



**Closing Remarks at the 2023 ECOSOC Youth Forum The  
President of Economic and Social Council**

H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva

*“Accelerating the COVID-19 Recovery and Full Implementation of the  
2030 Agenda with and for Youth”*

Thursday 27 April 2023 – 5:30 pm – Trusteeship Council Chamber

***Youth Representatives,***

Honorable Ministers,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

and friends from around the world and with us in New York and online,

**What** exciting and energizing three days we have had! We have heard you sharing your concerns on the state of the world and your perspectives on the most pressing challenges in implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the SDGs.

We have witnessed engaging, dynamic and candid discussions on issues from climate change, clean water and sanitation, innovation and infrastructure, affordable energy to sustainable cities, financing and youth economic mobility.

You have brought to our attention important issues impeding the meaningful engagement of youth in decision-making processes.

We are grateful for your recommendations on fostering intergenerational and multi-stakeholder partnerships through thematic, regional and ministerial sessions, as well as peer-to-peer dialogues.

You have imparted on us the sense of urgency to advance bold and transformative action in the lead up and at the SDG Summit in September. You have been very clear on the role you are ready to play in this process.

This year’s Youth Forum has shown us that progress and change cannot happen without youth.



It is up to us now to provide spaces for further youth engagement and contributions if we are to achieve a future worth fighting for, without injustice, discrimination, conflict, and inequality.

Please seize the momentum you have created here in New York this week. The work does not end here. We need to continue creating and scaling up virtuous cycles of impactful action.

Keep holding us accountable to our promises and commitments!

Keep engaging and inspiring your communities. Keep guiding and advising us on more opportunities for uplifting your voices and in designing further platforms, forums, and spaces for your inputs and expertise to be counted.

I also encourage you to remain as optimistic as I am after witnessing your resilience, tenacity, and determination for a better future. You are integral to the success we hope to have in achieving the Agenda 2030 and SDG implementation.

We need to walk the talk on youth participation. As a first step, I am promoting the participation of a youth representative in every session at the High-Level Political Forum in July. Let's also open up the opportunity for youth to participate actively at the SDG Summit in September.

Dear Friends,

I encourage you to pledge resources and opportunities for meaningful youth participation in your consultative and decision-making processes. Youth participation is crucial to ensure a more prosperous, peaceful, and sustainable tomorrow.

Before we conclude this edition of the Forum, I want to take this opportunity to thank the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary General, the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, and Jevanic Henry for joining us at the opening of the Forum as well as Mr Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator, Mr Sherwin Bryce-Pease and the impressive group of youth representatives for an engaging session.

I extend my appreciation to the co-organizers from the UN system, including the regional commissions, that diligently organized dynamic sessions as well as the distinguished speakers who kicked off the discussions and able moderators and facilitators who kept the dialogues focused and engaging.



Recognition should also go to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, the Department of Global Communications, Department of General Assembly and Conference Management, the Broadcast and Conference Support Section, the Department of Safety and Security, the Major Group for Children and Youth, the International Conference of Major Youth Organizations and the UN Foundation, for all their invaluable support. It does take that many people to make this Forum happen.

Finally, my sincere thanks go to Mr Li Junhua, DESA's Under-Secretary-General, Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth and Chido Mpemba, African Union Youth Envoy, for accompanying me as we reflect on the discussions at this closing session.

Most importantly, I thank you, all of you, the participants in this Forum. Without your honesty, perseverance, and commitment, this event would not have been possible. Your energy and dedication gives us hope that the future we want is within reach. You have all been such an inspiration!

Thank you!

Until we meet again, I wish safe travels for those leaving us from New York.