



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"

**ACHIEVING THE SDGS WITH AND FOR YOUTH:
YOUTH2030, THE UN YOUTH STRATEGY, AS CATALYST FOR
TRANSFORMATION**

27 April 2023, 9-11 AM (NY Time)

United Nations Headquarters, Trusteeship Council

Background

At the halfway mark to the Sustainable Development Goals, the world is facing multiple and far-reaching crises threatening the sustainability of societies and of the planet. The COVID-19 pandemic has reversed hard-won development gains and has set the Sustainable Development Goals even further off track. To turn the tide on these negative trends and place the world on a path to achieve sustainable development, immediate transformative and systemic action is needed, with the world's 1.9 billion **young people as torchbearers for change**.

[Youth2030](#), the first-ever United Nations system-wide Youth Strategy was launched in 2018 by the UN Secretary-General with the ambitious aim of transforming the organization's work **for** and **with** youth and acting as a catalyst to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Now in its fifth year, Youth2030 implementation has expanded greatly across the UN system, with **51 UN entities** and **131 UN Country Teams** accelerating work across **five priority** (and several themes) **and four foundational areas** of the strategy, in partnership with young people. Foundations for system-wide implementation are in place, inclusive of key building blocks for coordination, performance measurement and accountability; a portfolio of [tools and knowledge products](#) to support implementation made available and two [Youth2030 Progress Reports](#) launched in previous ECOSOC Youth Forums. In addition, some complex issues such as internships and youth workforce and the introduction of a system-wide youth marker are starting to be addressed.

The strategy's **High-Level Steering Committee** (consisting of representatives from 15 UN entities at Assistant-Secretary General level, 2 youth networks and Young UN), the

Joint Working Group (17 UN entities, 2 youth networks and Young UN) and the **Youth2030 Secretariat** in the Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth have provided the strategic guidance, technical leadership and system-wide coordination support respectively to set the pace of and excellence in implementation.

With eight years left to reach the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, and with the upcoming **SDG Summit** to “*mark the beginning of a new phase of accelerated progress towards the SDGs¹*”, the implementation of the Youth2030 is at a crucial moment. It is a strategic moment for reflection - to understand how the UN system has taken the Youth Strategy forward, what lessons can be learnt from the initial implementation experience, what shifts are needed to adapt the strategy to the changing external and internal contexts, and leverage opportunities to accelerate and build forward better towards regaining the ground lost in achieving the SDGs.

Against this backdrop, the Youth2030 session provides an opportunity to spark conversations with young people, Government representatives, the UN system and other stakeholders to galvanize joint transformative action on Youth2030, as a catalyst towards achieving the SDGs.

Objectives

The **Achieving the SDGs with and for Youth: Youth2030, the UN Youth Strategy**, as the catalyst for transformation session aims to:

- Highlight the progress achieved by the UN system in the five years of Youth2030 implementation; showcase the role of young people as co-shapers of implementation
- Provide an opportunity for stakeholders to outline challenges and share promising practices on Youth2030
- Identify key strategies and exchange ideas for accelerating Youth2030 as a catalyst to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Session Format

The session will be anchored by two young people who played an active role in co-shaping the UN Youth Strategy. It will include the following segments (*indicative*):

- **Opening (2 min)**
- **Remarks from the Deputy Secretary-General TBC (3 min)**
- **Segment 1 – SDGs and Youth: Where are we now? Setting the stage (5 min)**
 - The segment will provide an overview on the key role of young people in achieving the SDGs
- **Segment 2 - Youth2030 contributions to the 2030 Agenda (15 min)**
 - The segment will highlight the key progress achieved on Youth2030 across the UN System
- **Segment 3 - Youth2030: Accelerating to 2030 (70 min)**
 - This segment will consist of 2 parts:
 - Rapid-fire poll on what is required to turbocharge Youth2030 as a

¹ [ODS HOME PAGE \(un.org\)](https://www.un.org/ods/home)

- catalyst for achieving the SDGs
- An intergenerational, solution-driven segment, aiming to spark conversations among young people, Government representatives and UN leadership on enablers, barriers to implementation and key strategies needed to accelerate Youth2030 implementation at all levels, in the remaining 7 years to 2030.
- **Segment 4 – What’s next? (20 min)**
 - The rapid fire, one question-one answer segment will feature the Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth in conversation with UN leaders on **‘what’s next’**
- **Wrap up (5 min)**
 - This segment will provide a summary of the key actions identified in the session and provide a roadmap for next steps in Youth2030 implementation.

Participants

- Deputy Secretary-General
- Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth
- Ministers of Youth and other Government representatives
- Young people
- Leadership from UN entities and UN Country Teams