



**ECOSOC**  
**YOUTH FORUM**

**YOUTH2030**

## **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**

**“Youth in Evaluation on SDG 16 for more effective,  
Peaceful, accountable and inclusive institutions”**

**Organized by Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) &  
United Nations Fund Population Activities (UNFPA)**

**17 April 2024**

**Orange Cafe UNFPA HQ (Hybrid Event)  
13h00 - 14h45pm EST**

**Reported by:** Nico Pampier, Mohamed Edabbar and Yara Ouda.

### **I. Empowering the youth in evaluation for accelerating SDG16 (keynote speech)**

The keynote speech emphasized the crucial role of youth empowerment in evaluation within the broader context of effective, peaceful, accountable, and inclusive institutions, all of which are essential components of the 2030 Agenda. It underscored the importance of empowering young people to achieve inclusivity, representation, and the principle of leaving no one behind.

The session highlighted the significant contribution of young and emerging evaluators (YEEs) to advancing Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16), which aims for more effective, peaceful, accountable, and inclusive institutions. It emphasized the necessity for intergenerational collaboration, where young evaluators bring their innovation and technological expertise while collaborating with experienced evaluators.

Young evaluation officers identified the lack of disaggregated data among young people as a significant challenge, as it can lead to the misunderstanding and neglect of the actual needs of youth. Therefore, meaningful engagement of young people in the evaluation and decision-making processes was emphasized as crucial. This engagement was seen to have numerous benefits, including shaping and informing new interventions, fostering social cohesion, building resilience, and contributing to sustainable peace.

### **II. Roundtable Discussions**

During the roundtable discussions, youth participants expressed concern over the world's current trajectory, highlighting the deviation from achieving the 2030 Agenda. They emphasized the need to reduce global military spending, as conflicts and wars significantly impede progress towards SDG 16 targets as well as Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda. Participants stressed the importance of continuous investment in and involvement of young people in the evaluation process, as they can contribute to advancing evaluation knowledge, institutionalizing it, and empowering others.

Conversations acknowledged the invaluable experience of counterparts in guiding evaluation efforts, while also recognizing the significance of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI). Young emerging evaluators (YEEs) were identified as playing a crucial role, given their adaptability to technological advancements.

Young leaders called for the meaningful inclusion of young and emerging evaluators in decision-making processes related to climate change and conflicts. They also urged for the urgent implementation of the Youth, Peace, and Security agenda in countries still consolidating their efforts in this area, aiming to involve young people more effectively in peacebuilding processes. Furthermore, youth participation stressed the importance of securing national commitments to advance gender-responsive operationalization of the Youth, Peace, and Security agenda. Additionally, there was an emphasis on strengthening political will and commitment to include youth, especially young women, in peace processes.

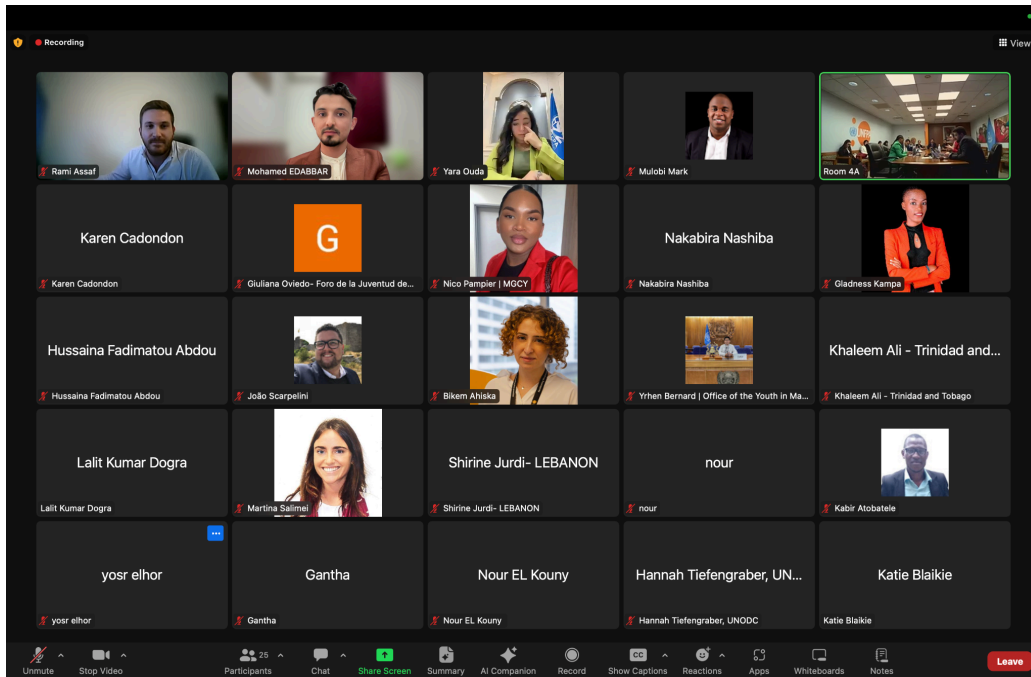
### **III. Key takeaways:**

Key takeaways from the side-event include:

1. **Practical and Context-Specific Approaches:** Recommendations emphasize the need for evaluation processes to be practical, result-oriented, and tailored to specific contexts to ensure meaningful engagement and effective solutions.
2. **Long-Term Engagement of Young People:** Instead of offering temporary internships, providing young people with more significant roles can lead to lasting, effective, and meaningful change in evaluation processes.
3. **Intergenerational Collaboration:** Collaborating across generations allows for the incorporation of both experience and youth perspectives, along with innovative ideas, in evaluation efforts.
4. **Empowering Youth-Led Peacebuilding Initiatives:** Supporting youth-led initiatives in peacebuilding can significantly contribute to fostering peaceful communities. Member states are called upon to build meaningful partnerships with these initiatives.
5. **Youth Accountability and Engagement in SDG Implementation:** Young people are recognized as playing a critical role in holding member states accountable for their commitments to implementing the SDGs. Meaningful engagement of youth in the evaluation process of SDGs is essential for ensuring the effectiveness, peace, accountability, and inclusivity of institutions. The full session is available to watch. <https://bit.ly/3UeiRsf>



A group photo - in-person



A group photo - virtual