



Major Group for
Children and Youth
the space for children and youth in the United Nations



International Association Of
Youth and Students for Peace



ECOSOC OAS 2025 Youth Event

Thursday, May 22, 8:00am to 9:30 am US ET | Virtual on Zoom, [please register here](#)

Future-proofing Development Systems: Youth and Civil Society Advancing Implementation & Accountability of Multilateral Policy

*Part of the **Future of Multilateralism** series being organised by MGCY and partners
Road to UN@80*

Organised by: Major Group for Children and Youth, South-North Scholars, International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP), March for Our Planet

ECOSOC OAS 2025 takes place at a pivotal moment for the UN development system. With the *Our Common Agenda* calling for a more networked, inclusive, and effective multilateral architecture—and with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) demanding greater accountability, localization, and resilience—there is an urgent need to operationalize youth partnerships, and more generally the role of young people and civil society in implementing the 2030 Agenda and other frameworks. Similarly, as the UN@80 process is underway, there is a need to assess how youth and civil society can be better integrated given their key role as partners in the UN system.

While there has been progress in integrating youth and civil society issues in policy-making and decision making across the UN system, much of the expected impact depends on expanding engagement of youth and CSO networks within implementation of the various frameworks: currently, fewer than 12% of UN Country Teams have systematic mechanisms for youth engagement in program design or evaluations; furthermore, youth-led organizations receive less than 1% of UN procurement contracts, limiting their ability to scale these solutions. Youth are already innovating and deploying low-cost, high-impact tools (e.g., AI-powered tools for SDG monitoring; community-led feedback systems). However, to achieve their full impact, these tools need to be more integrated in UN workstreams. Similarly, as the UN approaches its 80th anniversary, a true networked and inclusive multilateralism means including the voices and reflecting the priorities of youth and civil society.

To advance the above priorities, this side event will:

- feature **examples** of how youth-led and CSO-led efforts have been successfully included as part of the implementation efforts of the various international frameworks and UN programmatic work, and outline what gaps / challenges still remain
- highlight **youth-led projects and partnerships** that are improving the efficiency and coherence of UN operations in all geographies;
- discuss and suggest **mechanisms for accountability and co-creation** of the road to UN@80

The QCPR underscores the need for stronger partnerships with stakeholders—including youth and civil society—and calls for increased national ownership, transparency, and results-based approaches. The event will directly advance QCPR's pillars of effectiveness (youth-led monitoring tools), inclusivity (grassroots co-design), and coherence (youth as “connective tissue” for localization). The event will present case studies that will evidence how youth are instrumental in program reach, which is critical for QCPR's “do more with less” imperative. By linking these examples to UN@80's push for networked

multilateralism, the event will argue for *systematic* youth roles in the UN process as co-implementers rather than merely beneficiaries.

Outcomes:

We look forward to sharing a 2-3 page Youth Position Paper outlining the key discussions at the event, which will include recommendations for policy and programming to comprehensively integrate youth perspectives in the 2025 OAS follow-up and implementation and the UN@80 process. This paper will also summarize actionable strategies and practices shared at the event to scale youth-led initiatives contributing to UN operational activities across all geographies and mandates.

Guiding Questions:

- What are best practices of youth organisations and constituencies being integrated on implementation level?
- How can QCPR accountability frameworks (e.g., UNINFO) *further support* youth participation?
- What are specific strategies or lessons learned to design meaningful youth participation that reflects the wide range of global youth experience and is not tokenistic, particularly within complex interagency coordination mechanisms?
- How can UNCTs better embed youth expertise ?
- What specific indicators, sense-making processes, and partnerships should be adopted to measure the extent, impact, and challenges of youth engagement across UN operational activities?
- How can youth and civil society be better integrated in the UN@80 processes?

Run of Show:

The event will feature a **moderated panel** of young advocates, founders, and/or researchers, and where applicable, UN partners supporting youth engagement on operational activities (in a gender and geographic balanced manner). Panel will be followed by floor discussion as time permits.

8.00 am - 8:15 am	Welcoming & Overview by Moderators: Co-moderator: Arian Ng (confirmed) Co-moderator: Reanne Olivier (confirmed)
8:15 am - 8:40 am	Expert presentations (suggested/invited panelists) (4 minutes each): <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Francis Boafo, International Forestry Students Association (IFSA) and member of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration Youth Task Force<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. What best practices for youth organisations and constituencies are being integrated on implementation level in UN frameworks?2. Charlie Zong (South North Scholars)<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. How can QCPR accountability frameworks (e.g., UNINFO) further support youth participation? What fiscal mechanisms (e.g., dedicated youth funds) could unlock scalability?3. Representative from DESA (to be confirmed)4. Sudha Balakrishnan (UN Youth Office, invited)<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. How can UNCTs better embed youth expertise?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. What are some emerging results we have seen from the Youth2030 process? <p>5. Veronica Brown (Organising Partner, Women's Major Group)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. What are civil society perspectives on the UN@80 process? How can UN@80 build on the shared and inclusive multilateralism initiated during the UN75 process? <p>6. John Koester (Representative, IAYSP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Using the Global Youth Coalition for YPS as an example, what is your experience in working within complex interagency coordination mechanisms?
8:40 am - 9:10 am	Open Discussion with participants and panelists
9:10 am - 9:30 am	Conclusion of the session