As representatives of young people in Romania, we want to take forward the 2030 Agenda and, respectively, the sustainable development goals closer to young people and support, in particular, the public authorities to include the voice of young people in their decisions for a more sustainable future, decisions which directly impact future generations, but also the health and well-being of the environment.
What's next?

Youth organizations are constantly trying to promote sustainability, to convince the world that we are sitting and looking at the end of our present existence and that we are going down a path from which we cannot turn back. However, our resources are extremely limited and force us to just promote our initiatives and hope we are heard. Therefore, we ask the authorities to take on this mission and, with all seriousness, take measures that are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

In light of the challenges facing young people around the world today, it is important that we are all aware of our responsibility to future generations. We need to take concrete actions now to be able to build a better fair future that leaves no one behind. We urge the authorities and decision-makers to take concrete measures regarding collaboration with young people, either by creating specific councils on the various topics of interest, or even directly in the decision-making process, thus supporting the interests of the next generations.

Given the general complexity of contemporary society, the monotony and indifference of everyday life, the general feeling of repulsion towards change and the threat to individual freedoms, aspects generated by social uncertainty, we believe it is important to find a ray of hope and optimism, and when you have find it, to become one yourself. We guide all young people in Romania and anywhere in the world to be part of the change and get involved as best they can for a society of the future as we want it. Let's not forget that it is we who have the power to make change and that our decisions today will have a significant impact on our future and generations to come.
With and for young people: this is the main value that guides my activity in the field of sustainability and representing young people in Romania. The sustainable development of a society cannot be achieved without young people, who represent our common future and who must be actively involved in the decision-making process and the implementation of solutions to address the environmental and social problems facing our society. We must be aware of the impact we have on the environment and encourage sustainable and environmentally friendly practices. At the same time, we must also get involved in promoting a more equitable and collaborative social environment that allows all young people to reach their potential and capitalize on their ideas and innovations for the benefit of society.

Elena-Alexandra Miron, Vice President on Sustainability, The Romanian Youth Council (CTR)

Shaping the future through the 2030 Agenda - for us, this is the promise of a dream, a better world.

Alessandra-Livia Voicu
President
UN Youth Association of Romania.
As members of the Board of Directors of the League of Romanian Students Abroad we want to raise a point about the ecofeminism movement, which we believe can add to our reflection through its values. The context out of which ecofeminism emerged in the 1980s, namely the unprecedented threat of nuclear war, is strikingly similar to the one we find ourselves in today: the equally unprecedented threat to the reproduction of life on Earth from climate change, compounded by the nuclear threat. Ecofeminism’s most valuable legacy lies in its reflection on the very logic of oppression. Emphasizing the interconnectedness of all forms of life, ecofeminism offered an ethical theory based on the values of inclusion, relationships, valuing and preserving life, starting from the awareness of the vulnerability of each person. Real change can happen not only by owning up to the mistakes of the past, but also by implementing them in creative and interconnected ways, as the ecofeminist movement suggests.
Annex

1. Current situation
2. Actions developed by the youth sector in Romania
3. Contributors
Our reality is the result of two centuries of remarkable technological changes: the steam engine, the railway, the telegraph, electricity, road transport, aviation, industrial chemistry, modern medicine, information technology and now, the digital revolution, robotics, biotechnology and nanotechnology. These advances have reshaped the world economy, making it increasingly urban and globally interconnected, but also increasingly unequal. At the same time, they have modified the natural environment to such an extent that our era is called the Anthropocene Era, that is, a period in which human action has a more than decisive impact on the planet. Human action that does not respect nature becomes a boomerang for people, creating inequality that endangers solidarity with present and future generations.
According to a study by the European Institute in Romania, civic participation, involvement in the field of public policies, activities related to sustainability and political participation are the most important ways of involvement among young people. From the negative effects of climate change to the lack of interest in developing the future skills of young people, these are major problems that young people face and want to reduce, whether we are talking about their individual activities or in the work of the organizations they are part of. It is important to emphasize the common need of young people to collaborate in decision-making systems and to be able to influence them positively and for the benefit of future generations.

We perceive the involvement of the youth sector in the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda as a real auxiliary objective to the statutory one assumed by most representative youth structures, both national and local. We see Romania as a state that in recent years has put more and more emphasis on the youth sector, but with a slower pace. The main areas of interest for young people in Romania are education, equal opportunities, green transition, digitization, active life, healthy eating, personal development, entrepreneurship and sustainable local economic development. However, a problem identified by us is the lack of active participation in civic life by young people, which leads to the weak impact of reformative actions.
The Romanian Youth Council (CTR) represents the main non-governmental partner with attributions regarding public policies for youth in relation to the central public administration authorities empowered in this regard, the Permanent Bureau being the internal management structure with a decision-making role. In its 17 years of activity, CTR has undertaken the mission of ensuring the presence of a strong voice of young people at the institutional and public level in the process of developing public policies aimed at young people and that can have a significant impact on them, including in areas relating to employment, education, health, civic and political participation and volunteering. CTR brings together federative structures with a network of over 400 organizations of and for youth in the country, being the only structure in Romania affiliated to the European Youth Forum and the World Assembly of Youth.

Youth Resolution 2020-2027
CTR, together with several dozen other initiating organizations, also proposed lowering the minimum voting age to 16 years in the vision document of the youth sector, Youth Resolution 2020-2027. In addition to this measure, in order to ensure the development of generations that are increasingly educated in terms of the democratic processes and active citizenship, capable of making informed decisions, we also propose the development of a curriculum for each school, at their request, regarding the inclusion in the formal education system of the discipline "Education for participation", which can be found in the offer of the Ministry of Education, customized for each year of study.
In 2022, on the occasion of the UN climate change conference (COP27), the summit on the implementation of climate actions, we had for the first time an official Romanian delegate, as part of the official European Youth Forum delegation, in this conference as a representative of young people in Romania through the Vice President on Sustainability. In this way, we also urge the public authorities and representatives of relevant ministries to offer such international opportunities available to young people, in a fair and inclusive way, in order to accelerate the creation, implementation and monitoring of specific youth systems that contribute to decision-making processes, with direct effects on the future of the following generations.

Due to the extensive interest on the topic of sustainability and climate change, we introduced the "Sustainability" portfolio and organized, co-organized or participated as representatives in the following important events that took place during the past year:
Youth Summit 7.0| Rădăcini organized together with the Governance of the Romanian Youth Capital - the Romanian Youth Council (CTR), the Cluj Youth Federation (FTC) and the PONT Group (PONT). Working groups Sustainable Futures and Climate Change Summit - Youth Ambassadors 4 Climate Action organized together with Social Innovation Solutions.
The League of Romanian Students Abroad is an organization with a multi-year tradition, made up of over 10,000 members located in different corners of the world. This international dimension gives us a privileged perspective on reality, helping us create a more empathetic and documented vision, seen through the lens of different cultures, the human-nature relationship, and the development of societies. The main purpose of LSRS is to defend and promote the academic, professional and cultural rights and interests of its members, as well as to facilitate their contribution to the development of Romania, contributing with this international perspective in addressing the objectives of Sustainable Development, especially Objective 4 (education of quality) and 8 (decent work and economic growth). The main project conceived on these pillars is the establishment of a Research Department that presents itself in the form of a laboratory within which we gather strategic relationships with institutions, universities, and private actors. This is a real space where students from our association put their studies to good use by creating an interdisciplinary network that analyzes good practices from abroad and translates them into a functional key for Romania. This department is a start because it brings home, first of all, the knowledge and experiences of students from abroad. Within this department, the research project that is a symbol in the collection of data from Romanian students located in different corners of the world takes place: the LSRS Survey. This project is carried out to collect important data about the presence of students abroad, about their current and future work prospects both in the host country and in Romania, their feelings towards the environmental crisis and the resolutions proposed by the institutions and other themes established on present emergencies.

Also, a different sensibility is what determined us to carry out the LSRS Mental Health project, an action group formed by LSRS members with the mission of bringing the discussion about mental health closer to Romanian students abroad and at home. Among our goals are increasing the level of information and awareness on this subject, organizing events with professionals in the field, as well as actions at a higher level to raise the level of access to mental health resources.
The UN Youth Association from Romania is the main promoter of UN values and the Agenda 2030 in its entirety among young people in Romania. Through the projects organized by UN Youth Romania, the national and local branches sought to bring information to the participants regarding all the Sustainable Development Goals contained in the Agenda. However, if we were to focus on specific objectives among the 17, it is worth mentioning that our activity evolves around SDGs 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality) and 16 (Peace, Justice and effective institutions).

One of the projects of UN Youth Association in Romania is the Bucharest International Student Model United Nations conference, also known by the acronym "BISMUN", a conference that simulates the commissions and meetings organized at the level of the United Nations, in an academic format, where the participants assume the role of delegates of the various member countries and debate from the perspective of the country they represent. We consider this conference an important one for fulfilling the mission of promoting the 2030 Agenda because, during the last edition, the 12th edition, the topics debated within BISMUN were centered around sustainable development, willing, through this effort, to encourage the young people attending to inform themselves about the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development in order to be prepared for the BISMUN debates.
The Union of Romanian Students is the forum representing the common interests of all students in Romania. With an impressive structure comprising over 100 student associations and a strong presence in 13 university centers, USR is dedicated to supporting and guiding students in their pursuit of a high-performance educational system. The main purpose of the Romanian Students' Union is to serve as the voice of students and promote their desire for a university system that meets both national and European standards. In this sense, the Union actively collaborates with governmental and European actors to influence and improve policies in the field of education. Thus, the Union emphasizes the harmonious development of young people and wants to create a favorable framework for every young person to enjoy his achievements.

The Congress of Students from Romania (SDG 4): The Congress of Students from Romania is a project that brings together students from the whole country, involved in solving the problems that persist within the current socio-educational system. By creating a bridge in communication and cooperation between students and institutional representatives of the educational sphere, the Congress aims to find solutions and, at the same time, to innovate by gathering the demands and analyzing the needs of Romanian students. The next edition of CSR-RM will also involve collaboration with students from the Republic of Moldova in order to condemn the peaceful and just spirit that the Union wishes to record with the institutions of the Republic of Moldova (SDG 16).

UniFEST Festival (SDG3, SDG 4, SDG 12, SDG 13): The UniFEST Festival, the largest student festival, with a 20-year tradition, provides Romanian students from different university centers with a wide range of actions and events. Within the festival there are events dedicated to a healthy lifestyle, conferences aimed at ensuring quality in education and actions that prevent climate change.
The Forum of Romanian Students from Everywhere (SDG4, SDG8) is a project made by students for students and is organized by 4 nationally representative youth organizations: the UN Youth Association from Romania, the Federation of Medical Student Associations from Romania, the League of Romanian Students Abroad, the Union of Students from Romania. The forum is one of the most ambitious and innovative projects organized on the territory of Romania, a project that challenges the participating students to meet, debate and come up with pertinent solutions, formulated following the discussions, which will be submitted to the decision-makers, for analysis and possible implementation. This project is a powerful tool in the common arsenal of 4 federations, who have come together to promote a better and more sustainable future for their country, because through this project, which brings together more than 200 students annually, students can instill a new perspective on the sustainable development of Romania and the implementation and assumption of the 2030 Agenda by every individual.
Contributors

The youth organizations that contributed are the: UN Youth Association of Romania which contains members from all over the country, the Romanian Youth Council - which brings together federative structures with a network of over 400 organizations of and for youth in the country, being the only structure from Romania affiliated to the European Youth Forum and the World Assembly of Youth, the League of Romanian Students Abroad - which over the years has built a community of over 10,000 members, with representations in over 50 countries and the Union of Students from Romania - which has under its umbrella 104 youth organizations from the whole country.

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