



#YOUTH2030

6th Economic and Social Council Youth Forum CONCEPT NOTE

Interactive Roundtable on “The role of youth in poverty eradication and promoting prosperity”, featuring Ministers and other High-Level speakers

**30 January 2017
Trusteeship Council Chamber
10:45 am – 1:00 pm
United Nations Headquarters, New York**

1. Background:

2016 was a crucial year for international development. On 1 January 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development- adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic UN Summit- officially came into force. Over the next fourteen years, with these new Goals that universally apply to all countries will need to mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

The 2030 Agenda offers an integrated and transformative vision for a better world. Youth-specific and youth-related targets have been secured in several of the SDGs and youth development issues are cross-cutting and run through the new agenda, including the opening declaration, which emphasizes youth issues in various paragraphs. The Agenda is a key platform to steer global action and promote new initiatives worldwide.

With over half of the world under the age of 30, young people are crucial for the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They have played a key part in shaping the Agenda’s priorities and now as agents of change they will be indispensable to its achievement in the coming fourteen years. The scale and scope of the SDGs require particularly strong partnerships at every level with young people. The involvement of young people in these efforts, both as beneficiaries and actors of public policies, will be at the centre of the discussions.

The 5th ECOSOC Youth Forum that took place at the UN Headquarters in New York on 1-2 February 2016 discussed ways in which young people can play an active role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also addressed how



#YOUTH2030

the youth can best communicate on the Agenda, bringing on board the innovative use of social media and communication tools. The Forum highlighted that the Youth around the world are not mere beneficiaries of the SDGs, but key drivers for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The role of young people and their organizations was deemed crucial, as youth take action across all areas critical for the implementation of the agenda, including in politics, business, academia and civil society.

The 6th ECOSOC Youth Forum will continue to build on these discussions by focusing on the overarching theme of “The Role of Youth in Poverty Eradication and Promoting Prosperity in a Changing World”¹ echoing the main theme of the ECOSOC’s High-Level Political Forum to be held in July 2017.

Moreover, the Forum will provide an opportunity to review the progress achieved in terms of youth participation in the implementation of the SDGs and showcase lessons learned and best practices and offer insights on creating innovative avenues and enhancing existing means for youth participation.

2. Roundtable objectives:

The Interactive Roundtable will follow the opening ceremony of the 6th ECOSOC Youth Forum. At a time when globalization is perceived to have contributed to lower standard of living for some, rising inequality and the mass movements of people, the Roundtable will make the case for global coordinated action and multilateralism in order to shape a better and fairer world, in particular for youth.

This Interactive Roundtable at the 6th ECOSOC Youth Forum will seek to:

- Offer a platform to the UN Member States to inform different stakeholders on progress made and challenges faced in mainstreaming youth rights and priorities into the national SDG implementation programs, share best practices and facilitate exchange of information on how actual and meaningful youth participation has been facilitated by Member States in the implementation of the national plans designed to achieve 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Provide a platform for a diverse set of stakeholders, in particular Governments, as well as Youth Organizations and Networks, UN entities, and others to share their perspectives on where we stand, as the international community transitioned to the active implementation phase of the SDGs

¹ The Forum will provide a platform for an in-depth discussion on the role of youth towards the implementation of the SDGs 1,2,3,5,9,14 and 17



#YOUTH2030

- Set the stage for efficient and effective engagement of the participants in the following sessions of the Forum, which will focus on how young people can be engaged in the implementation of the new Agenda, including from a thematic as well as regional perspective, and review means of implementation, including financing, as well as modalities for partnerships and collaboration.
- Provide an opportunity to discuss how young people are engaged in and leading on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and how they can contribute to follow-up and review mechanisms to be established in this context.

3. Session Format

The session is designed as a High Level Dialogue on the Youth Issues and their engagement in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The session will be moderated by the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth.

The focus of this session will be on discussing the establishment of a conducive policy and programming environment for this engagement to succeed and for youth needs and rights to be addressed. This session will be addressed by the Ministers in charge of Youth, Development and Cooperation portfolios and other highest level authorities on youth, as well as youth organizations and representatives of intergovernmental organizations.

The Roundtable intends to enable the Member States to use the platform offered by the ECOSOC Youth Forum to inform different stakeholders on progress made and challenges faced in mainstreaming youth rights and priorities into the national SDG implementation programs, share best practices and facilitate exchange of information on actual youth participation in the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national level. A brief guidance note will be communicated to the participating Member States to structure their inputs geared towards the overall objective of the Forum.

The Interactive Roundtable will include a discussion with a variety of presenters/speakers to cover multitude of issues and perspectives, spanning from global to local levels, and allow –at select intervals- for participants from the floor to share insights, raise questions, make comments and engage in a constructive dialogue on the overall theme and with relation to specific interventions and contributions made.



#YOUTH2030

4. Questions for the audience

- What are the best practices for mainstreaming youth rights and priorities into the national SDG implementation programs and engaging young people in the implementation of the national plans designed to achieve 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?
- How would you assess the current level of youth engagement in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and how they can contribute to follow-up and review mechanisms?

5. Suggested reading material

i) A/70/684 Critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level Report of the Secretary-General http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A%20/70/684&Lang=E

ii) World Programme of Action for Youth <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/wpay2010.pdf>

iii) Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015. 70/1. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

iv) Presidential Statement on the occasion of the 2016 ECOSOC Youth Forum http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/president/statement_2016/youth_forum-presidential_statement_2016.pdf

v) 2016 United Nations World Youth Report. Youth Civil Engagement http://www.unworldyouthreport.org/images/docs/un_world_youth_report_youth_civic_engagement.pdf