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## **STATEMENT TO WGEPAD PUBLIC 27TH SESSION**

**3 December 2020 14:00 - 16:00 CET**

### **CHILDREN AND YOUTH INSPIRED TO PARTICIPATE AND LEAD TO SHAPE A WORLD THEY WANT TO LIVE**

**"If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? If not now, then when?" Hillel**

**THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF TODAY ANSWER.....**

**"If not me, then who?" King**

On behalf of children and youth worldwide and the international NGO, Ariel Foundation International, makes this statement to the UN Committee on the People of African Descent (WGEPAD).

Children and youth must be a part of the dialogue and solutions for the people of African Descent across the many different cultures, languages, and lands, and in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Children and youth believe that Sustainable Development for peoples of African Descent is only viable with their direct participation on the local, national and international levels. Fundamental to this premise is the right for children and youth to be directly involved in shaping a world that they will not only have to live with, but also a world where they are expected to implement the decisions.

Children and youth account for a growing quarter or more of the world's population. In many countries, young people constitute more than 50% of the entire population. Children and youth throughout history have been leaders that have led the change in our societies and have been the leaders and changemakers. Children and youth are inspired by moral obligation and optimism for positive impact. They believe in change for social good, no matter how difficult the reality, and are driven to be involved and act to improve their lives and those in their community, country and world.

Ariel Foundation International

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