



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
BULGARIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

---

11 East 84<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10028, Tel: (212) 737 4790, Fax: (212) 472 9865, e-mail: [bulgaria@un.int](mailto:bulgaria@un.int)

**72 UNGA, Third Committee**

**General Statements**

**Agenda Item 27 “Social Development”**

**Ms. Ralitsa Dikanska, Youth Delegate of Bulgaria to the UN**

**Ms. Assya Pandzharova, Youth Delegate of Bulgaria to the UN**

*New York, Monday, 2 October 2017*

**Madam Chair,**

As Bulgarian Youth Delegates to the United Nations it is a great honor to speak on behalf of Bulgarian youth today. Youth can play a crucial role in achieving social development and sustainable future for all. Young people should be equal participants in all decision-making processes at national and global level as they have the knowledge and the courage to give solutions and to contribute for tackling the major challenges facing the world today. To be active participants in society and to realize their full potential young people still need to overcome a number of social challenges.

Youth unemployment, career opportunities and the realization of the right to quality education are issues of global concern that have also been identified by Bulgarian youth as some of their main obstacles. We believe that the acquisition of soft skills, which are broadly applicable across job titles and industries, are essential for the successful participation of young people in the labor market.

We would like to share some of our own experience of how sport and intercultural dialogue as part of non-formal education could be powerful tools for acquiring the skills youth needs today. Unfortunately there is still lack of recognition of the advantages that sport can offer for educating young girls and boys the various skills necessary for being successful in life and for promoting dialogue and understanding in their communities and beyond. As a person who has been actively involved in sport throughout my life I believe that sport gave me the most valuable lessons. I have successfully transferred those skills to the classroom and to my workplace as well. Discipline, leadership, perseverance and respect for the other are just a few of the many soft skills obtained through sport. And those are crucial not only for building one's personality but for contributing to social development as well.

**Madam Chair,**

The set of skills that young people acquire through formal and non-formal education are an important prerequisite for their meaningful participation in public and social life. In times of constant change with the current large movements of refugees and migrants, social development could be achieved by promoting intercultural dialogue as an effective tool for building trust and tolerance. Young people could provide the solution. Having gained my education and professional experience in a multicultural environment I am confident that young people can contribute to the social integration of refugees and migrants through education and training thus enabling their active participation in the labor market. This is of utmost importance for advancing social development by promoting the human rights for all.

Promoting intercultural dialogue and understanding with the active participation of young people as agents of positive social change is crucial for achieving peace, sustainable development and respect for human rights. We call upon Member States to recognize the role of young people in ensuring equality, social cohesion and sustainable development for all. Bulgarian youth is willing to contribute to this global agenda during the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU in the first semester of 2018.

**Thank you, Madam Chair!**