



**ECOSOC
YOUTH
FORUM**

#YOUTH2030

Economic and Social Council Youth Forum 10th Anniversary

CONCEPT NOTE

Asia-Pacific region

| IDENTIFICATION | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Session title as per programme | Asia-Pacific Region Post Covid-19: Building back better through youth-inclusive solutions |
| Session co-lead UN | APINY (Asia Pacific Interagency Network on Youth) Heidrun Fritze, UNFPA Asia Pacific |
| Session co-lead Youth | Sharifah Norizah Syed Ahamad Kabeer Asia- Pacific Youth Caucus, Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) |
| Session co-organizers | IYC4Peace initiative, International Youth Centre Kuala Lumpur Asian Youth Peace Network |
| | UN and development partners: UNDP, UNV, UNESCO, ILO, UN Habitat, and ADB) |
| Session moderator(s) | Regine Guevara, Asian Youth Peace Network |

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|------------------------------|---|
| | <p><u>Panel 1 -How Youth Actions Foster Solidarity During COVID-19: Barriers and Success)</u> Adenantha Swietenia Fatma, Regional Focal Point Asia-Pacific MGCY</p> <p><u>Panel 2- What are meaningful tools and support mechanisms to promote youth SDG advocacy</u> Fshat ul Hassan, Youth Advocacy Network (YAN)/ SAARC Youth Platform</p> |
| Session note-taker(s) | Asia Pacific Regional Session, APINY and MGCY Contacts: Heidrun Fritze (UNFPA) and Sharifah Norizah Syed Ahamad Kabeer (MGCY) |
| | Intro: Ayasha Sarybayeva, Central Asia Youth Network |
| | Panel 1 - Undral Ganbaatar, UNESCO |
| | Panel 2 - UN Notetaker - tbc |
| | Closing - Bagdat Akbiyeva, Central Asia Youth Network |

BACKGROUND & KEY ISSUES
(approx. 750 words)

The Asia-Pacific Regional Session will explore the role of youth in responding to COVID-19 and building back more inclusive societies in the post COVID-19 period, in particular how youth participation and leadership has contributed to promote youth SDG advocacy. The Asia-Pacific region is home to about 700 million youths, with countries across the region severely impacted by COVID-19, starting with the outbreak in Wuhan, China in late 2019. As young people often lack adequate representation and opportunities to politically, economically, or socially engage, the role of youth in responding to COVID-19 and their achievements is quite remarkable and provides many valuable lessons on inclusivity and empowerment.

The first step to ensuring young people are engaged and part of developing solutions, is to provide avenues for their voices to be heard. This is something that should occur from conceptualising new policies through to evaluating their impact. This session will highlight examples of effective and impactful youth-led actions in the response to COVID-19. Two critical elements for successful youth inclusive approaches are 1) good evidence and 2) representation. Youth programs should be informed by research examining the issues facing young people. Representation and meaningful participation is crucial to ensure that policies and programs address the needs of the youth population.

Interactive elements using mentimeter and Q&A will enable some input and discussion on the role of youth as development actors, especially through strengthened youth participation in formal and informal governance structures. Young people are drivers of positive change in their communities, though too often, the influence of young social leaders that possess valuable local knowledge and trust among the local population is underestimated.

At the end of the session, we will gather inputs on how innovative youth institutions and networks play an essential role in promoting a culture of solidarity and leading actions in communities, the importance

of having practical youth-friendly guides based and the role knowledge transfer and e-learning play in creating an environment of global citizenship to build back better.

SESSION OBJECTIVES

(approx. 100 words)

- Presentation of good practices;
- Raise awareness of the need to improve youth representation and participation in development;
- Highlight the importance of having innovative mechanisms designed by young people to inform and support implementation and identify actions for further development;
- Foster collaboration between stakeholders working on Youth Empowerment and SDGs;
- Promote global citizenship amid the pandemic.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

(approx. 100 words)

At the end of the session, we will gather inputs on how innovative youth action plays an essential role in promoting a culture of solidarity and leading actions in communities in responding to COVID-19 and building back more inclusive societies in the post COVID-19 period. We will also explore the need to strengthen knowledge transfer, e-learning and the importance of practical guides and resources developed by and with youth in supporting effective action and to enable more young people to access opportunities to participate, build skills and strengthen youth-led action to build back better in the post-COVID era.

APPROACH USED TO GENERATE CONCRETE CONTRIBUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(approx. 200 words)

The sharing of examples of impactful youth actions will provide a range of good practices for youth-led and youth-inclusive approaches to dealing with emerging global issues. Sharing knowledge on these will enable replication and adaptation in other areas.

The discussion will showcase the most effective models for supporting youth innovation and youth-led action. These models may be applied to develop e-learning opportunities, building new tools and through social entrepreneurship. This can inform priorities for UN agencies, youth and other partners to work towards further developing and making these available to young people across the region.

A set of recommendations will share the key proposals for further development and sharing.

OVERALL STRUCTURE AND FLOW

(approx. 300 words)

07.30 - 08.00

Waiting room slideshow - these will be short stories contributed by youth on the work they are undertaking to implement the SDGs

Mentimeter exercise 1

- Introduction to Mentimeter
- Exercise Focus - Demographics
- Quiz: SDG

08:00 - 08:15 (15 mins)

- Welcome and opening remarks (Youth moderator)
- Keynote Speech by Ms. Sharifah Norizah Syed Ahamad Kabeer, Regional Caucus Coordinator (Asia-Pacific), Major Group for Children and Youth :The role of youth in the Post-covid societies - more meaningful youth participation for better results

08:15 - 08:25

Mentimeter 2 (10 minutes)

- Repeated introduction to Mentimeter
- Exercise Focus - youth participation during Covid-19

08:25 - 08:50 Stories from Youth Panel 1: How Youth Actions Foster Solidarity During COVID-19: Barriers and Successes (SDGs would be covered but not directly) (25 mins - 5 min each Q &A)

- Ms. Jekulin Lipi Saikia
- Ms. Wakana Asano
- Mr. Muhammad Amir Arif Mohamed Maliki

08:50 - 08:55 Mentimeter 3

- Exercise Focus - methods for building solidarity

08:55 - 09:20 Stories from Youth Panel 2: What are meaningful tools and support mechanisms to promote youth SDG advocacy (25 mins - 5 min each Q &A)

- Mr. Alex Wang
- Mr. Ernest Gibson (tbc)
- Ms. Sofya Ignatenko

09:20 - 09:25 Review of Mentimeter results

09:25 - 09:30 (5 mins)

- Closing remarks and way forward by moderators

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(approx. 300 words)

- How Youth actions foster solidarity during COVID-19?
- What are the barriers and successes for SDG action during Covid-19?
- How can innovative youth institutions and also youth-inclusive practices support community/national development?
- What are the benefits and pitfalls of youth-led approaches?
- How can local governments/ country leaders benefit from informal structures of youth leadership/ youth mechanisms?
- What support do these informal structures need?
- How can involving youth as stakeholders benefit social justice and promoting global citizenship?

PREPARATORY EVENTS (approx. 200 words)

Asia Indigenous Youth Network - annual meeting 16 March 2021

APFSD (Asia Pacific Forum On Sustainable Development) Youth Forum - March 14-16, 2021

SUGGESTED READING

Advocacy Briefer "Our Response: Nexus of Human rights, Women, LGBTQI & Health in Covid-19 Humanitarian Response" <https://www.unmgcy.org/main-news-updates/2020/4/28/-advocacy-briefer-amp->

Rapid Survey on the Needs of Young Key Populations and Young People living with HIV in Asia and the Pacific in the Context of Covid-19 <https://www.youthleadap.org/news-updates/preliminary-findings-ykp-covid-19-survey>

ILO and ADB (2020) Tackling the COVID-19 youth employment crisis in Asia and the Pacific, https://www.ilo.org/asia/publications/WCMS_753369/lang--en/index.htm

ILO (2020) Asia-Pacific Employment and Social Outlook 2020: Navigating the crisis towards a human-centred future of work, https://www.ilo.org/asia/publications/WCMS_764084/lang--en/index.htm

APINY website <https://asiapacificyouth.net/youth-and-covid-19/>

APFSD Background Documents including SDG Progress Report for Asia and the Pacific
<https://www.unescap.org/apfsd/8>

APFSD Youth Statements
<http://bit.do/apfsd2021>

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

We will be using a Mentimeter platform for interaction with the audience - please have your mobile phone or computer ready to use.

Log-in details will be shared during the session.