



United Kingdom Overseas Territories Association

British Overseas Territories Youth Summit

Communiqué November 2023

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ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

Youth participants at the British Overseas Territories Youth Summit highlighted the following economic challenges facing their territories:

- Employment: High unemployment rates, particularly among young people.
- Cost of living: Soaring prices for essential goods and services, making it difficult for young people to afford to live and work in their territories.
- Land loss and housing: Limited availability of affordable housing, due to factors such as rising land prices and development.

Participants called for the following policy actions to address these challenges:

- Investment in job creation: Governments should invest in sectors that create good-paying jobs for young people, such as renewable energy, tourism, and creative industries.
- Support for affordable housing: Governments should provide subsidies and tax breaks to developers to build affordable housing for young people.
- Land reform: Governments should review land ownership laws and regulations to ensure that more land is available for affordable housing and economic development.



CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

Youth participants at the British Overseas Territories Youth Summit expressed deep concern about the threat of climate change and environmental degradation to their territories. Participants highlighted the following specific challenges:

- Sea level rise: Many British Overseas Territories are low-lying and vulnerable to sea level rise, which is already causing flooding and erosion.
- Extreme weather events: British Overseas Territories are also experiencing more extreme weather events, such as hurricanes and droughts.
- Biodiversity loss: British Overseas Territories are home to a wide range of unique ecosystems and species, which are threatened by climate change, pollution, and invasive species.

Participants called for the following policy actions to address these challenges:

- Investment in climate adaptation and mitigation: Governments should invest in measures to protect their territories from the impacts of climate change, such as seawalls, mangrove restoration, and renewable energy.
- Sustainable development: Governments should adopt policies that promote sustainable development and protect the environment.
- Environmental education and awareness: Governments should raise awareness of climate change and environmental issues among the public, and educate young people about the importance of sustainable living.

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EDUCATION

Youth participants at the British Overseas Territories Youth Summit identified the following challenges in the education sector:

- Limited resources: Many British Overseas Territories have limited resources to invest in education. This can lead to overcrowded classrooms, shortages of qualified teachers, and a lack of access to quality educational materials.
- Curriculum relevance: The curriculum in some British Overseas Territories may not be relevant to the needs of students and the local economy.
- Skills development: There is a need to develop more vocational and technical training programs to prepare young people for the workforce.

Participants called for the following policy actions to address these challenges:

- Increased funding for education: Governments should increase funding for education to ensure that all students have access to quality education.
- Curriculum reform: Governments should work with educators and stakeholders to develop a curriculum that is relevant to the needs of students and the local economy.
- Investment in vocational and technical training: Governments should invest in vocational and technical training programs to prepare young people for the workforce.

Conclusion

Youth participants at the British Overseas Territories Youth Summit called on governments to take action to address the economic, environmental, and educational challenges facing their territories. Participants expressed their commitment to working with governments and other stakeholders to build a better future for all young people in the British Overseas Territories.