



Economic and Social Council Youth Forum

**“Youth shaping sustainable and innovative solutions:
Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in
times of crises”**

SIDE EVENT AT THE 2024 ECOSOC YOUTH FORUM

**"From COP28 to COP29: Youth Leading the Charge Against
Climate Change"**

**Organized by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the United Nations, the Permanent Mission of the United Arab
Emirates to the United Nations, UN Youth Office (TBC)**

[18 April 2024, 1:30 - 2:30pm NY Time/EST]

1. Background

Youth are acknowledged as crucial stakeholders within the United Nations system, and this is especially the case regarding climate change which is set to impact the youngest generations today worst of all. Given the pivotal role of this year's ECOSOC Youth Forum to build consensus on pathways forward regarding SDG 13: Climate Action, it is essential for the dialogues to include discussion on the upcoming COP29 UN climate negotiations set to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November.

COP29 will be important juncture in terms of youth engagement in international climate policy, since COP28 in the UAE delivered a lasting legacy for youth inclusion with the formal COP decision to institutionalize the role of the Presidency Youth Climate Champion (YCC), which will now be carried forward as a high-level office into all future COPs. The YCC will now play a distinctive role within the COP Presidency, acting as a

bridge between the Presidency, member states, the UN system, and youth civil society stakeholders. This role will be imperative to provide youth with not nominal but practical opportunities to interact with decision-makers, and this side-event will initiate this process for COP29, ensuring the ECOSOC Youth Forum outcomes are carried to COP.

2. Objectives

For young people, climate change represents the most significant global challenge, affecting every aspect of their current and future lives. Yet while the challenges of climate change are increasingly weighing on youth's shoulders, several obstacles interfere with active and meaningful youth participation in climate policy processes and decision-making. This side event will explore how youth engagement in international climate policy making can be improved so as to accelerate ambition towards achieving SDG13, addressing issues such as lack of formal engagement platforms, inadequate funding and resources, inefficient capacity building and other barriers. In particular, this will be a chance for youth to engage directly with the COP29 Presidency Youth Climate Champion, exploring how this newly institutionalized role can improve methods and formal procedures for considering youth policy recommendations, including those from the ECOSOC Youth Forum. Objectives will include:

- Develop actionable recommendations to better integrate youth perspectives into climate policies and strategies via series of youth consultations.
- Highlight barriers hindering active youth participation in climate action.
- Explore the role of the Presidency Youth Climate Champion to bridge communication between key climate decision-makers and young people.
- Inspire young people to take meaningful action on climate change in their communities and beyond.

3. Programme

- Presentation by the COP28 and COP29 Presidencies, including COP29 Presidency Youth Climate Champion Ms. Leyla Hasanova, on their vision and best practices for youth inclusion in COP and international climate policymaking.
- An interactive dialogue session with youth stakeholders who will be able to ask questions and brainstorm ideas together and with the YCCs.
- Participants to include: ECOSOC Youth Forum delegates, YOUNGO, UNICEF, UNDP

4. Guiding Questions for discussion

- What do you consider to be the biggest climate change challenges that young people face in your community?
- What can development partners and governments do to ensure that youth have a voice in decision-making and involvement at all stages of climate action?
- What are the gaps holding the youth back from climate decision-making and what are the opportunities you hope to see at COP29 to address these?
- What are the key policy targets you hope to see from COP29?

5. Venue Address (if In-person) and/or Platform to be used for virtual side events including Registration link

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