



ECOSOC
YOUTH FORUM

YOUTH2030

Economic and Social Council Youth Forum

"Accelerating the COVID-19 recovery and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda with and for youth"

**SPECIAL SESSION: FINANCING OUR FUTURE – SDG 17
YOUTH-LED INNOVATIONS FOR DECENT JOBS FOR
YOUTH**

26 April 2023, 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM (NY Time)

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic, escalating effects of climate change, and growing geopolitical uncertainties are severely challenging global development, hindering progress towards key targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The pandemic-induced recession has significantly affected young people worldwide, leading to job and income loss, increased difficulties in transitioning to work, and disruptions in learning, education, and training. In 2020, 34 million young workers lost their jobs, resulting in an 8.2% decline in global youth employment, which is more than twice the employment loss experienced by adults. Additionally, the number of youth not in employment, education, or training (NEET) reached a record high of 282 million in the same year, with young women bearing the brunt of the employment crisis. They were 1.5 times less likely than young men to be employed and twice as likely to have NEET status.

Despite some economic recovery, young people have not caught up in the labor market and have experienced slow progress. It is projected that global youth unemployment will remain above the 2019 level by the end of 2023. The pandemic has also led to a learning crisis, with education and training systems experiencing partial or complete closure, adversely affecting 70% of young people.

The negative impacts on employment and skills development have also worsened the mental well-being of young people, indicating a prolonged youth employment crisis. Thus, targeted and urgent investments in youth employment are essential to enable successful transitions into decent work. Young people have a crucial role in this recovery and are actively leading the way. They are:

- Participating and advocating for youth-inclusive social dialogue, hence increasingly engaging in the governance of the world of work.
- Shaping the design, implementation and monitoring of youth employment programmes through expertise and research.
- Easing the employment transition of young people in their communities through innovations and political participation
- Significantly affecting social and environmental policies and processes that shape the future of work through their voices and activism.

Strengthening global partnerships with and for young people is therefore key to a recovery that is inclusive and sustainable. In this context, the upcoming session on SDG 17 at the 2023 ECOSOC Youth Forum, entitled “Youth-led Innovations for Decent Jobs for Youth,” will celebrate the resilience, energy, and creativity of young people as they tackle the key barriers to achieving productive employment and decent work.

Objectives of the session

The session will convene a diverse, inter-generational group of stakeholders including government officials, young changemakers, youth-led and civil society organizations, private sector entities, foundations, and regional and multilateral organizations. The aim of the session is to achieve the following objectives:

1. Share innovations and promote mutual learning on job creation and skills development strategies designed and implemented by, with and for youth.
2. Discuss good practices and multi-stakeholder actions that promote an enabling environment for youth-led innovations.
3. Identify effective partnerships and means of implementation to accelerate youth employment and progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Our Common Agenda, and the [UN Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth](#).

Safeguarding the principle of leaving no one behind, the session will focus on solutions that address the challenges faced by highly vulnerable young people who have been disproportionately impacted by economic fluctuations, the COVID-19 pandemic, and emerging crises.

Fostering intergenerational equity through a ministerial conversation on the topic that places the focus on investments and economic recovery programs that strengthen youth skills, mainstream innovation as a cross-cutting approach to build a generation of agile and skilled youth that are future-fit and resilient and build an enabling environment that supports youth to gain future-fit skills.

Session Format

The session will be held on 26 April 2023 at 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM in. Moderated by a young person, the session will feature an inter-ministerial and -generational dialogue on Youth-led Innovations for Decent Jobs for Youth.

The dialogue will be divided into the following three segments:

Youth-led solutions for youth employment, showcasing actions by youth, policymakers and other stakeholders to equip young people with demand-driven skills, interventions that had led to job creation for young people in wage or self-employment, or interventions that have fostered young people's rights at work, their voice and representation.

Youth-led solutions for inclusion, focusing on youth employment solutions that target the most disadvantaged groups of young people, from young refugees and internally displaced, young persons with disabilities, youth from indigenous and ethnic communities, and youth in the rural economy, among others.

Impactful partnerships, providing examples of effective collaboration with and for young people that have prompted systems change (e.g., in access to finance, in youth-led research, in the infrastructure and financing systems that foster innovation), integrated a whole of government approach, and fostered intergenerational equity. The segment will drive lessons learned and offer inspiration for further action in promotion youth-led innovation.

Each segment will feature:

- (i) Stories from young representatives about their journey in designing and implementing solutions that boost decent jobs for youth and foster inclusion.
- (ii) Experiences from policymakers and other stakeholders in support of youth employment solutions that leverage the expertise and creativity of youth and are yielding positive labour market, innovation and Research & Development outcomes.

Each segment will be approximately 25 minutes long with speakers both joining in person and online. A virtual moderator will ensure the reflections of online participants are captured and integrated in the flow of the session.

Agenda

Duration: 90 minutes

Time	Segments	Guiding questions
16:30 - 16:35	Opening and welcoming remarks	
16:35 - 17:00	Segment 1 - Youth-led solutions for youth employment	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experience from a young representative	<i>For young representatives:</i> What innovative solution did you/your

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government perspectives • Other stakeholders' perspectives 	<p>organization develop to promote youth employment and what are the results so far?</p> <p><i>For governments and other stakeholders:</i> What are the most recent efforts of your government/organization in the promotion of youth employment and what role young people play in them?</p>
17:00 - 17:25	Segment 2 - Youth-led solutions for inclusion	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience from a young representative • Government perspectives • Other stakeholders' perspectives 	<p><i>For young representatives:</i> What innovative solution did you/your organization develop to bring a particular disadvantaged/vulnerable group of young people into employment and what are the results so far?</p> <p><i>For governments and other stakeholders:</i> What are the most recent youth employment efforts of your government/organization in targeting the most disadvantaged/vulnerable group of young people and what role young people play in them?</p>
17:25 - 17:50	Segment 3 - Impactful partnerships	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience from a young representative • Government perspectives • Other stakeholders' perspectives 	<p><i>For all:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What effective partnerships with, for and by youth are in place to foster system change and enable an environment of youth-led innovation, youth voice and participation? • What partnerships and means of implementation should be pursued to finance and expand investments in youth-led innovation systems and mechanisms?
17:50 - 18:00	Closing Remarks	

Venue

Trusteeship council room