

PROCLAMATION ON CYBER EDUCATION, MENTAL HEALTH, AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

WHEREAS, the digital age has transformed the way our societies live, learn, and connect, while simultaneously presenting unprecedented challenges to the mental health, safety, and well-being of young people;

WHEREAS, the youth of the Dominican Republic and the world are not only beneficiaries of education and governance but are also the rightful changemakers of tomorrow, entitled to actively design the future they will inherit;

WHEREAS, the Government of the Dominican Republic, under the leadership of President Luis Abinader and Vice President Raquel Peña, has recognized the urgent importance of mental health as a national priority, aligning with global frameworks for sustainable development;

WHEREAS, the Institute of Public Policy and Diplomacy Research (IPPDR) affirms its guiding principle, "We do not observe change; we design it," and, through its first Summit on Cyber Education and Mental Health held in the Dominican Republic, has made history by empowering youth to confront the challenges of cyber education, digital safety, and mental resilience;

WHEREAS, this historic milestone stands as a symbolic gesture of solidarity between government, civil society, and international partners, recognizing that cyber education, mental health, and youth empowerment are inseparable pillars of a just and sustainable society;

WHEREAS, this effort reflects and advances the United Nations Resolutions 2250, 2419, and 2535 on youth, peace, and security, as well as the General Assembly's Pact for the Future (A/RES/79/1), together with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDGs 3, 4, 9, 16, and 17;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Institute of Public Policy and Diplomacy Research (IPPDR), joined by the Humanitarian Focus Foundation, youth leaders, civil society representatives, and international partners, does hereby proclaim the Declaration on Cyber Education, Mental Health, and Youth Empowerment as a guiding framework for national action and international cooperation.

BE FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that:

1. Every young person has the right to mental health, free of stigma, with accessible services in schools and communities.
2. Cyber education shall be recognized as a universal right, integrated into formal and non-formal systems of learning.
3. Youth must be recognized as equal partners in shaping policies related to digital governance, health, and innovation.
4. Governments, civil society, and the private sector shall work together to advance responsible technology use and safeguard the well-being of youth.
5. The Dominican Republic shall serve as a regional leader in linking digital innovation, mental health, and youth empowerment for sustainable development.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this proclamation is issued on behalf of the youth of the Dominican Republic and global partners, with a call for endorsements and signatures by government officials, educators, civil society leaders, and international organizations.

Signed this 30th day of August, 2025.



Ambassador Dr. Andrise Bass
President & Founder, Institute of Public Policy and Diplomacy Research