Sigma Theta Tau International
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UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITY REPORT

The 20th session of the 2017 Summer Youth Assembly at the United Nations presented both an opportunity and a challenge to stimulate and ensure youth engagement and participation in achieving an inclusive and sustainable future where no one is left behind.

Guided by the overarching principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, "leaving no one behind," the conference explored issues and solutions for sustainable development in the social, economic, and environmental dimensions. While youth are among those subjected to exclusion and marginalization, they have the potential to accelerate and achieve sustainable development in their communities and beyond. With their unique sets of skills and perspectives in today's ever-evolving world, they remain at the frontlines of innovation and change.

The event was 9-12 August 2017 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, NY, United States.

Report submitted by Marnie Colborne, STTI United Nations Youth Representative

The President of the General Assembly opened with sobering statistics highlighting the most important goals we should be focusing on as youth and as nations: developing peaceful societies, eradicating hunger, growing inequalities, converting climate problems, and eradicating discriminatory laws and practices to ensure sustainable outcomes for the most vulnerable populations and looking at the economic constructs that are exacerbating this.

There are 1.8 billion youth, and we must be the voices, educators, and examples of what sustainable living actually is.

Youth delegates to the United Nations and Ambassadors/Permanent Representatives of Kenya, Portugal, and Sri Lanka were introduced.

Mr. Macharia Kamau, Ambassador of Kenya, explored the importance of our digital age and how we are extremely lucky to be completely interconnected with the rest of the world.

Amrita Rohan Perrera of Sri Lanka (@SLUNNewYork) discussed that inclusivity and equity are key factors of building a strong and healthy society. Youth must have a say in building their community and society moving forward.

I believe the general idea of including youth more can be directly tied back to our institutions. Universities, governments, and community members are key stakeholders in starting any project. From my perspective, our chapter is very open to welcoming our youth, but the opportunities for students are still unclear at times. From the relationships I built with other youth from around the world, I learned

that many countries have opportunities to meet with their governments and discuss increasing youth opportunity. Perhaps these avenues in our respected locations already exist but need to be better utilized.