



United Nations
Youth Office

Statement by Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, Felipe Paullier

International Anti-Corruption Day

9 December

Corruption impacts us all, but for the 1.9 billion young people alive today, its effects can be devastating.

It robs them of opportunities, erodes trust in institutions, and threatens their aspirations of a fair and sustainable future.

As we mark International Anti-Corruption Day, I invite you to join us in uniting with youth against corruption to shape tomorrow's integrity.

Corruption is not just a distant concept — it has tangible and daily consequences for all.

It can mean fewer resources for education, for healthcare, for social development and for climate action.

It can stifle creativity, limit job prospects, and even affect the fairness of sports and public life.

But here's the good news: young people are not just victims of corruption—they are powerful agents of change.

Around the world, young people are organizing in their communities, are promoting accountability, and they are advocating for ethical behavior. Youth are natural innovators and are leveraging the use of new technologies like blockchain and artificial intelligence to increase transparency and fight corruption.

To policymakers, educators, civil society, and the private sector: it is time to give to youth a seat at the table. Listen to their voices and involve them in decisions that are shaping their future.

And to young people: let's demand accountability. Share your innovative solutions, and lead by example in your communities.



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Imagine a world where integrity is the norm, where institutions are trusted, and where every young person can pursue their dreams without barriers.

This is the future we can achieve if we unite against corruption.

Today and every day, let us commit to amplify the voices of youth and to build a just and transparent future free of corruption for generations to come.