC SECTOR CO-CREATION SPACE

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES AND SOCIETY THROUGH COLLABORATIVE WORKING SPACES.



10. DEMOCRATIC WORLD CAFE FOR COMPANIES



ENCOURAGING EMPLOYEES TO TALK ABOUT SOCIAL ISSUES USING THIS FORMAT



11. DEAP FOR INCLUSIVE MULTIPARTY FORUMS



CREATING A COLLECTIVE DEMOCRACY



12. HEALING CONNECTIONS & COLLECTIVE MEMORY



ADDRESSING POLARISATION BY HEALING DIVISIONS THROUGH ORAL TRADITION



13. THIRD SPACES



COMMUNITY-BASED SPACES TO PROMOTE LOCAL CONNECTIONS AND WELL-BEING



14. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AMBASSADORS PROGRAM



IYTT YOUTH FELLOWS AS PERSONALISED MENTORS FOR LOCAL YOUTH



15. CGI: COMMON GROUND INDEX



IDENTIFYING AND TACKLING COMMUNITY NEEDS THROUGH DATA ANALYSIS



The Handbook is now also available as a web version designed as a searchable archive. This innovation improves the user experience by allowing filtering and searching of the proposals using the resource parameters, the SDGs, the policy area, and content-based search.

The webpage includes a form to submit feedback and requests regarding the Handbook. Scan the QR code to see and use the web version!

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HANDBOOK USING OUR
WEB ARCHIVE**



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