



SDG17: Partnerships for the Goals
Thursday 17 April, 11:30-13:00

IDENTIFICATION	
Session/plenary title	Partnerships and Financing for Youth: Unlocking the Potential of the Green Economy
Session focus	SDG 17
Session UN co-lead	ILO
Session youth co-lead	UNMGCY/Global Youth Caucus for Decent Work & Sustainable Economies) FfD Youth Constituency
Session UN co-organizers	UNEP
	OHCHR
	DESA/Financing for Sustainable Development Office
	UN Global Compact
Session youth co-organizers	UNMGCY/International Engagement Migration UNCCD Youth Caucus
BACKGROUND & KEY ISSUES	
<p>In a rapidly changing world grappling with the effects of climate change, environmental degradation, and resource scarcity, the green economy offers a powerful pathway to a more sustainable and inclusive future. For young people, it holds immense potential to create new opportunities, from green jobs to innovation-driven entrepreneurship, while advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. However, realizing this potential requires more than just ambition—it calls for robust, youth-inclusive partnerships and policies that prioritize a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies, while strengthening links to global and local financing mechanisms and means of implementation that can accelerate and sustain this transformation. Youth must be equal partners in this process, equipped with the skills, tools, and platforms to navigate the financial architectures and lead and thrive in this transformation.</p> <p>The upcoming Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) presents an opportunity for the international community to bolster financing investments in youth to promote their inclusion in the green economy. The first draft of the FFD4 outcome document calls for strengthened efforts to create decent jobs by encouraging entrepreneurship and facilitating access to affordable finance for youth-owned businesses, including through public development banks. It urges access to</p>	

education, science and technology, and skills development for youth, all essential to promoting and supporting their participation in the green economy.

OBJECTIVES OF SESSION/PLENARY

This session will explore how fostering cross-sector collaboration and innovative financing mechanisms 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 and its Youth Advisory Group (YAG), the Financing for Development CSO Youth Constituency, and the Global Youth Caucus for Decent Work and Sustainable Economies, the session will highlight successful multi-stakeholder initiatives that empower young people to create innovative and human rights-based solutions and build resilience in their communities. The session will 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.

OVERALL FORMAT/STRUCTURE

The event will kick off with a 5-minute introduction and icebreaker, followed by three topics discussion of approximately 25 minutes each, that includes the intervention of youth speakers and member States, and will conclude with a 5-minute closing.

The session will include the following topics:

1. Understanding the green economy
2. Financing mechanisms
3. Successful initiatives, impactful partnerships

Each topic will begin with a young leader sharing a compelling 4-minute story about their personal journey in the green economy, emphasizing how partnerships and access to financing have significantly benefited their efforts and achievements. Government representatives will have a 2-minute slot to discuss actions or perspectives on the three topics. The event will aim to bring in voices from various stakeholders in the audience, both young and not.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Understanding the green economy:

1. What are the challenges and opportunities for youth in the green economy, and how can we increase youth engagement and empowering?
2. How can youth participation in the green economy be anchored in human rights?

Financing mechanisms:

3. What innovative financing mechanisms support youth-led initiatives in the green economy?
4. How can global funding platforms and processes, e.g., financing for development, including the upcoming FFD4, enhance youth access to the green economy labour market?

Successful initiatives, impactful partnerships:

5. How can partnerships between governments, private sector, and youth organizations drive a greener future, bridging gaps in education, training, and access to green jobs for youth?
6. What successful multi-stakeholder initiatives have empowered youth to create innovative solutions?

NAMES AND TITLES OF SESSION SPEAKERS AND MODERATOR(S)**Moderator:**

- Ms Juliet Grace Luwedde, Global Focal Point for the UNCCD Global Youth Caucus

Speakers:

- Dennis Zinnah from Liberia - Founder, DTECHSOLAR LLC and College Connect Education LLC
- Charlie Zong from the USA - South North Scholars and MGCY FfD Youth Constituency
- Pankti Dalal from India - Rocky Mountain Institute, RMI

OVERVIEW OF PREPARATORY EVENT/CONSULTATION

The Youth Constituencies take the lead in organizing an online pre-Forum survey, leveraging their unique perspectives and innovative ideas to shape the discourse on financing and partnerships for youth. With the support and collaboration of the UN co-lead and co-organizers, this survey ensures that the voices of young leaders are at the forefront, driving impactful discussions and paving the way for actionable outcomes that align with Sustainable Development Goal 17.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS, SUGGESTED READING, IF ANY

- [Youth employment | International Labour Organization](#)
- [Global Employment Trends for Youth 2024 | International Labour Organization](#)
- [Decent Jobs for Youth](#)
- [Just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies | International Labour Organization](#)
- [Green Jobs for Youth Pact](#)
- [UNEP - UN Environment Programme](#)
- [Global Opportunities for Sustainable Development Goals \(GO4SDGs\) | UNEP - UN Environment Programme](#)
- [Financing for Sustainable Development Office | Financing for Sustainable Development Office](#)
- [FfD4 Outcome Zero Draft.pdf](#) and [Outcome | FFD4](#)
- [The 4th International Conference on Financing for Development | Financing for Sustainable Development Office](#)
- [UN Human Rights Office](#)
- [Changemakers: Stories of Young Human Rights Educators - Transforming Lives](#)
- [Soufiane Hennani - Transforming Lives](#)
- [Youth Empowerment System](#)
- [Major Group for Children and Youth](#)
- [MGCY+GFPs Global+Youth+Caucus+on+Decent+Work+and+Sustainable+Economies.pdf](#)

