



SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP (SIRG)
Second regular meeting of 2024
May 2, 2024
Washington, D.C., United States

OEA/Ser.E
GRIC/O.2/doc.50/24
13 May 2024
Original: Spanish

PRESENTATION OF THE YOUTH ON THE CHALLENGES, OBSTACLES,
AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE TENTH SUMMIT

(Diara Nadal, CEO, Piensa)

Good morning.

Esteemed national coordinators, OAS officers and specialists, representatives of international organizations and other SIRG entities:

I am honored to address you as a young Dominican representing the diversity of youth voices across our region.

My name is Diara Nadal. I am a young entrepreneur who has faced down the challenges that plague our generation and, against all odds, I have charted my own path.

I grew up in a world where child abuse, drugs, prostitution, and poverty were never far away. But learning to dream gave me hope and I grew up with a deep sense that my life could one day be different, and I made bold decisions that led me to forge a destiny that defied statistics.

Just like mine, there are millions of stories of young people growing up with challenges they do not know how to face. The current, traditional ways in which education, economic opportunities, and participation are structured do not help because we live in realities with different challenges and needs.

Rather than teaching us to pursue our dreams, they teach us to meet a standard. Rather than teaching us to be happy, they teach us that the approval of others is more important. And rather than teaching us to think, they teach us to obey and maintain the status quo.

No one who has made great discoveries did so by following rules and standards; they did it by thinking and dreaming.

For all these reasons, my company is called “Piensa.”

In my country, working with the private sector, we have succeeded in inserting into the school curriculum a subject we call “Learning to Dream,” where adolescents learn the skills they need to grow emotionally healthy and make their lives happy.

In our program we teach leadership skills, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, innovation, mindset, emotional intelligence, goal setting, character development, and self-esteem. Young people are not lost, they are distracted. We need to create fewer distractions and more tools that focus.

At no other time in history have we enjoyed such broad and democratized access to free, high-quality education at affordable costs. Nor have we had at our disposal as many global platforms to explore job opportunities, or as many innovative tools to monetize our talents in diverse and creative ways.

According to the United Nations, there are 73 million unemployed young people worldwide. Likewise, two weeks ago, the President of the World Bank, Ajay Banga, in his opening speech at the Spring Meetings, highlighted the imperative of urgently addressing global challenges, and provided as one example the fact that more than one billion young people in the global South will reach working age over the next 10 years; however, only 325 million jobs are projected to be created in that same region during that time.

Given this worrying reality, measures urgently need to be taken to ensure a sustainable working future for the next generations. Young people long to be able to live fully on a healthy planet, in prosperous societies and economies that allow them to attain their full potential. I invite you to think about the future of your children and the well-being of your countries' young people in your conversations on the road to the Tenth Summit.

Youth yearn for guidance, a clear path and a strategy to achieve their goals, and this is where Young Americas Business Trust (YABT) and Piensa come into play as reliable allies. At Piensa, our platform uses artificial intelligence to provide personalized recommendations tailored to each individual's unique tastes, talents, and interests. From scholarships to internships, training programs, podcasts, educational videos, experiences and challenges, Piensa provides a complete roadmap for young people to build the future they want.

Piensa will be the first platform to validate learning from YouTube and platforms like Spotify, just by listening to podcasts.

We often give more weight to an academic education than to a transformative one. Piensa wants to raise the bar for transformative education.

Our vision is to be the most effective talent organizer in the world.

We are currently at 44 educational facilities in my country and have already had an impact on approximately 5,000 young people.

Today, we, the youth, are recognized as "partners for prosperity" and an official social actor in the Summit of the Americas process through the Young Americas Forum, which serves to draw attention to youth actions and solutions in the most important space in our region. This includes the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Expo, a part of the Summits process since 2012.

We ask your support to make youth participation, entrepreneurship, and investment in youth a priority, and to strengthen support for the role of youth in the “Challenges and Opportunities ahead of the Tenth Summit of the Americas.”

Note the importance of strategic partnerships, such as, for example, the one between YABT and Banreservas, which provides opportunities for countless young people and has given me the chance to come to Washington, D.C., to represent youth at this meeting. We need more such partnerships that respond to young people; therefore, we also invite the international organizations belonging to the Joint Summit Working Group to partner with YABT to develop the Seventh Young Americas Forum process at the Tenth Summit the length and breadth of the continent.

We should never forget that entrepreneurship and innovation are the pillars that support the future of our society. We should continue to trust in them.

I would like to close by once again thanking the YABT for the opportunity to speak for young people at this important dialogue, and to thank you for your clear commitment in continuing to promote our participation through the Young Americas Forum, whose process is already underway and will culminate with the seventh such forum in my country, the Dominican Republic, where you will be able to see for yourselves the energy, innovation, and contributions of the youth of the Americas.

Thank you very much.