



#YOUTH2030

Draft Concept Note
"Empowered, Included and Equal"
8-9 April 2019

Introduction

The 8th Annual Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum takes place at a critical point in time as the world is working to address the disadvantages of the current trends in globalization, which are not sufficiently sustainable or inclusive. The Forum will address the theme, "**Empowered, Included and Equal**", which is aligned with the theme of ECOSOC and the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality" in 2019. It will also review progress in the areas of quality education (SDG4), decent work and economic growth (SDG8), reduced inequalities (SDG10), climate action (SDG13), peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG16), and partnerships for the goals (SDG17).

Substantive Scope

In addition to providing a platform for dialogue with Member States on youth development, the ECOSOC Youth Forum in 2019 will serve as an additional unique space for substantive contributions of young people to be shared with decision-makers and representatives of governments attending high-level events.

The Youth Forum will allow youth participants debate and develop messages for the SDG summit on 24 and 25 September that will review ways to galvanize actions to reach the SDGs by 2030. The ECOSOC Youth Forum will also provide space to ensure that their views are heard in the other upcoming high-level events in September such as the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development on 23 September 2019 and the **Secretary-General's Climate Summit** to be held on 23 September 2019.

A representative of the Youth Forum will address **the High-level Event hosted by the President of the General Assembly on "Decent Work and the Future of Work"** the day following the Youth Forum on 10 April 2019.

Additionally, the Youth Forum will also create a space for the President of the General Assembly to directly engage with young people on youth actions and policy options on one of her priorities themes for the 73rd Session of the General Assembly, namely, "**Youth, Peace and Security**".

It will also provide space for further discussion of the **UN Youth Strategy, Youth 2030: Working with and for Young People**, including plans underway for its rollout and implementation at the country, regional and global levels.

Format

The Forum will also include a number of **plenary sessions** (Opening and Closing as well as a session on SDG 17 and on the HLPF Summit) with representatives from youth organizations, high-level and other keynote speakers. **Breakout sessions** will be held on the SDGs under review and the regional dialogues which will be co-led by one to two UN organizations and youth entities.

Participation

Participation in the ECOSOC Youth Forum is by invitation only and will include representatives from youth-led and youth-focused organizations selected through the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY), the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, regional youth platforms and international youth organisations that are members of the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO), representatives of National Youth Councils and Institutes, as well as youth representatives from Civil Society Organizations and other youth leaders and advocates. Member States, including official youth delegates, Ministers and other high-level representatives and representatives of regional and other multilateral organizations will also be in attendance.

Preparation of the Youth Forum

The 2019 ECOSOC Youth Forum will be overseen by the President of ECOSOC and is co-organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, in collaboration with the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, in particular, its Working Group on Youth and SDGs, and co-convened by the UN-MGCY and ICMYO. Preparations should take place at the regional level prior to the ECOSOC Youth Forum, together with regional youth platforms, to gather as wide a participation of youth-led and youth-focused organisations, as well as government representatives, as possible. The outcomes of these regional consultations should feed into the Youth Forum and subsequently to the other processes.

Social media and virtual participation

Virtual participation will be used to the greatest extent possible, and youth representatives will be invited to participate through video-link from selected countries. The meeting will also be streamed live on UN WebTV and participants will be able to pose questions via social media through Facebook and Twitter (using #Youth2030). An SDG media zone may also be organized so participants at the Forum can engage inside-bar conversations.

Outcome

The outcome of the Forum will be a **Presidential Statement**, capturing key outcomes of the discussions and findings of the Forum, which will be made available to the ECOSOC High Level Segment and the High-level Political Forum in July and September 2019. An informal summary of the proceedings will also be prepared as well as specific recommendations which will also be shared with decision-makers. The outcome will also contribute to all ECOSOC formal events to be organized in 2019.