



**Regional Breakout Session: Latin America**  
**Wednesday, 16 April 2025, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM**

<b>IDENTIFICATION</b>	
Session title	Latin America Regional Breakout Session
Session focus	Latin America
Session/plenary UN co-lead UN	ECLAC
Session/plenary youth co-lead	LAC Regional Youth Caucus - Children, Adolescents and Youth LAC Group – MeSCLAC
Session/plenary UN co-organizers	UNDP Regional Hub for Latin America and the Caribbean UNFPA Latin America
Session/plenary 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
<b>BACKGROUND &amp; KEY ISSUES</b>	
<p>Towards the 2025 ECOSOC Youth Forum, a series of activities are being carried out to deepen dialogue with and for youth in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), creating more opportunities to gather their views, expertise, and recommendations on the five Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under review at the 2025 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF): SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).</p> <p>It is also worth noting that the most recent Ibero-American Youth Ministers’ Conference adopted the “New Youth Agenda” as a key tool for shaping youth policies and guiding international cooperation. This agenda reinforces the relevance of the SDGs under review in the regional dialogue. This year’s national and online consultations have identified several priority issues for LAC youth within these SDGs:</p>	

### **SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being**

- **Mental Health:** Growing mental health challenges among youth call for broader access to affordable, age-sensitive care.
- **Sexual and Reproductive Health:** Promoting integral youth well-being involves informed, free, and responsible choices in safe, respectful environments. This includes fostering access to quality health services and ensuring that information and education are available, accessible, and appropriate to their age and diverse needs.
- **Universal Health Coverage and Primary Health Care:** Addressing malnutrition and obesity requires inclusive and responsive health systems, with a strong focus on primary care, are essential to supporting the health and development of all youth.

### **SDG 5 – Gender Equality**

- **Preventing and responding to Violence:** Strengthening protections against gender-based violence and discrimination remains essential to ensuring safety and dignity for all.
- **Expanding Opportunity:** Removing barriers to education, employment, and public service enables young women and girls, in all their diversity, to contribute fully to society.
- **Leadership:** Balanced representation in decision-making enhances trust and effectiveness in institutions.
- **Health Education:** Access to age-appropriate and evidence-based information supports responsible choices and overall well-being.

### **SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth**

- **Youth Employment & Informality:** High youth unemployment and informality require policies that ensure fair wages, social protection, and training for emerging job markets.
- **Bridging Education and Labour Market Demands:** Need for vocational training, STEM opportunities, and skills that align with labor market demands.

### **SDG 14 – Life Below Water:**

- **Marine Pollution & Plastic Waste:** Youth-led activism is crucial to reducing single-use plastics and advocating for sustainable consumption.
- **Coastal Community Resilience:** Climate change threatens marine biodiversity and livelihoods of young people in coastal and fishing communities.
- **Education & Blue Economy Opportunities:** Need for youth engagement in marine conservation, ecotourism, and sustainable fisheries.

### **SDG 17 – Partnership for the Goals:**

- **Youth Inclusion and Effective Participation in Decision-Making:** Ensuring young people have a voice in international, national, and local governance, particularly in SDG implementation and their inputs are taken into account.
- **Access to Financing & Resources:** Strengthening partnerships to fund youth-led initiatives and social enterprises.
- **Technology & Knowledge Transfer:** Expanding digital access and collaboration between governments, civil society, and the private sector to empower youth-driven solutions.
- **Foster intergenerational dialogues**

## OBJECTIVES OF SESSION/PLENARY

1. Provide space for young people in Latin America to share recommendations, insights, and experiences on key issues, especially those related to SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14, and 17.
2. Showcase youth engagement processes leading up to the ECOSOC Youth Forum and follow up on regional consultations and local dialogues linked to the 2030 Agenda.
3. Reflect on the role of National Youth Policies as potential SDG accelerators, emphasizing youth leadership.
4. Strengthen platforms for intergenerational dialogue between youth, Member States, and institutions, fostering cooperation and meaningful engagement in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda.

## OVERALL FORMAT/STRUCTURE

90 min total

Moderator:

- Marianela Vega, Inclusive Governance Associate, UNDP Regional Hub for Latin America and the Caribbean

20min	<p>Panel:</p> <p><b>Presentation of the LAC Youth Engagement Process in the regional review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ester Sena, Geledes Instituto de la Mujer Negra, Major Group on Children and Youth/RCC LAC Focal Point organization</li> </ul> <p><b>Regional Perspectives on SDG 3 and 5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bertha Marín Cacho, The Millennials Movement, Major Group on Children and Youth/RCC LAC</li> </ul> <p><b>Regional Perspectives on SDG 8 and 14</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eduardo Peralta, Abya Yala Indigenous Youth Network</li> </ul>
20 min	<p>Latin American Member States as allies in meaningful youth engagement</p> <p>Moderation: Max Trejo, Secretary-General of the OIJ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SDG 3 - Zulmit Rivera, Minister of Youth of Honduras - Mental Health</li> <li>• SDG 5 - Eugenia Godoy, Director of the Youth Institute of Uruguay</li> <li>• SDG 8 – Norah Cardenas – National Youth Secretary of Peru</li> <li>• SDG 14 - Carlos J. Valdez Matos - Minister of Youth of the Dominican Republic</li> <li>• SDG 17 - Ronald Sorriso, National Secretary of Youth of Brazil</li> <li>• Intervention from other Member States (2min each)</li> </ul>

40 min	<p>Open Dialogue: Participation from youth leaders and delegates</p> <p>Menti interventions (2 min each)</p> <p>Co Moderation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mariana Vega, Inclusive Governance Associate, UNDP Regional Hub for Latin America and the Caribbean</li> <li>▪ Antonio Palma, International Disability Alliance, Major Group on Children and Youth/RCC, LAC Regional Focal Point</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Gilma Vieira, Latin American Afrodescendant Youth Network (REDJUA Afro)</li> <li>● José Francisco Ordoñez, Generation 17 Young leader, Academia del Océano (Ecuador)</li> <li>● Camila Romero, Working Group on Youth to follow up on the Pact for the Future and focal point in the International Indigenous Youth Forum on Climate Change (Chile)</li> <li>● Renata Kosh Alvarenga, Generation 17 Young leader and EmpoderaClima (Brazil)</li> <li>● Rosario Díaz Garavito, The Millennials Movement, Major Group on Children and Youth/RCC LAC</li> <li>● Bahía Gatti, Regional Coordinator for the Americas, United Network of Young Peacebuilders</li> <li>● Interventions from Member States</li> <li>● Aurelis Mena, Contrapeso (Panamá)</li> <li>● Luis Viguria, Young Americas Business Trust (YABT-OEA)</li> <li>● Interventions from Youth Leaders</li> </ul>
10min	<p>Closing Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Francesca Basso, Programme Analyst, Gender and Youth, UNFPA Latin America</li> <li>● Alexandre Pupo Quintino, elected Secretary-General of the OIJ</li> </ul>

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are the main challenges youth in Latin America and the Caribbean face in advancing the SDGs, and how do these affect their lives and futures?
- What actions or policy changes do they recommend at local, national, and regional levels to accelerate progress and guarantee accountability?
- How can governments, international organizations, and other actors meaningfully engage youth as rights-holders and partners?
- In what ways do young people want to participate in decision-making, and what barriers still limit their involvement?
- What innovative contributions have youth-led initiatives made, and how can they be better supported?
- How can the New Youth Agenda contribute to achieving the SDGs and beyond?

## NAMES AND TITLES OF SESSION SPEAKERS AND MODERATOR(S)

### Moderator:

- Marianela Vega, Inclusive Governance Associate, UNDP Regional Hub for Latin America and the Caribbean

### Panelists:

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

### Other Speakers:

- Max Trejo, Secretary-General of the OIJ
- Eugenia Godoy, Director of the Youth Institute of Uruguay - Mental Health
- Zulmit Rivera, Minister of Youth of Honduras - Youth Empowerment and Comprehensive Sexual Education
- Abraham Carro Toledo, Director-General of the Mexican Youth Institute - Youth work and informality
- Carlos J. Valdez Matos - Minister of Youth of the Dominican Republic
- Ronald Sorriso, National Secretary of Youth of Brazil - Youth participation, intergenerational dialogues, alliances, digitalization
- Antonio Palma, International Disability Alliance, Major Group on Children and Youth/RCC, LAC Regional Focal Point
- Gilma Vieira, Latin American Afrodescendant Youth Network (REDJUAURO)
- José Francisco Ordoñez, Generation 17 Young leader, Academia del Océano (Ecuador)
- Camila Romero, Working Group on Youth to follow up on the Pact for the Future and focal point in the International Indigenous Youth Forum on Climate Change (Chile)
- Renata Kosh Alvarenga, Generation 17 Young leader and EmpoderaClima (Brazil)
- Rosario Díaz Garavito, The Millennials Movement, Major Group on Children and Youth/RCC LAC
- Bahía Gatti, Regional Coordinator for the Americas, United Network of Young Peacebuilders
- Arelys Bellorini, World Vision, Global Movement for Children LAC (MMILAC)
- Francesca Basso, Programme Analyst, Gender and Youth, UNFPA Latin America
- Alexandre Pupo Quintino, elected Secretary-General of the OIJ
- Aurelis Mena, Contrapeso (Panamá)
- Luis Viguria, Young Americas Business Trust (YABT-OEA)

## OVERVIEW OF PREPARATORY EVENT/CONSULTATION

Each year, the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development integrates regional and global youth preparatory processes, ensuring that diverse perspectives are reflected in the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). Youth participation in the HLPF encompasses plenary sessions, thematic debates, interactive dialogues, and feedback opportunities on the recommendations developed throughout the process and during the event itself.

A key milestone in this year's review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be the Forum of Children, Adolescents, and Youth of Latin America and the Caribbean, within the framework of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. This regional platform provides a space for meaningful engagement, enabling young people to voice their priorities and contribute substantively to the 2030 Agenda.

The ideas and proposals emerging from both the preparatory process and the Forum will inform the development of a Declaration on Children and Youth in Latin America and the Caribbean. This declaration will be presented to the United Nations and regional representatives in intergovernmental spaces, including the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, the ECOSOC Youth Forum, and the High-Level Political Forum. This year's review has focused on the five SDGs currently under thematic review at the HLPF.

#### ADDITIONAL DETAILS, SUGGESTED READING, IF ANY

##### All SDGs under review:

- Latin America and the Caribbean in the Final Five Years of the 2030 Agenda: Steering Transformations to Accelerate Progress (ECLAC, 2025): <https://foroalc2030.cepal.org/2025/en/documents/latin-america-and-caribbean-final-five-years-2030-agenda-steering-transformations>
- Guía de Diálogos de NNAyJ LAC 2030 – 2025: <https://bit.ly/4hqqXIC>
- Declaración de Niñas, Niños, Adolescentes y Juventudes de América Latina y el Caribe 2030: [https://foroalc2030.cepal.org/2025/sites/foro2025/files/presentations/declaratoria\\_juventudes\\_de\\_alc\\_2025\\_0.pdf](https://foroalc2030.cepal.org/2025/sites/foro2025/files/presentations/declaratoria_juventudes_de_alc_2025_0.pdf)
- Guía para la Implementación del Análisis de la Situación de la Población en América Latina y el Caribe: Población en Foco (UNFPA, 2024): <https://lac.unfpa.org/es/publications/asp-poblacion-en-foco> (in Spanish)
- Población, desarrollo y derechos en América Latina y el Caribe: segundo informe regional sobre la implementación del Consenso de Montevideo sobre Población y Desarrollo (CEPAL, 2024): <https://lac.unfpa.org/es/publications/poblacion-desarrollo-y-derechos-en-america-latina-y-el-caribe> (in Spanish)
- New Youth Agenda (OIJ, 2025)
- <https://oij.org/nueva-agenda-de-juventudes> (In Spanish)

### **SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being**

- [Marcos legales para el acceso a intervenciones de prevención combinada del VIH en adolescentes de 13 a 18 años de 5 países de América Latina y el Caribe: Análisis normativo y recomendaciones](https://lac.unfpa.org/es/publications/marcos-legales-acceso-intervenciones-prevencion-combinada-vih-en-adolescentes) (UNFPA & UNAIDS, 2024).  
<https://lac.unfpa.org/es/publications/marcos-legales-acceso-intervenciones-prevencion-combinada-vih-en-adolescentes> (in Spanish)
- [Taking Stock: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Climate Commitments: A Latin America and the Caribbean Review](https://lac.unfpa.org/es/publications/taking-stock-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights-climate-commitments-latin) (UNFPA, Queen Mary University Belfast, IDRC, 2024)  
<https://lac.unfpa.org/es/publications/taking-stock-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights-climate-commitments-latin>

### **SDG 5 – Gender Equality**

- [General Recommendation of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI \(No.5\) Gender-based violence against afro-descendant women \(MESECVI, UNFPA, Red de Mujeres Afrolatinoamericanas, Afrocaribeñas y de la Diáspora, 2024\):](https://lac.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/2024-09/RG-ViolenciaMujAfrodescendientes-ing.pdf)  
<https://lac.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/2024-09/RG-ViolenciaMujAfrodescendientes-ing.pdf>

### **SDG 8 - Decent work and economic growth:**

- Estudio prospectivo del empleo juvenil en América Latina: la educación y la formación para el trabajo como eje clave: <https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/80995-estudio-prospectivo-empleo-juvenil-america-latina-la-educacion-la-formacion> (in Spanish)