

ASEM Youth Intervention

By Student Representatives of the 9th Model ASEM

On the occasion of the 14th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEMFMM14)
15-16 December 2019 in Madrid, Spain

Your Majesty,
Honourable ASEM Ministers,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,

We live in a time of change. Change within our societies, our environment, and our multilateral order. Pressing global challenges demand our urgent action. As the 14th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEMFMM14) convenes under the theme "Together for Effective Multilateralism", we call for the ASEM leaders to partner with the youth and invest in our shared future.

The UN Security Council Resolutions 2250 and 2419 already recognise and legitimise youth as stakeholders. These resolutions are as relevant for international peace and security as they are for multilateral relations across Asia and Europe.

We call upon ASEM Leaders to build on these sentiments and call for establishing a structured dialogue integrated in the ASEM Process; a structured dialogue that has continuous and sustainable mechanism for interactions, consultation and collaboration between the ASEM youth, senior officials, ministers, and leaders.

Decisions about our collective future must be made together with the youth in the ASEM process. Together means participation. Together means partnership. Together means common action. Only through substantial, sustained and structured action, we will deepen multilateralism across our regions.

First, together for participation. We call for the sustained inclusion of youth in the ASEM process through the establishment of structured dialogue. To progress multilateralism, now

is the time to increase interactions between young people and decision-makers. We want to deepen relations between Asia and Europe to unprecedented levels.

Second, together for partnership. We call for increased support for exchanges between youth in Asia and Europe. The crucial work of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in facilitating collaboration across cultures on concrete projects needs to be expanded. These programmes not only inspire youth but also establish inter-continental networks. Networks which think, act, and deliver imaginative solutions to our shared complex challenges. Networks which will feed the structured dialogue and nourish the discussions on diverse contemporary issues. Through expanding trust-building activities, our countries will benefit from the myriad of minds engaged with the key challenges faced across Asia and Europe.

Third, together for common action. The forces of globalisation and digitalisation have provided us with the vision to transcend borders of state, mind, and identity. A structured dialogue will provide the platforms for common action. An inter-generational alliance where our voices will contribute to pioneering policy solutions while enriching multilateral interactions.

The youth will be among the ones who have to live with the decisions made today. We will be the ones who will endure the consequences of inaction. We should not just be heard but also engaged as agents of change. Engagement should not be sporadic but sustained. Sustaining youth engagement through a structured dialogue is the way forward. As the new decade approaches, we wish to enter a new chapter of participation, partnership, and common action.

Thank you.

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