



**ECOSOC
YOUTH
FORUM**

#YOUTH2030

8th Economic and Social Council Youth Forum

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

Interactive Roundtable on Looking to the Future: “A dialogue on the High-level Political Forum (SDG) Summit”

**9 April 2019, 3.00 pm – 5:30 pm
United Nations Headquarters, New York**

1. Background:

As 2019 is a year of considerable opportunities — with important milestones and processes related to the 2030 Agenda and beyond, the 8th ECOSOC Youth Forum plays a unique role to further gather the views and underscore contributions of youth.

First and foremost, four years into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and after the first cycle of High-level Political Forums (HLPF), world leaders, along with civil society, the UN system and other stakeholders will examine progress and will provide guidance on the way forward. This review and forward-looking discussion will occur at the 2019 HLPF, under the auspices of ECOSOC (July 2019) and at the 2019 HLPF (or the UN SDG Summit), under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly (September 2019).

Additionally, the ILO’s Centenary on Decent Work and the Future of Work (April 2019), as well as the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development and the Secretary-General’s Climate Summit (September 2019) will serve to as space to concentrate on matters intrinsically linked to the 2030 Agenda and to young people. Furthermore, continued developments surrounding the Youth, Peace and Security agenda and the launch of a new UN Youth Strategy (Youth 2030: Working with and for Young People) reflect the fact that contributions of young people are increasingly recognized.

Since the ECOSOC Youth Forum has grown into a recognized space to gather the perspectives and ideas of young participants ahead of UN processes, this is an extraordinary opportunity that needs to be leveraged to its fullest potential.

2. Objectives:

In light of the confluence of opportunities to help leverage contributions for the global development agenda, this particular session of the 8th ECOSOC Youth Forum seeks to bring together the ideas emerging from the Forum's discussions and distil key messages and recommendations from participants regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

This session will also provide a space for young people to share with one of the co-facilitators of the first political declaration of the HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly (the SDG Summit)- the government of Bahamas - and the UN system, their reflections on progress made on the SDGs as well as convey recommendations on what is needed to accelerate action, including recommendations for youth engagement at the SDG Summit in September.

Therefore, as a culmination of the ECOSOC Youth Forum, this third plenary session of the ECOSOC Youth Forum intends to offer a final space for stakeholders to consolidate their input.

It will seek to:

- Highlight the foremost priorities and youth good practices in the implementation of the SDGs that could help to further promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- Synthesize and build on discussions from the previous day's breakout sessions on regional concerns and SDG thematic sessions that are relevant for the SDG Summit.
- Gather the views of participants of what they would like the 2030 Agenda follow up and review processes to look like as we move forward to the SDG Summit in September.
- Serve to carry forth the results of the ECOSOC Youth Forum as well as to offer a preview of the results to UN system representatives and Member States.

3. Session Format and Approach

The session will be an "Interactive Dialogue on the Way Forward"

The UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake will set the scene. She will outline the context and purpose of the upcoming HLPF in July and the SDG Summit in September, and the need for youth engagement in these for a continued focus on the monitoring and review of the SDGs and youth lead accountability.

She will then give the floor to the Permanent representative of Bahamas to the United Nations, one of the co-facilitators of the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit, who will outline the process and opportunities for youth engagement.

Upon the deliberations of the co-facilitator Ms. Wickramanayake will introduce the moderator of the session, Ms. Noura Berrouba.

Ms. Noura Berrouba, Member of the Governing Body, European Youth Parliament, will lead the discussion and invite the audience to share their views and perspectives. The outcomes of the regional and thematic break-out sessions of the ECOSOC Youth Forum that are relevant for the SDG Summit will also be integrated in the discussion through the pre-selected rapporteurs.

Ms. Berrouba will call on the audience throughout the session to collectively refine what needs to be brought forward for the HLPF and SDG Summit and the monitoring and review structures of the 2030 Agenda.

The roundtable session will be wrapped up by Mr. Guy Ryder, Director General of ILO and Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under Secretary General for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs who will be actively listening to the discussion. They will provide reflections as to how the UN will take young people's recommendations and streamline youth engagement towards and beyond the SDG Summit.

4. Expected Outcome

It is expected that the Interactive Roundtable will be substantive and focused so that it builds on, and subsequently refines, the work accumulated from the ECOSOC Youth Forum and later shared with parts of the UN System.

The session's outcome will be highlighted in the Presidential Statement, which will be made available to the ECOSOC High Level Segment and the High-level Political Forum in July and September 2019. Recommendations collected from the session will also be featured the informal summary of the proceedings which will also be shared with decision-makers at formal ECOSOC events to be held in 2019.

5. Discussion Questions

- What would you highlight as the most important points and key priorities when it comes to youth best practices, policy recommendations and transformative actions that you heard in the plenaries and breakout sessions, and that could be taken to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?
- How can the United Nations system better support, expand and leverage youth participation in the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and allow for strengthened participation?
- What type of guidance you think the United Nations System should convey to Member States for them to significantly advance youth engagement in the SDG implementation and review?