



**ECOSOC
YOUTH
FORUM**

#YOUTH2030

8th Economic and Social Council Youth Forum

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

8 April 2019

CR 8, 4-6 p.m.

United Nations Headquarters, New York

IDENTIFICATION	
Session focus	SDG10
Session title	Reducing inequalities with young people in the driver's seat/a centerpiece in achieving sustainable development [need something creative here]
Session lead	Noëlla Richard, UNDP
Session co-organizers	Donovan Gutierres, UN Major Group on Children and Youth (UNMGCY)
	Asmae Ibrahim, Anais Kintgen, UNWOMEN
	UNCTAD
Session moderator	Anja Olin Pape, Chair of the Council of Europe Joint Council on Youth
Rapporteur	Anja Olin Pape, Chair of the Council of Europe Joint Council on Youth
Session note-taker 1	tbd
Session note-taker 2	tbd
BACKGROUND & KEY ISSUES	

The international community has made significant strides towards lifting people out of poverty. The most vulnerable nations – the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and the small island developing states – continue to make inroads into poverty reduction. However, inequalities persist, both between and within countries, and large disparities remain regarding access to basic human rights, health and education services social protection and others, as well as opportunities to improve income, wealth and social mobility.

While global inequality between countries has fallen significantly over recent years, income and wealth inequalities within countries has been on the rise. The richest 10 percent individuals on the planet earn up to 40 percent of total global income, while the poorest 10 percent earn only between 2 percent and 7 percent of total global income. In developing countries, inequality has increased by 11 percent if we take into account the growth of population.

There is growing consensus that economic growth needs to be inclusive, equitable and sustained and to incorporate the social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development to reduce poverty sustainably.

Fortunately, in many developing countries, the income of people at the bottom of the distribution has grown faster than the income of the entire population, allowing to lift people out of extreme poverty and to reduce the income gap. Between 2016 and 2018, the per capita income of 60 out of 94 countries with available data has risen more rapidly than the national average. There has been some progress regarding creating favorable access conditions for exports from least developing countries as well.

These widening disparities require the adoption of sound policies to empower the bottom percentile of income earners, and promote social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status. Income inequality is a global problem that requires global solutions. This involves improving the regulation and monitoring of financial markets and institutions, encouraging development assistance and foreign direct investment to regions where the need is greatest. Facilitating the safe migration and mobility of people, and eliminating all discriminatory laws is also key to bridging the widening divide.

Furthermore, other important topics are covered within the scope of this goal and related to recent international agreements. This includes orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people both within and across countries. In the governance space, ensuring the representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions is key to avoid perpetuating inequalities that have come from maintaining a 'business as usual' despite rapidly changing and uncertain social, economic, and environmental pressures.

The goal of reducing inequality is enshrined in the 2030 Agenda and its central pledge of leaving no one behind, recognizing the need for inclusion and empowerment of the most vulnerable populations, particularly women and girls who remain the largest segment of the world population to be marginalized in economic, social and political development processes.

As highlighted in the World Youth Report (2018), the lack of robust, disaggregated demographic data makes the development of effective policies aimed at marginalized and vulnerable youth particularly difficult. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017 notes that “children living outside of family care, persons with disabilities and older persons, for example, have largely fallen off the statistical ‘map’” (United Nations, 2017c, overview), and the same is true for specific groups of young people, such as indigenous youth; young migrants and refugees; lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth; and youth with disabilities. Although efforts are under way to ensure that data are collected on persons with disabilities, indigenous persons, and other statistically neglected groups, the information gathered is often not broken down by age. In countries in which the collection of data on vulnerable and marginalized groups has not been initiated or is in the nascent stages, it is virtually impossible to assess the particular situation of youth from these groups. Circumstances such as these interfere with the ability of policymakers to develop evidence-informed policies that take into account the needs and challenges of the most vulnerable and marginalized youth and provide them with resources and opportunities to participate and thrive.

Three SDG 10 indicators are suggested as youth-relevant in the World Youth Report 2018 (namely 10.2.1 proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities, 10.3.1 proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law, and 10.7.2 number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies), but no data is currently available at the requested disaggregation. The lack of data and age disaggregated data in particular still prevents us from showing a comprehensive snapshot of their specific needs and challenges.

Key issues:

- Age, Gender and other forms of discrimination
- Injustice and human rights
- discrimination
- income and economic inequalities
- social inequalities
- political inequalities
- global inequalities
- LNOB angle: Multiple entry-points such as crisis response, gender, governance.

The session brings together young civil society actors, representatives of member states, UN entities and other stakeholders with the objectives to

- Take stock of SDG 10 implementation - how youth specific needs are taken into account and how young people themselves are contributing to the implementation of SDG 10
- Share promising practices, challenges and opportunities
- Identify data and evidence gaps
- Strengthen partnerships and commitment to SDG10 and SDG implementation in general

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Recommendations to feed into the Presidential statement
- Recommendations to feed into the HLPF and the SDG Summit
- Young people's needs and aspirations are considered in the implementation of and progress on SDG 10

APPROACH USED TO GENERATE CONCRETE CONTRIBUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The session will be as interactive as possible and will be introduced by three keynote remarks by young people, before the moderator ask participants to break into 3-4 groups.

20 min of the session at the end should be dedicated to hearing from each group, in order to consolidate recommendations for the reporting back session on Day 2.

OVERALL STRUCTURE AND FLOW

Welcoming remarks (5 min) by the moderator/co-organizers

3 spotlight remarks from young people, in different contexts, to spark the discussion (20 min)

- Global inequalities (amongst countries)
- In-country inequalities
- Equality through empowerment

Reaction by 3 active listeners (tbd) (15 min)

Moderator explains rules for breakout/reporting back (5 min)

3 breakout groups (inside the room) (45 mins)

- income and wealth inequality
- interlocking forms of inequalities and discrimination
- the powerful role of young people in leaving no-one behind

Reporting back (25 min)
Conclusion (5 min)

Potential participants

- Augustin Batto Carol: former Y20 Chair (Argentina)
- RCs are supporting the participation of some youth representatives
- UNMGCY will also send suggestions of youth participants

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are the main barriers to equality and inclusion, in-country and at global levels, from young people's perspectives?
- How are young people's needs taken into account in SDG 10 implementation, in particular with regards to access to education, social protection and other public services?
- How can participation from young people, particularly from disadvantaged/marginalized countries and regions, be improved in decision-making on matters affecting them?
- How are youth making a difference by contributing to SDG 10 implementation?
- What are young people demanding for inequalities to be significantly and sustainably reduced?
- What types of inter-generational partnerships should be strengthened to leave no one behind and significantly reduce inequalities?
- How can member states and UN entities support the role of youth in reducing inequalities?
- What is the role of the private sector - and of young people in that sector- in achieving SDG10?
- How can education contribute to reducing inequalities?
- How can differences between rural and urban areas be taken into account in the implementation of SDG10?
- How can new technologies help reducing inequalities?
- At the national level, what are some of the policy measures (fiscal, social, labour market) that youth would see as instrumental in achieving greater equality and reducing wealth concentration?
- What are some of the dimensions that youth would see as essential in promoting a more balanced world economy?
- How can youth help change the narrative and practice on migration?

PREPARATORY EVENTS

- Could some of the outcome from CSW and CSocD57 feed into the event?
- EGM on SDG 10 to be convened early April 2019 in Geneva (WB and DESA leading on it)
- Does anyone want to host an online/offline consultation?

SUGGESTED READING

OHCHR (2018) 'A human rights-based approach to data: Leaving no one behind in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development'.

United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) (2017) 'Leaving No One Behind: Equality and Non-Discrimination at the Heart of Sustainable Development: The United Nations System Shared Framework for Action'.

UNDP (2018) 'What does it mean to leave no one behind?'.

UNDP (2017) 'Fast Facts: Youth and Gender Equality'.

UNDP (2017) 'Fast Facts: Youth as partners for the implementation of the SDGs'.

UNDP (2016) 'Human Development Report 2016: Human Development for Everyone'.

UNDP (2016) 'UNDP support to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 10'.

UN Women and UNDP (2019) 'Gender equality as an accelerator for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals'.

UN Women. (2019). *Turning promises into action: Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. [online] Available at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/2/gender-equality-in-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development-2018> [Accessed 28 Feb. 2019].

Munoz Boudet, Ana Maria; Buitrago, Paola; Leroy De La Briere, Benedicte; Newhouse, David Locke; Rubiano Matulevich, Eliana Carolina; Scott, Kinnon; Suarez Becerra, Pablo. 2018. *Gender differences in poverty and household composition through the life-cycle : a global perspective (English)*. Policy Research working paper; no. WPS 8360. Washington, D.C. : World Bank Group.

<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/135731520343670750/Gender-differences-in-poverty-and-household-composition-through-the-life-cycle-a-global-perspective>

UN Women. (2016) Progress of the world's women 2015–2016: Transforming economies, realizing rights <http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2015/poww-2015-2016-en.pdf?la=en&vs=0>

UN (2018) 'World Youth Report: Youth and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development'.

UN (2018) "Youth 2030: The United Nations Youth Strategy".

HRC resolution 37/16, the High Commissioner examines the relationship between the realization of the right to work and the enjoyment of all human rights by young people.

Relevant quantitative data:

- Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index
- Gini Coefficient
- The Migration Governance Index
- World Programme of Action for Youth
- The Commonwealth Secretariat's global Youth Development Index
- Youth Progress Index (European Youth Forum, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, the Organization for Security and Economic Cooperation, and the Social Progress Imperative.
- ASEAN Youth Development Index
- European Youth Monitor
- Ibero-American Pact for Youth