



THE 31ST AFS YOUTH ASSEMBLY DECLARATION OF IMPACT

Background and Purpose

More than 700 young leaders from over 80 countries gathered in New York City from August 12–14, 2026, for the 31st AFS Youth Assembly, united under the powerful theme: **“Rise. Reimagine. Rebuild: A World for All.”**

Humanity stands at a defining crossroad. As the world watches mass atrocities unfold and crises multiply across continents, young people are stepping forward, demanding meaningful participation, reimagining governance, and reshaping the global agenda across cultures and borders. Supporting brave young people is deeply rooted in the mission of AFS Intercultural Programs. We empower youth to become global citizens who are prepared to bridge divides and drive positive change.

The AFS Youth Assembly Alumni Impact Network proudly commits to the ***Declaration of Impact***, a roadmap that outlines shared priorities and actions to guide its collective efforts moving forward. This declaration stands as both a promise and a call to action to lead with purpose, collaborate across borders, and drive meaningful change starting within every region of the world.

This declaration begins with a global commitment followed by regional declarations to meet the specific needs and priorities of each region.

Global Declaration

We stand together as one global generation. Our histories differ and our challenges take different shapes, but our determination is shared: to turn access into opportunity, exclusion into belonging, and inspiration into lasting impact. We believe that political differences and ideologies should never divide us. Unity, collaboration, and collective action are how meaningful change begins. Today, at the 31st AFS Youth Assembly, we declare our commitment to education and equality, partnership, health and wellbeing, sustainability and innovation, and the enduring power of solidarity. We are not simply beneficiaries of change. We are its leaders, innovators, and architects, and we carry this promise home to every region we represent.



Region of Africa Declaration

As the African Region, we declare **our commitment to collaboration, partnership, and youth-led impact by sharing knowledge, strengthening existing ideas, breaking barriers to access, and connecting young people to funding, mentorship, networks, and opportunities.** We will amplify Africa's stories and solutions to the world while intentionally reaching displaced and conflict-affected youth, the girl and boy child, and communities vulnerable to climate change. We commit to supporting sustainable innovation and measurable impact, ensuring that our projects create lasting growth, generate learning, and inspire the next generation of solutions. Above all, we will nurture passionate leaders who understand the mission, have the resources to act, and are empowered to transform Africa; not simply as beneficiaries of change, but as its leaders, innovators, and architects.

Region of Latin America and the Caribbeans

We, in the Latin American and Caribbean region, **commit to expanding access to inclusive and accessible education, providing basic knowledge and modern, sustainable technological skills.** We will promote gender equality through education that inspires, empowers, and transforms mindsets. We will mobilise resources and strengthen partnerships with the public and private sectors to expand our impact and create sustainable opportunities for our communities. Through these partnerships, we will work to reduce inequalities and ensure that technology and education become tools for inclusion and transformation. Above all, we believe that political differences and ideologies should not divide us. We choose unity, collaboration, and collective action to create meaningful and lasting change.

Region of Europe Declaration

We, the youth of Europe, **recognise the power of solidarity and commit to using our collective voice and action to strive for self-determination.**

Region of Middle East and North Africa Declaration

We, the youth of the Middle East and North Africa, recognize the challenges facing our region: political instability, unequal opportunities, bureaucracy, overlooked talent, and divisions driven by strategic priorities. But we refuse to let these challenges define our future. **We envision a peaceful and connected MENA, where countries build stronger relationships, women have a greater role in leadership, and young people have the opportunities and resources to shape their future.** We call for a shared regional initiative and accessible funding to unite and empower youth across MENA. Together, we will turn our diversity into strength, our ideas into action, and our shared vision into lasting impact.

Region of Asia and Oceania Declaration

We, the people of the Asia and Oceania region, **commit to raising awareness and taking action to advance green energy, develop frameworks to address poverty, expand access to youth opportunities, and protect mental health.**

Region of North America Declaration

We, the youth of North America, **firmly believe in a healthcare system that leaves no one behind.** One that directly reduces barriers to access, eliminates systematic disadvantage and strengthens the support and protection of health care workers who dedicate themselves to keep our communities healthy.