



THE FUTURE IS BUILT BY THE COMMUNITY

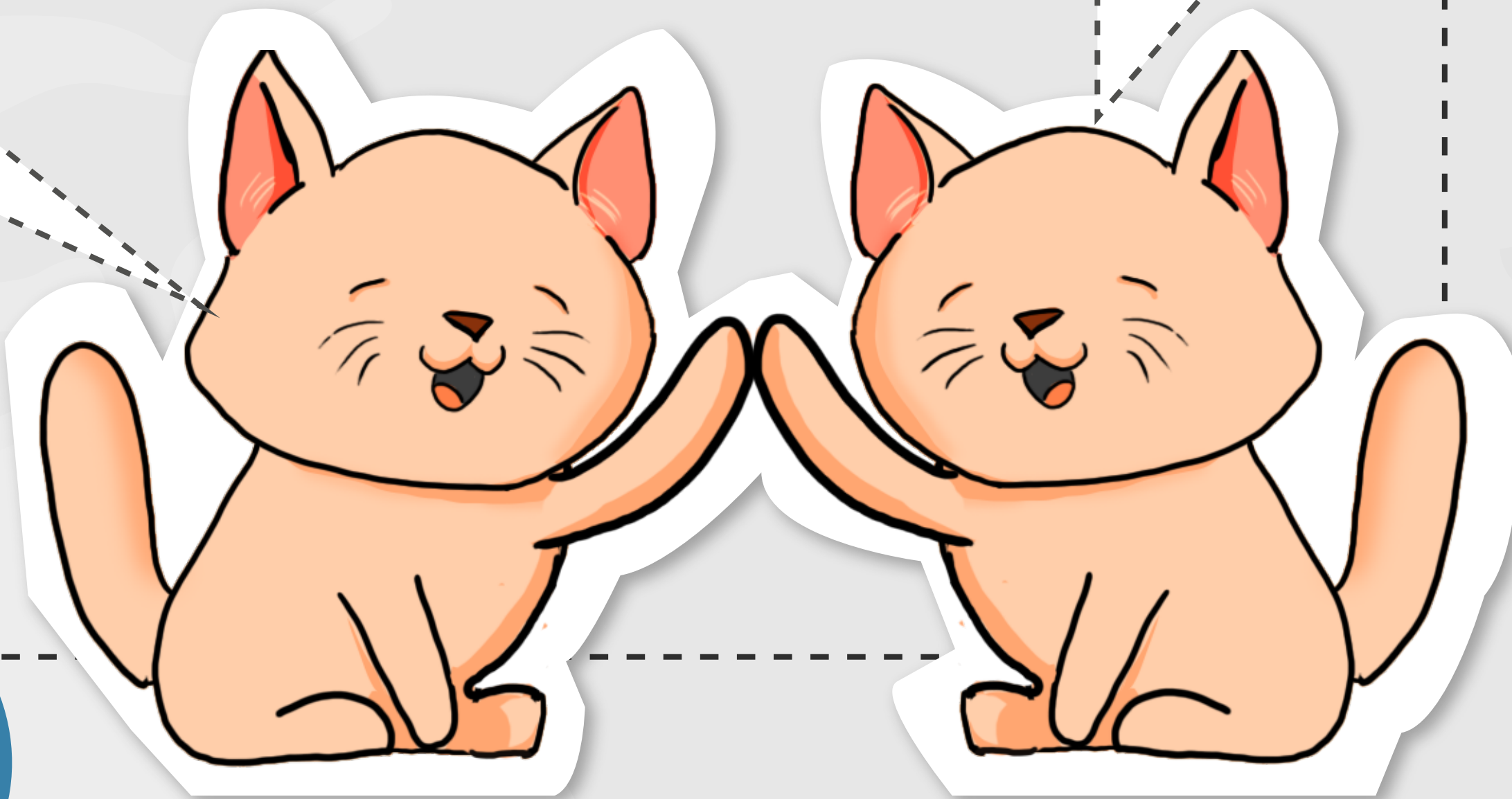
THE COMMON GOOD: FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY

The common good comprises all the social, political and economic conditions that facilitate the holistic development of each individual person and of the community.

Political, economic and social conditions determine if all the people can develop their full potential.

Education, justice and citizen engagement underpin this process.

Aiming for the common good is the search to find what will benefit everyone.



MOBILIZE - AS PART OF THE COMMUNITY



BE ETHICAL AND RESPONSIBLE

Young people's engagement is perceived as essential because:

It contributes to social development: Young people are the drivers of change in education, the natural environment, justice and culture.

It contributes to innovation and new ideas: Young people contribute their creativity, energy and different ways of thinking that can help us to find solutions to ongoing problems.

It promotes social cohesion: Youth involvement reduces the risk of exclusion or unemployment.

It strengthens democracy: Youth action kindles democratic values like solidarity and respect for human rights.

It supports collective learning: The community commitment provides an opportunity to improve leadership, teamwork, critical thinking and communication.

It facilitates incorporating new voices: When young people engage, the decisions taken also reflect their interests and concerns.

Ethics and responsibility are **essential** for active youth citizenship, also for orienting decisions towards the common good.

How can we promote all this?

In school: when agreements are respected, there is dialogue, and collective decisions are taken.

In the family: Standards are set by the mothers, fathers and other adults whose actions reflect what they say.

In the community: By engaging in campaigns and other activities that benefit everyone.

Ethical principles remind us that freedom always goes hand in hand with responsibility.
Our actions have implications for other people and for the planet.



COOPERATE WITH OTHERS!

Cooperation is one of the **most valuable social practices** for young people to adopt.

It enhances teamwork and it underpins the practice of democracy.

The value of cooperation is two-fold.

Working together: implies listening, entering into dialogue and meeting collective goals.

Ethical decision-making: recognizes the other as an equal, it requires acting responsibly and looking for the common good with respect, justice, empathy and solidarity.

Benefits of young people's cooperation:

It builds **relationships based on respect and compromise.**

It improves **social cohesion** and democracy.

It develops **empathy:** putting oneself in the place of others and letting that guide one's actions.

It enables us to confront challenges like discrimination, violence or climate change with collective solutions.



Cooperation involves sharing responsibilities.

OAS Inter-American Democracy Charter Corner:

Article 6

It is the right and responsibility of all citizens to participate in decisions relating to their own development. This is also a necessary condition for the full and effective exercise of democracy. Promoting and fostering diverse forms of participation strengthens democracy.