



**ECOSOC
YOUTH FORUM**
10TH ANNIVERSARY

#YOUTH2030

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

REFLECTING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF THE YOUTH FORUM AND THE START OF DECADE OF ACTION

8 April 2021, 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM

1. Background

Over the past ten years, the ECOSOC Youth Forum has evolved into a key platform where young people can contribute to policy discussions at the United Nations through their ideas, priorities, solutions and innovations. The Forum has given a unique opportunity for youth to jointly address common challenges as well as advance their contributions to achieve the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

Looking ten years forward, there is less than a decade to deliver on Agenda 2030. The active involvement of young people in co-leading the acceleration of the implementation of the SDGs is critical to a “green recovery” and achieving a peaceful, just and sustainable future. It is imperative to listen, engage and work with this generation to build on the momentum and progress of the ECOSOC Youth Forum and meet the urgency of the moment. Only by engaging and working with youth on equal footing and creating the conditions which allow them to progress and play an active role, will we be able to combat ongoing crises and

2. Objectives

This session aims to reflect on the contribution of youth to the HLPF and the Decade of Action. It will include concluding thoughts on strategic opportunities for youth to influence UN processes and debates, and perspectives on what to expect and what to be hopeful for the next 75 years of the UN. It will also focus on what youth want to see and how they can be a part of it.

In this session, one thing is understood: young people want meaningful change for a sustainable future. However, what that change looks like and the right approach to creating that future is still up for debate. In this session we will meet three young leaders who take different approaches to sustainable development. With the two days of diverse conversations across a range of topics relating to the SDGs,

HLPF, the COVID-19 pandemic at the international, regional, and local levels as a backdrop, this session will provide an opportunity for youth representatives to share their methodologies and approaches, engage in respectful debate, and demonstrate that sustainable solutions and the achievement of the 2030 agenda is not “one size fits all.”

Through providing a platform for young people to meaningfully engage in open and frank conversation with UN leadership, this session aims to:

- Reflect on ten years of the ECOSOC Youth Forum and how the forum has evolved as a space for young people to contribute to policy discussions at the United Nations and areas where it can improve or enhance this engagement.
- Showcase differing perspectives on, spark debate and generate new ideas for youth engagement in the monitoring, review and the acceleration of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Decade of Action.
- Eliminate the formalities or barriers that often place young people in a subordinate position in similar forums and create a space where they are viewed as equal collaborators for the 2030 Agenda.
- Create a space for leveraging the creativity, experiences and expertise of young people with the influence and political power of UN leadership.

3. Session Format

The session will feature three youth representatives in conversation with the UN Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina J. Mohammed on the contribution of youth in the SDGs Decade of Action.

The session will take place through a “fishbowl” dialogue. The first 10 minutes will be a pre-recorded, conversation between the three youth representatives who will discuss their experiences, reflections and perspectives on how youth should be engaged in sustainable development and the best approaches to youth mobilization for the Decade of Action.

The pre-recorded conversation will be played at the top of the session and will be followed by a dialogue with the Deputy Secretary-General, who will be invited to respond and comment on the pre-recorded conversation that she just “eavesdropped’ on. Once the DSG has shared her reaction, the conversation will open up into a back and forth, informal dialogue between the DSG and the three youth representatives for the remaining session time. The three youth representatives will have the opportunity to respond to the DSG’s comments, ask follow-up questions, and engage in a meaningful, intergenerational exchange on how best to reach and engage young people to accelerate action for the Goals.

4. Participants

- United Nations Deputy-Secretary General, Ms. Amina J. Mohammed
- 3 youth representatives selected by the Office of the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth through consultation with key partners.