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ECOSOC  
YOUTH FORUM



Summit of  
the Future  
Our Common Agenda

YOUTH  
2030  
WORKING WITH AND FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

# 2024 ECOSOC YOUTH FORUM SUMMARY

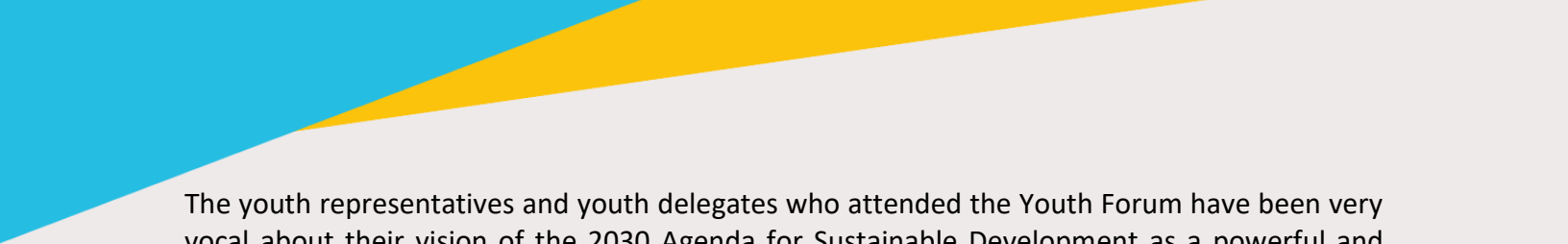


## **Youth shaping sustainable and innovative solutions: Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of crises**



The twelfth annual Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum took place on 16, 17 and 18 April 2024 at United Nations New York headquarters. Chaired by H.E. Mrs. Paula Narváez, President of ECOSOC, the Youth Forum attracted over 1,000 in-person and over 13,000 remote participants, including 36 Ministers, 43 high-level Government representatives from 83 Member States, as well as about 92 youth delegates from 38 Member States. This year's Forum attracted a record number of senior officials as well as major actors, including regional and other inter-governmental organizations and influential youth networks.

The ECOSOC Youth Forum is now the global platform of choice for young people, thanks to its ability to connect young change makers and national delegates, its effectiveness in channeling the voices of young people into high-level decision-making and in spurring continued action in their communities. This increased interest and attendance are the results of an effective collaboration among multiple United Nations offices which is generating engaging, dynamic and thought-provoking sessions and events as part of the ECOSOC Youth Forum. While the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the UN Youth Office were the main organizers, the members of the InterAgency Network on Youth Development (IANYD) chaired by DESA, also played a crucial role by leveraging their expertise and tapping into their respective networks to mobilize diverse youth constituencies. The Youth Forum was also co-convened by the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) and the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO), with technical inputs from youth organizations relevant to the theme of the forum.




The youth representatives and youth delegates who attended the Youth Forum have been very vocal about their vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a powerful and relevant framework to mobilize action to achieve shared prosperity. Young people are advocating for increased engagement in decision-making processes and launching their own initiatives to support the 2030 Agenda implementation.

Youth representatives and government delegations engaged in productive discussions on the role of “Youth shaping sustainable and innovative solutions: Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of crises.” A number of recommendations were made during thematic breakout session, focusing on no poverty (SDG 1), zero hunger (SDG 2), climate action (SDG 13), peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16), and partnerships for the goals (SDG 17). Regional breakout sessions ensure that the unique challenges and opportunities faced by young people in different areas of the world were also discussed.

Over the three days of the Forum, 64 side events were organized by a broad range of stakeholders which provided additional opportunities to expand discussions. The third day of the Forum was dedicated to discussions on the Summit of the Future with a view to “think for the long term, to deliver more for young people and succeeding generations and to be better prepared for the challenges ahead”, following the Secretary-General’s Our Common Agenda report.

Every year, the ECOSOC Youth Forum grows in participation and importance. It has become the primary platform for youth to highlight and contribute to advance the SDGs, to share the challenges and priorities of the global youth, and to explore best practices on youth engagement.





## OPENING & MODERATED CONVERSATION



After a performance by Ms. Rocío Rojas Monsalve, a renowned Chilean singer, H.E. Ms. Paula Narváez, President of ECOSOC, opened the ECOSOC Youth Forum recognizing the need to collectively address our common concerns, strengthening the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises. She suggested participants to ‘hear the word crisis with a different tone’ by transforming our discourse and instead seeing it as ‘a question, a problem, but above all, a call to hope’. She recognized the urgency of action and ECOSOC’s commitment to, and faith in the global youth. She advocated for increased youth representation in public decision making, as presently, legislatures do not adequately reflect the concerns of the youth. She commended young people’s capacity to innovate and youth’s agile use of technology ‘to project your voices, build networks, and generate tangible impacts that allow us to imagine a better world’. She finishes by referring to youth as ‘the leaders of the present’.

H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations recognized the vitality of young people’s infectious energy and conviction in light of the lack of SDG progress and in a ‘world that is bristling with challenges, tragedies and injustices’. He highlighted how these crises are resulting in plummeting public trust, increased alienation and harms to the international system and human rights, putting the future of multilateralism at stake. He recognized the need for action and justice, saluting young people for ‘standing up, speaking out and working for real change’. He reasserts his commitment to bring young people into political decision-making through the new UN Youth Office to ‘advance advocacy, coordination, participation, and accountability for and with young people’. A renewed UN Youth Strategy is needed, ‘establishing national youth consultative bodies, a global standard for meaningful youth engagement in decision-making, and creating a UN Youth Townhall’ in the Summit of the Future. He also referenced the reliance on youth engagement and leadership during United Nations Security Council reforms and overhauling the international financial architecture. He urged Member States to support youth engagement and called on youth to rally themselves and hold governments accountable. He concluded by reiterating the commitment of the UN to stand with youth and deliver justice together, seeing hope in this generation.

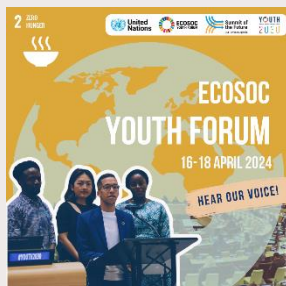
In a keynote address, Ms. Sarah Baharaki, Global Youth Ambassador, Their World, and Representative of the Major Group on Children and Youth (MGCY) recognized the resilience of youth, who bare the heaviest burden in conflict zones having ‘their dreams shattered, their rights trampled, and their futures obscured by the shadows of uncertainty’. She told the story of Aria and said it was one of many examples of women’s resilience in the face of the Taliban in her home country Afghanistan. She applauded those who take matters into their own hands, ‘raising their voices and fearlessly advocating for their rights’. She reminds us of the humanity of the women impacted by the oppressive laws of the Taliban: ‘there's an engineer, a lawyer, and a teacher, many of whom are left with no choice but to beg for a piece of bread.’ She reminds us to recognize our privilege and use what we have been given to actively promote a better future for all. She highlighted the need for support and active involvement of youth ‘at all levels of decision-making, ... because [they] have... the power to dream for better and the bravery and courage to work and make these dreams a reality’. She emphasizes youth’s resourcefulness and that they ‘do not wait for the right time, [but] create the right time to act and bring changes that [they] want to see’. She recognized the diversity of youth while stating that ‘we must unite and not let the political borders divide us because our similarities are far more than our differences, it is the time for the world to come together leaving race, gender, and religious differences aside and become one, work for our common goal of achieving a sustainable world’.



## SDG 2: Zero hunger

### Session title: Feeding the future: Youth and sustainable food systems for all

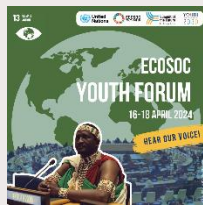
The session opened with a spotlight preamble which provided information and results from a pre-forum survey where young people were asked to provide recommendations on SDG 2. It is worth noting that nearly 95 percent of all youth respondents asserted to be concerned about how the



food we consume is produced. Their major concern was whether the food production process provides decent income to local farmers and workers in the value chains, and, whether it preserves local natural resources and promotes human health. Over 93 percent of respondents, considered SDG 2 of immediate importance for them, their families and communities, therefore recognizing food and nutrition security and overall food systems, as crucial topics for them. The youth speakers at the session, with their experiences and good practices from different countries and regions, as well as the results of the global survey, have highlighted that youth have clearly identified that an inclusive sustainable transformation of agrifood systems, for the people and the planet, is urgent. To achieve all of the above, the mainstream leadership role of youth is more important than ever.

## **SDG 13: Climate action**

### **Session title: Financing our Future: Road to a robust climate finance system for present and future generations**



This session highlighted the need for climate finance and a robust financial and economic system to tackle the climate crisis. It discussed the actions needed to address the climate crisis in a just way and how they should be financed, with a specific focus on the rights of future generations and intergenerational equity. A wide group of speakers contributed to this event, including Member States (Viet Nam, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain, Uzbekistan, Thailand, Ireland, Colombia and Qatar, Malawi and Latvia), youth experts (Ms. Renee Cooper, Mr. Onel Inanadinia Masardule Herrera, Ms. Olivia Karp, Mr. Nnaemeka Phil Eke-okocha, Ms. Ayisha Siddiq, and Ms. Carla Conceição da Graça Lima), and representatives from international organizations (IDLO). The conversation was expertly moderated by Maria Teresa Pareirra. The session underlined the need for young people to be involved in design and implementation of climate finance policies and our need for systemic reform of economic and financial systems. Key recommendations included: embrace alternative economic and financial system models and prioritize long-term environmental and social well-being for all over short-term profits; support and incentivize youth engagement, innovation, and initiatives on climate and sustainability; and ensure finance under the New Collective Quantified Goal with a predictable based on an operational climate finance definition and include subgoals for Adaptation, Loss & Damage, and Mitigation.

## **SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions**

### **Session title: Engaging youth in building peaceful and inclusive societies**

This session aimed to address the inequalities faced by youth, including discrimination, difficulties in accessing quality education for peace, and insufficient funding for youth-led and youth-focused initiatives, while emphasizing the importance of youth participation and representation in decision-making and



peacebuilding processes as well as the need to increase financial support and accelerate the implementation of existing frameworks like the 2030 Agenda, Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, and New Agenda for Peace. Key speakers from Argentina, Panama, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Mali delivered their remarks. They highlighted various initiatives at the country level, as examples of concrete actions to increase funding for youth peacebuilding efforts, promote inclusive and intersectional policies that safeguard human rights (especially in conflict zones), and enhance the relationship between young peacebuilders and policymakers. Member States' speakers emphasized the importance of youth empowerment, participation in decision-making processes, and the need for safe spaces for dialogue. Special attention was given to marginalized groups, including indigenous youth, racial minorities, and women. The session underscored SDG 16's significance despite stalled progress and young people's commitment to promoting the rule of law and ensuring equal access to justice for all. Closing remarks stressed the importance of youth networking, investing in education, empowering and protecting youth, and ensuring their full and effective participation in peace processes. The need for more resources, common support

from diverse stakeholders, and the protection of young activists were also highlighted, alongside calls for increased representation of marginalized groups in future discussions.

## **REGIONAL SESSIONS: Youth perspectives on regional development – challenges, priorities and actions for realizing the SDGs & the Decade of Action**

### **African region:**

In 2050, the African population is expected to reach 2.5 billion people. This change in demographics will come with an equivalent increase in demand for food and basic social services. Artificial Intelligence (AI) could be the game changer that helps Africa address the potential increased demand in food production and basic social services including optimizing renewable energy sources while creating decent jobs and supporting gender equality and youth empowerment. In Africa, business as usual will not deliver the SDGs. Disruptors that radically change development trajectory, such as AI, are needed. At the 2024 ECOSOC Youth Forum Africa Breakout Session, youth emphasized that this kind of disruption brings both opportunities and risks. AI needs to be harnessed as a transformative catalyst for Africa's development to improve the efficiency of existing efforts in education, healthcare, energy and agriculture, and build sustainable value chains within countries to achieve the SDGs and the African Union's Agenda 2063 priorities.

African youth have shown extreme resilience and dynamism in the face of adversity. They have created an AI tools chatbot translating over 500 African languages into English and other languages. Moreover, African innovation is designing solutions to local problems. For example, AI is being deployed to improve development outcomes across the continent, including drones deployed to monitor the cashew crops in Ghana, to deliver medicines in Rwanda, and solar panels being repositioned by AI for maximum efficiency in Namibia. The very sterling example of the success of the early warning system 'Nuru' in Tanzania is highly encouraging. There is also significant research being led by the African Regional Centre on AI in Brazzaville, established with the support of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

The deployment of AI must be accompanied by robust governance frameworks to mitigate risks and safeguard against biases. As AI becomes increasingly pervasive, it is imperative to ensure that its deployment is people-centered and aligned with human rights principles. The African youth called on all partners to: (a) invest in infrastructure and capacity building at all levels to ensure that there is awareness and understanding of AI and how it may be deployed cost-effectively; (b) actively promote the availability of startup capital for local use of AI technologies to address sustainable development priorities through local development banks; (c) strengthen development regulatory frameworks that enhance access while addressing risks; and (d) adapt national development plans to identify the most critical sectors where AI may be deployed.



**Arab region:**

Young women and men from various Arab countries, voiced their deep concern and sense of frustration from the profound impact of social injustice on their lives and their continued uphill struggle to fulfil their potential as equal members in society. They called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and reiterated their basic human right to life as stipulated by Article 3 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

They flagged their unabated resolute to end all forms of inequalities whether manifested in excluding them from accessing education due to war and/or economic crises or suffering from discrimination, leaving many young women and girls behind and prevailing state of underdevelopment in rural areas where many of them live in. They urged governments to promptly implement youth targeted social protection policies and measures and called upon international donors for the immediate provision of financial relief extended to needy youth to complete their education and protect them from ills of unemployment. They demanded from their governments the establishment of clear and sustainable institutional structures to access decision-making in line with SDG16 but also in support of a UN new architecture on youth based on meaningful participation and thus investing in their unique energy to innovate and build prosperity for all, without leaving anyone behind.

**Asia Pacific region:**

The Asia-Pacific regional breakout session was very participatory in nature and solution-oriented in approach with regard to the way it covered issues concerning Goal 1 (No poverty), Goal 2 (Zero hunger), Goal 13 (Climate action), Goal 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) and Goal 17 (Partnership for the Goals). Following interventions by several speakers, including both youth and government representatives, there was a clear consensus that the time was ripe to end the rhetoric and urgently act to address the various challenges faced by youth across the region, acknowledging their unique potential, their unparalleled innovative capacity, and their diverse circumstances. For this to succeed, collaborative modalities needed to take precedence over competition, with better-targeted investments of time, energy, and resources in the education, health, and employment of youth, along with the promotion of better opportunities in the civic domain, including promoting young leaders. This inclusive approach would allow for more effective action to address poverty and hunger, gender inequality, all forms of discrimination and marginalization, digital divides, and climate change and resource use. It would also allow for youth to lead the way to more sustainable lifestyles and ways of doing business while promoting greater innovations and creative solutions to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.



### **Europe, North America and Other States session:**

The regional session for Europe, North America, and Other States served as a platform for youth from the region to voice their experiences, concerns, demands, and visions regarding the five SDGs under review (SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16, and 17), as well as the upcoming Summit of the Future. Member States from the region also participated in the session and reacted to the youth's inputs, creating a fruitful exchange. Some of the issues discussed were the multifaceted challenges youth face in the workforce, from unemployment to gender disparities in hiring. Long-term investment in education is vital for overcoming financial obstacles. Youth demanded interventions to address the disproportionate effects of intergenerational poverty and food insecurity in the most vulnerable and marginalized communities. Climate change further compounds youth challenges, underscoring the need for global governance reforms and innovative education systems. When it comes to meaningful youth engagement, participation necessitates diverse inclusion, sustainable partnerships across sectors, and addressing intergenerational gaps. Overall, peace and security, fostering inclusive environments, dismantling systemic barriers, delivering on climate action commitments, empowering youth through education and meaningful engagement in decision-making are essential premises to achieve the SDGs.

### **Latin America region:**

Latin America urgently needs to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda, and youth, the region's largest demographic group, play a pivotal role in this process. Children and youth of Latin America confront intricate and unequal realities, undermining their development and well-being. Beyond economic hardship, they grapple with issues such as malnutrition, environmental hazards, and violence, hindering their security and rights. Despite these obstacles, youth actively engage in problem-solving, advocating for the achievement and accountability of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. While acknowledging strides made by Member States in addressing inequalities, eradicating poverty, ensuring food security and sustainable agriculture, youth encouraged the international community to take immediate action against the climate emergency, fostering peaceful and inclusive societies and empowering youth. Youth advocates asked governments to invest more in prioritizing equal opportunities, basic needs, social protection, and environmental safety. Their advocacy emphasized inclusive and intersectional policies to secure a just and equitable future for all, and call for the meaningful participation of youth - across diverse contexts, from urban to rural areas and across languages - in decision-making and action, aiming to empower youth to craft innovative solutions for eradicating poverty in all its forms in a comprehensive manner.

**The Caribbean region:**

The Caribbean Regional session provided a space for youth to present the results of the youth regional preparatory consultations and local dialogues in the framework of the 13th ECOSOC Youth Forum and the 7th Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Countries on Sustainable Development, providing an opportunity to promote and strengthen the dialogue with Caribbean Member States and UN agencies, for a meaningful and inclusive children, youth and adolescent (CYA) participation in the acceleration of actions towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Youth at this session emphasized the importance of regional solidarity and unity in addressing poverty and achieving the sustainable development goals in the Caribbean. The session highlighted the need for collective actions, resource pooling, and knowledge sharing to implement effective poverty reduction strategies. The role of young people as leaders and advocates for environmental stewardship and climate action was also underscored. Youth-led policy innovation and collective action is urgently needed to drive meaningful change, emphasizing the translation of discussions into tangible actions and the incorporation of youth perspectives into decision-making processes regarding climate change and sustainable development.

## **YOUTH AND THE SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE:**

**Multilateral solutions: Global dialogue on youth for a better tomorrow:**



Ensuring meaningful youth engagement (MYE) at the Summit of the Future requires advocating for a transformative approach. This approach calls for a new social pact centered on substantive change, recognizing youth as pivotal actors. A youth-inclusive approach is essential to dismantle inequalities, violence, and discrimination, to create a new social contract that empowers youth at its core. Addressing the needs of marginalized youth, including those with disabilities, refugees, and LGBTIQ+ individuals, is crucial. This involves breaking down structural barriers and delving into their root causes to foster genuine engagement. Recognizing the interconnectedness of peace and development underscores the significance of involving youth in conflict resolution efforts. By empowering young voices, we can prevent humanitarian crises and build sustainable peace. Additionally, tackling gender-based violence in online and offline spaces is a pressing issue. The prevalence of online harassment and abuse not only has detrimental effects on young individuals but also jeopardizes their potential contributions to society. Taking action to foster collaboration, nurture leadership, and safeguard youth participation in civic activities is essential for creating a more inclusive and equitable future.

### **SDG 17: Working with youth as full-fledged partners: Youth and the future of work:**

The session convened a diverse, inter-generational group of stakeholders including government officials, young changemakers, youth-led and civil society organizations and the UN system. The session aimed to i) share knowledge and encourage mutual learning on job creation and skills development strategies promoting young people's transition into decent jobs of today and the future; 2) discuss innovative approaches and best practices in shaping an inclusive future of work for young people grounded in social justice, and 3) spotlight multi-stakeholder partnerships accelerating action and progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the UN [Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth](#). Young people shared the innovative solutions they are spearheading in their countries to equip their peers for the future of work and ensure all young people have access to decent work. They also called upon the UN system and Member States to engage young people meaningfully and systematically, incorporating their voices and contributions in the Summit of the Future and in efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Member States shared their policies and programmes boosting employability, entrepreneurship, and employment opportunities for young people, including those most marginalized. The recurring theme throughout the session was the critical importance of collaborating and partnering to create and promote decent jobs for youth, vital for advancing SDG 17.

### **Artificial Intelligence for an equitable future: A youth-led dialogue on AI's potential to bridge the gender digital divide and empower young people:**

The integration of AI into the global youth and gender agenda calls for a nuanced approach that balances innovation with inclusivity. Through a youth-led dialogue, the session explored how Artificial Intelligence can empower current and future generations, including marginalized communities such as youth and women. Participants also examined the opportunities and challenges that AI presents towards the sustainable creation and maintenance of strong institutions. The discussion highlighted key issues such as the lack of gender diversity and inclusivity in the AI sector, challenges in combating hate speech exacerbated by AI, unequal access to AI tools and education leading to digital divides, as well as the importance of ethical considerations in AI development. Key messages emphasized youth empowerment through e-sports, ethical AI solutions, intersectionality in AI development and inclusive education. The need for a public dialogue on AI, feminist perspectives on marginalization, and the transformative potential of AI were also highlighted. Solutions included promoting gender diversity in AI, implementing ethical guidelines, enhancing access to AI tools for marginalized communities, and fostering public engagement on AI. Overall, the session underscored the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in AI development, as well as the need for collaborative action to address challenges and leverage the transformative potential of AI for a more inclusive and ethical future.



### **Urban youth leading climate action, community resilience and sustaining peace:**

At this session titled "Urban Youth, Leading Climate Action, Community Resilience Initiatives, and Sustaining Peace," various speakers, including youth leaders, government officials, and representatives from different organizations, shared their insights and proposed solutions for addressing global challenges. The primary focus was on empowering urban youth, including minorities, young people with disabilities, indigenous youth, and young people affected by conflict, to engage in sustainable development, climate action, and peacebuilding efforts. Key themes included the importance of youth-led organizations and initiatives, the role of innovation and participatory technologies, and the need for inclusive platforms that allow young people to contribute to policymaking. Speakers highlighted the significance of Sustainable Development Goals 11, 13, 16 and 17. The session underscored the necessity of integrating youth insights into decision-making processes to create inclusive, resilient, and peaceful communities, enriched by the active participation of youth, specifically focusing on marginalized youth, at every societal level.

### **Insights & Recommendations: The Voices of Youth and meaningful youth engagement in the Summit of the Future:**

This session highlighted the need for the Pact for the Future to center on young people's rights and priorities and include a commitment to strengthening existing self-organized, rights-based mechanisms for youth engagement. In an intergenerational dialogue on gender equality and women's empowerment to accelerate change with H.E. Ms. Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Ropati Charitie, Indigenous Scientist and Scholar highlighted the barriers for marginalized communities, particularly of indigenous women and girls, to access global decision-making spaces, and emphasized the need for their voices to be heard. In the following segments on young people's demands for the Pact for the Future and the recommendations for the Summit of the Future, some of the main findings and key messages coming from the youth preparatory process, including the ["Hear our Voice! Young People at the Summit of the Future"](#) global online consultation, were presented along with other youth recommendations for the Pact and towards achieving the SDGs. On the road towards the Summit of the Future, the young panelists highlighted the need for meaningful youth engagement, including for marginalized youth, and emphasized the need for increased financing and support for youth-led organizations. The importance of youth education was also highlighted as well as emerging technologies.



## CLOSING

“Peace is the backbone to achieving all the SDGs, particularly in times of unprecedented amounts of conflict,” stated Ms. Mai Thin Yu Mon, Co-chair of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus. Ms. Mon delivered a powerful message on the pressing challenges faced by indigenous and displaced youth, particularly in conflict zones like Myanmar. She emphasized that “we cannot lift people out of poverty or achieve zero hunger without peace, justice, or human rights.” Ms. Mon highlighted the intrinsic link between peace and the successful implementation of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, calling for global leaders to act decisively against injustices that impede these goals.

To achieve the SDGs, Ms. Mon urged leaders and decision-makers to prioritize holistic peace and safeguard human rights, stating, “peace is the foundation of all sustainable development, and without it, our efforts are in vain.” She stressed the importance of listening to and incorporating the voices of indigenous youths and other marginalized groups to ensure truly inclusive and effective solutions. Concluding her remarks, Ms. Mon reiterated the urgency of achieving the SDGs, reminding attendees that “we are left with only six years before 2030, and the clock is ticking.” She called for a united effort to address the challenges head-on, inviting all participants to join in solidarity to create a peaceful and sustainable future.

In achieving the SDGs, the role and powerful influence of the youth was recognized and highlighted by the Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, Mr. Felipe Paullier. He lauded the vital contributions of young people throughout the event, saying, “young people today are the leading force for driving societal change, especially those who are part of vulnerable and marginalized groups.” Mr. Paullier highlighted youth’s role in promoting sustainability, equity, and justice, ensuring that no one is left behind in the quest for a better world. Emphasizing the urgent need for substantial youth participation in decision-making, Mr. Paullier critiqued the current state of affairs where “young people remain almost invisible in policymaking and decision-making processes, as well as in positions of power.”

The Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs called on global leaders to fundamentally shift their approach to governance, urging them to “think and act for people and the planet, rather than for status, greed, and profit.” He stressed the importance of integrating young voices into policy frameworks, noting that doing so is essential not just as a matter of inclusion but as a critical element of effective governance. Concluding his remarks, Mr. Paullier expressed his gratitude towards all participants for their engagement and innovative ideas, and underscored the necessity of maintaining this momentum, saying, “We must not lose momentum in the coming months!” He encouraged everyone to continue to contribute to the discussions and negotiations on the Pact for the Future.

These remarks were echoed by Mr. Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, who expressed his gratitude and optimism, expressing appreciation “to all young people, Member States and other partners for taking the time to discuss solutions to the challenges we



face today and for giving a voice to generations that will come after us.” Mr. Li highlighted the significant role of young people in driving societal change, emphasizing that “young people – young experts - need to be engaged in all the challenges that humanity faces today. We must not limit their contributions, for they have much to offer.”

The underrepresentation of youth in political processes and their potential for greater involvement, is a matter that Mr. Li also addressed: “Unfortunately, young people are underrepresented in institutional political processes. This is the result of low rates of electoral activity, political participation, and parliamentary involvement.” He called for enhanced participation and representation of youth in future forums and intergovernmental processes, concluding with a commitment to continued support, “we in UN DESA, and the broader UN system partners, will continue working hand-in-hand with Member States to ensure young people are included in multilateral discussions.”

Concluding the Youth Forum 2024, the President of ECOSOC, H.E. Ms. Paula Narváez, praised the diversity and insight provided by participants at the ECOSOC Youth Forum. She highlighted the importance of inclusive dialogue, stating that “it is fundamental to listen to women, Indigenous peoples, rural workers, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ people, and other ethnic, cultural, religious minorities.” She commended the contributions of young people to the forum, emphasizing their role in shaping a sustainable future, “your enthusiasm, vision, and energy have given us the hope that we have a better future, and that is attainable.” She called on everyone to maintain this momentum, indicating that she looked forward with interest and full of enthusiasm to the new cycle characterized by youth’s continued commitment.





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