

## Countdown to the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019 and Youth Forum “Lisboa+21”

In just over a week, Portugal will host the 2019 World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth and Youth Forum Lisboa+21, which will bring together hundreds of people responsible for Youth affairs in countries, international and non-governmental organizations and young people, to be held in **June 21-23**.

The President of the Portuguese Republic, **Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa**, and the Minister of Education (who is in charge of Youth affairs and will host the Conference), **Tiago Brandão Rodrigues**, shall speak at the opening session, while the United Nations Secretary-General **António Guterres**, and the Portuguese Prime Minister, **António Costa**, shall close the proceedings. Also present at this World Conference will be the President of the United Nations General Assembly, **María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés**, and the Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on Youth, **Jayathma Wickramanayake**.

In 1998, the Portuguese Government, in cooperation with partners from the United Nations System, organized the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, which became a milestone in the work on Youth policies. In the final Declaration, Ministers and other attending world leaders committed themselves to work alongside youth on a set of policies and programmes meeting the concerns of young people and improve their lives. These commitments covered the priority areas of the sector, as defined in the World Program of Action for Youth, adopted in 1995 by the United Nations General Assembly.

Twenty-one years later, States are now called upon to strengthen their commitments to integrate the Youth perspective into the implementation of the [2030 Agenda](#). Action is necessary and its postponement is definitely not an option.

The Conference and Youth Forum Lisbon + 21 aims to:

- Provide a space where States and young people can provide information on national efforts to make the commitments of the 1998 Lisbon Declaration a reality, in the light of the [World Programme of Action for Youth](#), the renewed commitment of the First Global Forum on Youth Policies in Baku, as well as the objectives and vision of the UN Youth Strategy - [Youth 2030](#);

- Facilitate dialogue on innovative and operational strategies and initiatives - at policy and implementation level - that promote the integration of the Youth perspective into policy formulation and the involvement of young people in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at national, regional and global levels;
- Enable the exchange of knowledge and experiences in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), including information on effective practices concerning implementation, monitoring, follow-up and review of Youth policies and the participation of young people;
- Start a debate on emerging Youth issues and on the means to effectively support young people to overcome the challenges of a changing world;
- Agree on a renewed commitment with young people through effective, innovative and evidence-based policies and programmes.

A renewed Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes (Lisbon + 21), within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, will result from the 2019 World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth and Youth Forum “Lisbon + 21”.

"Lisbon + 21" is convened by the Portuguese Government - through the Ministry of Education - and the National Youth Council, with the endorsement of the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

Lisboa, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019

## **MEMORANDUM**

### **OFFICIAL CONFERENCE WEBSITE:**

<https://www.lisboa21.gov.pt/>

### **ORGANIZATION:**

Convened by the Portuguese Government, through the Ministry of Education and the National Youth Council, with the endorsement of the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

### **PARTICIPANTS:**

A Conferência e o Fórum de Juventude, que se realiza no Altice Arena, reunirá ministros e altos dirigentes de países de todo o mundo e representantes de organizações da juventude (intergovernamentais e não-governamentais).

Dia 21 de junho terá lugar uma receção de boas-vindas, assim como eventos paralelos ao programa oficial.

### **VENUE:**

Conference and Youth Forum - Altice Arena

<https://www.lisboa21.gov.pt/en/content/conference/pratical/usefull.html>

### **PROGRAMME:**

The updated draft programme, in progress, can be found on the "Lisbon + 21" website

Amongst the speakers are heads of UN agencies and young people, as well as representatives from several international youth organizations at regional level, or personalities responsible for youth affairs from these organizations, and young activists for the Sustainable Development Goals.