



**ECOSOC
YOUTH
FORUM**

#YOUTH2030

8th Economic and Social Council Youth Forum

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions

8 April 2019

CR 6, 4-6 p.m.

United Nations Headquarters, New York

IDENTIFICATION	
Session focus	SDG16
Session title	Youth empowerment for peaceful, just and inclusive societies
Session lead	Maria Stage, UNDP
Session co-organizers	Noella Richard, UNDP
	Marie Doucey (PBSO)
	Gilberto Duarte Santos, UNODC
	Mridul Upadhyay, YfPI (lead) and Gizem Kiliç, UNOY (support), Global Coalition for Youth, Peace and Security, UNDP SDG 16 Taskforce Youth Caucus, UN MGCY SDG 16 and WFUNA, Cecile Mazzacurati, Secretariat YPS (UNFPA/PBSO)
	Rocio Mora, OROLSI (DPO)
	Sharon Riggle, OSRSG CAAC
	Please see the full list of the organizing group below in 'additional details'
Session moderator(s)	Kudzai Mukaratirwa, Director, Online Model United Nations

Rapporteur	Kudzai Mukaratirwa, Director, Online Model United Nations
Session note-taker 1	TBD
Session note-taker 2	TBD

BACKGROUND & KEY ISSUES

The world is facing the largest generation of youth in its history and youth constitutes, in many countries, the majority of the population.

Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) is not only a valuable and important aspiration in its own right, it is also a key enabling goal for the entire sustainable development agenda. The 2030 Agenda will require action to secure peace, deliver justice, promote inclusive participation in politics and beyond, and consolidate effective, accountable and inclusive institutions if the priorities in the Agenda as a whole are to be realized. Young people should be seen as and often already are agents of change. At the same time, young people face a wide array of development challenges and their concerns are too often overlooked. This must be addressed urgently and any attempt to build resilient governance must empower young people as key agents of change in their societies and communities. Youth voices, actions and willingness to influence decision-making processes in particular are essential, if sustainable development is to be achieved.

Young people are often victims of multiple and interlocked forms of discrimination, frequently involving negative assumptions about age, capability and respect. Youth face barriers to accessing justice and having equal opportunities, but, at the same time, the positive role of youth is acknowledged. For instance, the General Assembly, through the Doha Declaration (A/RES/70/174), recognized the fundamental role of youth in preventing crime and corruption, and calls upon Member States to reach out to young people, drawing on them as positive agents of change.

Youth face significant barriers to participation in public life, which leads them to be greatly underrepresented in decision-making and development processes. The result of exclusion of youth is often that the needs and aspirations of young people are not adequately addressed, and their contributions to development lost. The independent progress study on youth, peace and security (2018) describes barriers to meaningful inclusion and participation and suggests three strategies to overcome the barriers: Transformation of systems that do not support meaningful inclusion of youth, prioritization of partnerships and collaborations with youth as equal partners, and investment in the capacity and leadership of youth as well as a conducive space for youth organizations.

Old and young generations experience peace and violence differently and sustainable development efforts will not be effectively informed without the voice of young people. Young people face these challenges of exclusion and being perceived as a problem rather than partners and agents of change, despite an increasing recognition of the positive role of youth in peacebuilding. Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015) recognized young people as

positive agents of change in peace and security, including prevention of violent extremism and Security Council Resolution 2419 (2018) put an emphasis on the need of support to youth empowerment and meaningful participation of youth in decision-making.

As described in the World Youth Report 2018, many Goal 16 indicators lack disaggregated data. The lack of disaggregated data challenges the inclusion of needs and aspirations of youth in implementation and monitoring of Goal 16, because often data does not reveal information about youth. Nevertheless, young people's involvement is key if the call for participation, inclusivity and accountability embedded in Goal 16 is to be achieved. The Human Development Report (2016) describes youth as disproportionately among the left behind without the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from development progress. In accordance with the leaving no one behind principle, those furthers behind should be reached first. Youth is not a homogeneous group and to inform decision-making and development programming views of the diversity of youth should be considered to avoid leaving behind the most marginalized young people.

This session on Goal 16 seizes the opportunity of bringing together young people, United Nations entities, Member States and other stakeholders at the ECOSOC Youth Forum to raise awareness of the role of young people in leading progress on the implementation of Goal 16; identify good examples of youth empowerment and participation; and to understand the challenges and barriers for meaningful youth participation caused by exclusion and human rights violations of young agents of change. This session sparks ideas on how to unlock the full potential of youth in the implementation and monitoring of Goal 16 as a standalone focus and as an enabler of the entire 2030 agenda. In doing so, the session addresses the following key issues:

Key issues:

- Sustained and meaningful youth participation in decision-making processes
- Human rights violations of young agents of change
- Young women and men as positive agents of change for peace, justice, accountable and inclusive societies
- Youth-inclusive national and local Goal 16 indicators
- Disaggregated data on peace, justice and inclusivity
- Youth participation in the follow-up and review of Goal 16, including in Voluntary National Reviews

SESSION OBJECTIVES

The session brings together young civil society actors, youth representatives of governments, other delegates from Member States, United Nations entities and other stakeholders to provide recommendations on youth empowerment in the implementation and monitoring of Goal 16.

The session provides a space for young people to share experience with access to justice, good practices of sustaining peace and youth-inclusive and accountable institutions.

The session will enable young people and partners to:

- Understand youth specific needs in the context of Goal 16;
- Take stock of policies and initiatives promoting peace, justice, accountability and inclusivity in relation to youth;
- Deepen the understanding of the role of youth in leading progress and enhancing accountability on Goal 16;
- Provide youth-driven recommendations to stakeholders and policy processes

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The expected outcomes of this session are concrete recommendations to feed into the ECOSOC Youth Forum Presidential Statement, the Expert Group Meeting on SDG 16, the political declaration on SDG 16, the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and the SDG Summit. The session contributes to a better consideration of young people's needs and aspirations in the implementation of Goal 16, the broader 2030 Agenda and related agendas.

APPROACH USED TO GENERATE CONCRETE CONTRIBUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The session lead, co-organizers and partners contribute to youth empowerment through implementation, policy development and support. With the knowledge of the organizing partners, the session draws upon experience with sustainable development with and for a diversity of young people and evidence from different local and national contexts.

The breakout groups are selected and structured in line with relevant policy agendas to enable recommendations to feed into the future work on Goal 16. Notably, the selection of peace, human rights, justice and inclusivity as themes for the three parallel breakout groups eases the linking of insights from the session with a broader range of relevant initiatives. Hereby, recommendations are tailored to other efforts on Goal 16 and the UN Youth Strategy and offers concrete contributions.

In addition, each breakout session will have questions on meaningful inclusion of youth, equal partnerships with youth, and investment in young people. The selection of these three mutually reinforcing strategies links the sessions to the youth, peace and security agenda by following suggestions from the independent progress study 'The Missing Peace'.

OVERALL STRUCTURE AND FLOW

Introduction (5 minutes)

Introducing the theme, the purpose and the programme

Goal 16 - Setting the stage (25 minutes)

- Peace-talk w. young representative (5 minutes)
 - Reaction from Member State representative/other stakeholder (3 minutes)
- Human Rights and justice-talk w. young representative (5 minutes)
 - Reaction from Member State representative/other stakeholder (3 minutes)
- Inclusivity-talk w. young representative (5 minutes)
 - Reaction from Member State representative/other stakeholder (3 minutes)

Three parallel breakout groups (45 minutes)

- The role of youth in preventing violent conflict and in sustaining peace
- Youth, human rights and justice
- Meaningful youth-inclusion and participation in Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)

Recommendations (20 minutes)

Each group reports back to the larger group and suggests recommendations.

Goal 16 as an enabler for the entire 2030 agenda (5 minutes)

The moderator facilitates the dialogue and asks questions to spark ideas on how Goal 16 can be an enabler for all the Sustainable Development Goals.

Concluding remarks (5 minutes)

The moderator explains how the recommendations will feed into other policy on Goal 16. The way forward for other potential suggestions is agreed upon.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Guiding questions for the three breakout sessions:

The role of youth in preventing violent conflict and in sustaining peace

- What are examples of the positive role of youth in fostering social cohesion and in sustaining peace?
- What is the role of youth in supporting interlinkages between the three elements of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus?
- What change is needed for local, national, regional and international institutions to be well-equipped to respond to the needs and aspirations of young people in sustaining peace?
- How can a culture of peace be promoted through investments in youth?

Youth, human rights and justice

- What are key barriers and challenges that young people face in accessing their human rights?
- How does corruption affect human rights, and what can youth do about it?
- What examples of successful participatory approaches in strengthening young people's positive role in crime prevention can be identified?
- How can equal access to justice for all young people be pursued?

Meaningful youth-inclusion in the follow-up and review of Goal 16

- What are examples of promising practices of young people's meaningful inclusion and participation in the follow-up and review of Goal 16?
- What examples of youth inclusion in Voluntary National Review processes, specifically, can be identified?
- How can countries create an enabling environment for the participation of youth organizations and young people in monitoring progress towards Goal 16?
- What mechanisms are in place to ensure the meaningful participation of the most marginalized youth?

PREPARATORY EVENTS

Relevant events ahead of the ECOSOC Youth Forum include the International Symposium on Youth in Formal Peace Processes (5-6 March 2019, Helsinki) and technical consultations on Goal 16 such as the Multi-dimensional Violence in Latin America (2-3 April 2019, Panama) and Inclusive Institutions at the Local Level (26-27 2019, Tunisia).

Online preparatory activities on Goal 16 are being organized. For updates on this please see twitter: #Youth4peace #UNDP4youth #Youth2030 #UNAOCYouth

SUGGESTED READING

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Marshall, Chelsea (2016) 'Critical agents of change in the 2030 Agenda: Youth-inclusive governance indicators for national-level monitoring'. <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/critical-agents-of-change-in-the-2030-agenda.html>

Restless Development, United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development and United Nations Development Programme (2017). 'Guiding Principles for Supporting Young

People as Critical Agents of Change in the 2030 Agenda’.

<https://www.youth4peace.info/GuidingPrinciples/Youth2030>

Simpson, Graeme (2018) ‘The independent progress study on youth, peace and security ‘the missing peace’’. <https://www.youth4peace.info/system/files/2018-10/youth-web-english.pdf>

UNDP (Forthcoming) ‘Frontlines: Young people at the forefront of preventing and responding to violent extremism’.

UNDP (2018) ‘What does it mean to leave no one behind?’

<https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/poverty-reduction/what-does-it-mean-to-leave-no-one-behind-.html>

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<https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/youth-participation-in-electoral-processes-a-handbook-for-embs.html>

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

<https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Democratic%20Governance/Youth/Fast%20Facts%20-%20Youth%20&%20SDGs%202017-January%20final.pdf>

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[http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Global%20Policy%20Centres/OGC/Africa-Voices From The Field SDG16 Statistics Monitoring.pdf](http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Global%20Policy%20Centres/OGC/Africa-Voices%20From%20The%20Field%20SDG16%20Statistics%20Monitoring.pdf)

UNDP (2017) ‘Journey to Extremism in Africa: Drivers, Incentives and the Tipping Point for Recruitment’.

<http://journey-to-extremism.undp.org/>

UNDP (2016) ‘Youth Global Programme for Sustainable Development and Peace’.

<http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Democratic%20Governance/Youth/Youth-GPS%20-%202016%20UNDP%20PRODOC%20-%20final%20web.pdf>

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<http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/arab-human-development-report-2016-youth-and-prospects-human-development-changing-reality>

UNDP (2016) ‘Human Development Report 2016: Human development for everyone’.

http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2016_human_development_report.pdf

UNESCO MGIEP (2017) Youth Waging Peace: Youth Let Guide on Prevention Violent Extremism Through Education

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UNODC and UNESCO (2019) Strengthening the Rule of Law through Education: A Guide for Policymakers

<http://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/about-e4j/unodc-unesco-guide-for-policymakers.html>

UNODC (2019) Global Study on Homicide.

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UNODC (2018) Global Report on Trafficking in Persons.

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UNODC (2017) UNODC and the Sustainable Development Goals

http://www.unodc.org/documents/SDGs/UNODC-SDG_brochure_LORES.pdf

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UNODC (2015) National Anti-Corruption Strategies - A Practical Guide for Development and Implementation

http://www.unodc.org/documents/corruption/Publications/2015/National_Anti-Corruption_Strategies_-_A_Practical_Guide_for_Development_and_Implementation_E.pdf

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UNOY (2017) 'Mapping a Sector: Bridging the Evidence Gap on Youth-Driven Peacebuilding'.

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ADDITIONAL DETAILS

The organizing group of this session are: Cecile Mazzacurati, Secretariat YPS (UNFPA/PBSO), Marie Doucey (PBSO), Rocio Mora (DPO), Mridul Upadhyay (YfPI), Gizem Kiliç (UNOY), Major Group on Children and Youth, Sharon Riggle (OSRSG CAAC), Noella Richard (UNDP), Paul Simon (UNDESA), Aparna Basnyat (UNDP), Lucy Turner (UNDP), Minerva Novero (UNDP), Christine Chan (UNDP), Nicole Igloi (UNDP), Maria Petersen (UNDP), Tanya Pedersen (UNDP), Maria Stage (UNDP), Emelie Weski (LSU/MGCY), Shinta Sander (UNDP), Matteo Pasquali (UNODC), Gautam Babbar (UNODC), Johannes De Haan (UNODC), Gilberto Duarte Santos (UNODC), Vanessa Suen (UNAOC).