



**ECOSOC
YOUTH FORUM**

"Youth at the Forefront: Leveraging Science and Social Inclusion for Sustainable Development"

Engaging Youth and Member States Representatives

15 - 17 April 2025

PROGRAMME

FIRST DAY

**TUESDAY
15 APRIL**

WORKING WITH AND FOR YOUNG PEOPLE: SHAPING INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR THE 2030 AGENDA

Opening - Trusteeship Council Chamber
Lead entities: UNDESA, MGCY and ICMYO

10:00 AM – 10:40 AM

- Welcoming by H.E. Mr. Bob Rae, President of the Economic and Social Council
- Message from Ms. Oumaima Makhoul, Data Thematic Focal Point, Science Policy Interface (SPI) Youth Platform, Major Group on Children and Youth (MGCY)
- Message by H.E. Mr. Philemon Yang, President of the 79th Session of the General Assembly
- Dr. Felipe Paullier, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs on behalf of Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations

**Moderated conversation: Youth-Led Solutions for a Resilient Future
(discussions with young leaders from around the world)**

This session will invite young people to share their ideas and expertise to help accelerate the implementation of the SDGs reflecting on challenges, solutions,

and best practices. The discussion will aim to highlight youth voices in promoting their active role in shaping integrated policies on issues related to poverty, decent work, economic security, social inclusion, gender equality, climate action, resilience, conflicts and peacebuilding.

10:40 AM – 11:30 AM

Moderator: Ms. Saru Duckworth, Next Generation Fellow for Jobs and Economic Opportunities, UN Foundation

- Dr. Felipe Paullier, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs
- Ms. Maria Teresa Parreira, Technology Focal Point, Science Policy Interface (SPI) Youth Platform, Major Group on Children and Youth (MGCY)
- Mr. Joon Baek, Founder, Youth for Privacy
- Ms. Sarah Neggazi, Representative, Young WFPHA (World Federation of Public Health Associations)
- Ms. Christina Williams, Member of the UNESCO SDG4 Youth & Student Network Executive Committee

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**TUESDAY
15 APRIL**

SDG 3: NAVIGATING HEALTH – ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH IN A DIGITAL WORLD

Plenary meeting - Trusteeship Council Chamber

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

UN co-leads: WHO, UNFPA

Youth co-leads: Commonwealth Health Youth Network; International Federation of Medical Students' Association (IFMSA); and International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF); Global Youth Caucus

UN co-organizers: UNICEF; UNODC; UNAIDS

Youth co-organizers: WHO Youth Council

This session will aim to discuss how to accelerate progress toward SDG 3 by prioritizing the health and well-being of adolescents and youth. It will aim to address key challenges, with a focus on the impact of digital and social media on youth health and wellbeing. While digital platforms offer access to information, education, and social connectivity, they also pose risks to mental health, misinformation, privacy, and equitable access. To address these pressing concerns, it is crucial to develop youth-centered policies informed by inclusive and evidence-based deliberations. The discussion will also seek to highlight the importance of youth-led solutions and equitable policies.

Opening by Ms. Marina El Khawand, Founder and President of Medonations

Moderator: Ms. Kate Ndocko, Public Health Medical Resident – HCL, ECL and 2024 Public Health Medical Resident – HCL, ECL and 2024 Vice-President of the European Network of Medical Residents in Public Health

- Ms. Diene Keita, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for Programme, UN Population Fund (UNFPA)
- Mr. Rehman Hassan, youth expert, WHO Youth Council Steering Committee Member, Act4Food Youth Leader, and Advisor and Consultant for various UN and governmental agencies

Interventions from the floor by Ministers and youth representatives

Closing by Ms. Inês Costa Louro, UNODC Youth Forum & Friends in Focus Alumni

[#ECOSOCYouth](#) [#GlobalGoals](#) [#SDG3](#) [#HealthForAll](#)

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM: SIDE EVENTS

SDG 5: STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND PEACEBUILDING

**TUESDAY
15 APRIL**

Plenary meeting - Trusteeship Council Chamber

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

UN co-lead: UN Women

Youth co-lead: Gender Youth Caucus

UN co-organizers: Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI)/ DPO; UNAOC; IOM

Youth co-organizers: Global Youth Caucus on SDG 16 – MGCY; World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM); UNCCD Youth Caucus

This session will aim to explore efforts to advance gender equality and accelerate progress on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. It will seek to address challenges like poverty, inequality, and conflict-related violence, emphasizing the need for gender-responsive policies and the vital role of youth-led and community-driven initiatives in empowering women and girls.

Moderator: Ms. Kinga Szalaba, Youth Representative, World Organization of the Scout Movement, Hungary

- Ms. Gwendolyn Myers, Founder & Executive Director Messengers of Peace-Liberia
- Ms. Gauri Praveen Nimbalkar, Global Focal Point, Gender Youth Caucus, Major Group for Children and Youth, India

- Mr. Anes Demirović, Governing Board Member, United Youth Task Force Network of Young Kosovo Peacebuilders, Kosovo

Interventions from the floor by Ministers and youth representatives

[#ECOSOCYouth](#) [#GlobalGoals](#) [#SDG5](#) [#GenderEquality](#)

**TUESDAY
15 APRIL**

SDG 14: YOUTH FOR SUSTAINABLE OCEANS - MOBILIZATION AND ACTIONS

Plenary meeting - Trusteeship Council Chamber

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

UN co-leads: UNDESA/Division for Sustainable Development Goals

Youth co-leads: Oceans Youth Constituency; Chemicals & Waste Youth Program

UN co-organizers: UNESCO; UNEP

Youth co-organizers: Children and Youth Constituency of the UNFCCC (YOUNGO)

This session will aim to address the urgent need to protect the ocean, highlighting threats like overfishing, rising temperatures, and coral bleaching while focusing on the critical role of youth in driving sustainable solutions, advocating for a healthy blue economy, and contributing to global efforts like the upcoming 2025 UN Ocean Conference. The discussion will highlight the importance of ocean literacy, youth-led initiatives, and cross-sectoral collaboration to ensure a sustainable future for our ocean.

Moderator: Ms. Maitreyi Koduganti, MGCY Global Focal Point for the Water Youth Network

- Mr. Olivier Richard, Head of Global Challenges Team, Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations
- Ms. Emilie McGlone, Executive Director of Peaceboat US
- Ms. Palmira Cuellar-Ramirez – Oceans Youth Constituency, MGCY

Interventions from the floor by Ministers and youth representatives

[#ECOSOCYouth](#) [#GlobalGoals](#) [#SDG14](#) [#OceanAction](#)

-END OF THE FIRST DAY

SECOND DAY

WEDNESDAY
16 APRIL
(VIRTUAL)

CONNECTING, AMPLIFYING, AND LEVERAGING – VIRTUAL NETWORKING SESSION FOR YOUNG CHANGEMAKERS

Virtual connection: TBC
Lead entities: MGCY and ICMYO

8:30 AM – 9:45 AM

Participants at the ECOSOC Youth Forum will be invited to attend a VIRTUAL networking session organized around discussion groups facilitated by moderators.

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WEDNESDAY
16 APRIL

YOUTH PERSPECTIVES ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT – CHALLENGES, PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS FOR THE SDGs

Breakout sessions with youth representatives and Government officials

The regional breakout sessions will seek to help identify the regional challenges and opportunities facing youth and consider how best to articulate and mainstream them in the context of achieving the SDGs at the global level. These sessions may build on the outcomes of youth consultations, fora, and other forms of youth engagement as part of the regional SDG review processes and sustainable development forums hosted by the various UN Regional Commissions.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC – Conference Room 5

UN co-leads: ESCAP; UNDP

Youth co-leads: Asia Pacific Youth Caucus

UN co-organizers: UNICEF, UNFPA APRO

Youth co-organizers: SAARC Youth Platform; Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Moderator: Ms. Riju Dhakal, Programme Officer, Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (ARROW) and Youth Representative, Major Group on Children and Youth (MGCY)

Keynote: Ms. Liu Kai, Deputy Secretary-General of All-China Youth Federation

- Mr. Leonardo Bolstad, DTH Lab
- Ms. Monica Isabel Jose, Major Group for Children & Youth; Millennium Campus Network; Project SigLakas
- Ms. Tiantian Dai, National Youth Delegate, China

Interventions from the floor by Ministers and youth representatives

ARAB STATES REGION – Conference Room 6

UN co-leads: ESCWA; UNDP

Youth co-leads: MGCY; ICMYO

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Moderator: Ms. Noora Al-Adba (Al-Hedfa), Communication Specialist, Al-Jazeera Media Network

- Ms. Rahaf Abu Mayyaleh, Founder of IBTKRGO, Generation 17 youth leader
- Mr. Abdallah Abutailakh, Youth Advocate, Master's in Servant Leadership and Non-profit Management, Viterbo University
- Mr. Mohamed Alsalman, Senior Interior Design Student, Pratt Institute

Interventions from the floor by Ministers and youth representatives

LATIN AMERICA –Trusteeship Council Chamber

UN co-leads: ECLAC

Youth co-leads: LAC Regional Youth Caucus - Children, Adolescents and Youth LAC Group - MeSCLAC

UN co-organizers: UNDP Regional Hub for Latin America and the Caribbean; UNFPA Latin America

Youth co-organizers: Organismo Internacional de Juventud para Iberoamérica (OIJ); Corporación de Estudios y Desarrollo Norte Grande; Global Youth Coalition; International Disability Alliance; The Millennials Movement

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Moderator: Ms. Marianela Vega, Inclusive Governance Associate, UNDP Hub for Latin America and the Caribbean

- Ms. Ester Sena, Geledes Instituto de la Mujer Negra, Major Group on Children and Youth/RCC LAC Focal Point organization
- Mr. Eduardo Peralta, Abya Yala Indigenous Youth Network
- Ms. Bertha Marín Cacho, The Millennials Movement, Major Group on Children and Youth/RCC LAC

Interventions from the floor by Ministers and youth representatives

EUROPE, NORTH AMERICA AND OTHER STATES

Conference Room 5

UN co-leads: *UNECE; UNFPA*

Youth co-leads: *Europe & North America Regional Youth Caucus; European Students Forum (AEGEE)*

Youth co-organizers: *Soroptimist International*

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Moderator: Ms. Rochelle Prasad, SPARK Executive Director, Soroptimist International

Co-Moderator: Mr. Daniel Helmer, Regional Focal Point for North America, MGCY Sustainable Consumption and Production Youth Platform (co-moderator)

Keynote: H.E. Krzysztof Szczerski, Ambassador of Permanent Mission of Poland to the UN

- Mr. Roman Gojaye, Representative, Gender Hub Azerbaijan
- Mr. Nathanael Ip, Youth Advisor, Canadian Institutes of Health Research
- Ms. Neelima Kandamkulangara Sureshkumar, Student, Marymount Manhattan College
- Mr. Ronan Maher, founder, Financial Freedom Initiative
- Mr. Haris Bin Waris, Youth Advisor, Plan International Denmark

Interventions from the floor by Ministers and youth representatives

AFRICA - Trusteeship Council Chamber

UN co-leads: *UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA); UNECA*

Youth co-leads: *Africa Youth Commission on behalf of the African Regional Youth Caucus; Pan African Youth Union*

UN co-organizers: *UNDP; UNFPA*

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Moderator: Mr. Dialla Moumini, President of the Pan African Youth Union

Introductory remarks by Ms. Cristina Duarte, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa

Special remarks by H.E. Mr. Bob Rae, President of the Economic and Social Council

- Mr. Alasan Ann, Student and Climate Campaigner, Co-Founder Youth 4 SDGs. (TBC)
- Ms. Nancy Kesobaka Mopipi, Student, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa.
- Mr. Prince Michrist Kaba Mboko, Inspector of Treasury, Youth Parliamentarian, Congo Brazaville

Interventions from the floor by Ministers and youth representatives

Closing remarks and summary by Mr. Said Adejumobi, Director Strategic Planning, Oversight and Results, ECA

THE CARIBBEAN – Conference Room 6

UN co-leads: ECLAC

Youth co-leads: Caribbean Global Focal Point for MGCY; Commonwealth Youth Organization (Caribbean)

UN co-organizers: UNDP Regional Hub for Latin America and the Caribbean; UNFPA Latin America & the Caribbean Regional Office

Youth co-organizers: CARICOM Youth Ambassadors

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Moderator: Ms. Jemiah Prince, Commonwealth Youth Organization

Co-Moderator: Mr. Esquire Henry, CARICOM Youth Ambassador

Panel Presentation

- Ms. Amber Turner, Youth Ambassador to the United Nations on behalf of The Bahamas

Interventions from the floor by Ministers and youth representatives

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1:00 PM – 3:00 PM: SIDE EVENTS

#YOUTHLEAD FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL: MEANINGFUL YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN POLICYMAKING & DECISION-MAKING

**WEDNESDAY
16 APRIL**

Plenary meeting - Trusteeship Council Chamber

3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

UN co-leads: UN Youth Office (UNYO)

Youth co-leads: MGCY & ICMYO Focal Points to Youth2030 JWG & HLSC

This session will be divided in two parts with the aim of exploring the core principles of meaningful youth participation in policymaking and decision-making processes, as well as sharing good practices of youth engagement in policymaking at various levels as part of the follow up to the Pact for the Future.

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

- **Core Principles of Meaningful Youth Participation:** Exploring the underlying theory and framework.

Moderator: Mr. Sameh Kamel, Organizing Partner of the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY)

- Dipto Abdullah, Co-Founder, Pathchola Foundation
- Ms. Harden Casey, CEO, General Secretary of World YWCA
- San Htake Htar, Female, Myanmar, Founder - 97percent

Interventions from the floor by Ministers and youth representatives

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

- **Meaningful Youth Participation in Action:** Showcasing good practices and successful examples from local, national, regional and global levels.

Moderator: Ms. Chaïmae, Moroccan Feminist Youth Advocate (Moderator)

- Lord Fatafehi Fakafanua, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Tonga
- Ms. Roux-Che Kahireke, Namibia, Co-Founder of Light Trailblazers and Member of the EU-Namibia Youth Sounding Board
- Ms. Gomes Vanessa Santini, Global Focal Point - Children and Youth Constituency of the UNFCCC

Interventions from the floor by Ministers and youth representatives

Closing remarks: USG for Policy, Guy Ryder, ASG for Youth Affairs, Felipe Paullier, Naomi, Indigenous advocate of the Kalina people, Chairperson of Stichting AKURI Suriname

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END OF THE SECOND DAY

THIRD DAY

THURSDAY
17 APRIL

SDG 8: ENSURING DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

Plenary meeting - Trusteeship Council Chamber

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

UN co-leads: ILO

Youth co-leads: Global Youth Caucus for Decent Work and Sustainable Economies

UN co-organizers: FAO; UNODA; UNDP; UNIDO; UNCTAD

Youth co-organizers: SCP Youth Constituency; IFMSA; UNCCD Youth Caucus

This session will aim to spotlight more transformative actions by young advocates and youth-led organizations, governments, private sector actors, civil society and other stakeholders to scale up efforts to create more and better jobs for youth. With a special focus on vulnerable groups — such as young women, people with disabilities, migrants, refugees, and those in informal or rural economies — the session will invite participants to collaborate on building a more inclusive and equitable labor market

Moderator: Mr. Siam Yabili, Founder and President of Congo Connexion and Chairman of the Congo Diaspora Youth Council

Introductory remarks by Ms. Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon, Special Representative to the UN and Director of the ILO Office for the United Nations.

The moderator will conduct an interactive discussion with interventions by Ministers and youth representatives.

Closing remarks by Mr. Marcos Neto, Director of Bureau for Programme and Policy Support and Assistant Secretary General, UNDP

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THURSDAY
17 APRIL

SDG 17: PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING FOR YOUTH - UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF THE GREEN ECONOMY

Plenary meeting - Trusteeship Council Chamber

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

UN co-leads: ILO

Youth co-leads: FfD Youth Constituency; Global Youth Caucus for Decent Work and Sustainable Economies

UN co-organizers: Financing for Sustainable Development Office (FSDO)/DESA; OHCHR; UNEP; United Nations Global Compact

Youth co-organizers: *Migration Youth & Children Platform (MYCP); UNCCD Youth Caucus*

This session will seek to explore how fostering cross-sector collaboration and innovative financing can bridge existing gaps in education, training, and access to green jobs while influencing global funding platforms and processes with and for youth. Featuring actions by the Green Jobs for Youth Pact, the Financing for Development CSO Youth Constituency, and the Global Youth Caucus for Decent Work and Sustainable Economies, the session seeks to highlight successful multi-stakeholder initiatives that empower young people to create innovative solutions and build resilience in their communities. The session will also emphasize how these partnerships can catalyze action, ensuring that young people are not only beneficiaries of but also leaders in shaping a greener, more equitable future.

Moderator: Ms. Mahlet Zeleke Redi, Executive Director at Women Economic Empowerment Africa, Global Focal Point, Global Youth caucus for decent jobs and sustainable economies

- Ms. Pankti Dalal, Senior Development Specialist, Rocky Mountain Institute
- Mr. Charlie Zong, Founding Executive and Co-Director, South North Scholars and Representative MGCY FfD Youth Constituency
- Mr. Dennis Zinnah, Founder of DTECHSOLAR LLC and College Connect Education LLC

Interventions from the floor by Ministers and youth representatives

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1:00 PM – 3:00 PM: SIDE EVENTS

FAMILY PICTURE OF THE ECOSOC YOUTH FORUM Trusteeship Council Chamber

2:50 PM – 3:00 PM

Participants at the ECOSOC Youth Forum will be invited to gather around the main podium in the Trusteeship Council Chamber for the annual family picture.

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**THURSDAY
17 APRIL**

**THURSDAY
17 APRIL**

EMPOWERING AND ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE: THE EVOLVING ROLE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Plenary meeting – Trusteeship Council Chamber

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

UN co-leads: ITU

Youth co-lead: SPI Youth Platform

UN Co-organizers: UN Foundation; UNCTAD; UNEP; UNESCO; UN-Habitat

This session will seek to explore the role of science and technology in advancing the SDGs, highlighting opportunities for youth in the digital age and challenges like the digital divide, cybersecurity, and ethical use of AI. It will also aim to discuss outcomes from the 2024 Summit of the Future, including the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations, which recognized crucial role of youth participation in the digital agenda.

Moderator: Ms. Sinead Bovell, the Founder of Waye

- Mr. Alexander Schrier, student at the University of Pennsylvania, research fellow at Perry World House US
- Ms Jayati Das, Senior Visiting Fellow at the Melbourne Centre for Cities and co-lead of the Botnar Evidence to Action Project, Youth 2030 Cities
- Ms. Zino Haro, Co-founder of Youth for Privacy, Mexico

Interventions from the floor by Ministers and youth representatives

[#ECOSOCYouth](#) [#GlobalGoals](#) [#AI](#)

**THURSDAY
17 APRIL**

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: YOUTH SOLUTIONS FOR AN INCLUSIVE FUTURE

Plenary meeting - Trusteeship Council Chamber

4:30 PM – 5:45 PM

UN co-leads: UNDESA

Youth co-leads: Global Youth Initiative on Social Inclusion

Youth co-organizers: Youth for Privacy; South-North Scholars; Student Platform for Engineering Education and Development

This session will aim to provide a platform for youth to share their views regarding social development, including key social challenges such as poverty, employment, education, and social inclusion. Panelists are invited to discuss youth-driven solutions and strategies to advance and leverage social

development. Through interactive discussions, young panelists will share priorities, challenges, and recommendations to shape global and national social development policies, as well as preparations for the second World Summit for Social Development to take place in Doha, Qatar in November 2025.

Moderator: Mr. Naveen Gautam, Senior Legal Researcher, Global Forum for Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent - CDWD Youth Constituency

- Ms. Divine Irakoze, Global Refugee Youth Network (GYRN) / SheLeads Kakuma
- Ms. Alejandra Tentle, The Millennials Movement

Interventions from the floor by Ministers and youth representatives

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CLOSING SESSION OF THE ECOSOC YOUTH FORUM

**THURSDAY
17 APRIL**

Trusteeship Council Chamber

Lead entities: UNDESA, MGCY and ICMYO

5:45 PM – 6:00 PM

Closing remarks by:

- Ms. Keshia De Freece Lawrence, the Harvard Forest Indigenous Education Specialist and Sovereign Science Director and PhD candidate at Trent University
- Ms. Bjørg Sandkjær, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)
- Dr. Felipe Paullier, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs
- H.E. Mr Krzysztof Szczerski, Permanent Representative of Poland and Vice-president of ECOSOC on behalf of H.E. Mr. Bob Rae, President of the Economic and Social Council

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- Opening and Closing sessions
- Plenary sessions
- Breakout sessions
- Additional activity