



2024 ECOSOC Youth Forum
**"Youth shaping sustainable and innovative solutions:
Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of crises"**

IDENTIFICATION	
Session title	Advancing the SDGs for intergenerational progress and equity
Session focus	Europe, North America and Other States
Session leads	UNECE and AEGEE - European Students Forum, and Youth Environment Europe
Session co-organizers	Soroptimist International
BACKGROUND & KEY ISSUES	
<p>According to the 2024 Sustainable Development in the UNECE Region report, those at the highest risk of experiencing poverty are still struggling to access social protections, especially in the realms of access to sanitation services, financial and food security, safety, and justice. The report shows that, while the region is on track in achieving certain indicators, there are still social protection gaps to be filled in order to achieve targets related to SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16, and 17 by 2030.¹</p> <p>It is estimated that approximately 45 million young children across the globe suffer from severe malnutrition each year,² and that 90 percent of children worldwide feel the burden of diseases attributable to climate change.³ The interlinked effects of global conflicts, climate change, food systems and ecosystems degradation, and extreme poverty are most felt by children and youth—and in particular young women and girls—leaving the most affected in an inescapable cycle of vulnerability. Coupled with the lack of tangible local implementation of the SDGs, the further decay of social protection systems as a direct result of the climate crisis and increased conflicts around the world, is posing direct and undeniable threats to the sustainability of current and future generations.</p> <p>Inter- and cross- generational solidarity is needed in all spaces now more than ever before—and particularly approaching the High Level Political Forum and Summit of the Future—to ensure the meaningful implementation of the SDGs locally, nationally, and globally. Meaningful youth engagement, as outlined in the Secretary General’s</p>	

¹ Sustainable development in the UNECE Region: Facing a Headwind in 2024. UNECE, 2024. Accessible [online](#).

² Goal 2: Zero Hunger. SDG Targets. Accessible [online](#).

³ SDG Goal 13: Climate Action. UNICEF Data. Accessible [online](#).

“Our Common Agenda”,⁴ must be driven first and foremost by inter-generational, inter-community, and inter-stakeholder solidarity.

In the 2024 Youth Report for the UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development on the SDGs under Review, **youth from the ECE region drafted recommendations to advance human rights-based sustainable development.** In solidarity with the most marginalized and most affected by global environmental and conflict catastrophes, the youth see the SDGs under review (1, 2, 13, 16, and 17) as deeply interconnected and needing immediate action. They stress the pivotal role of education, youth participation and financial distribution to the most vulnerable and marginalized communities to achieve SDG1; They highlight the inequities in our food systems that hinder progress to achieve SDG2 and urge for the end of food waste and the importance that food supplies reach areas affected by conflict without restriction; They demand bold action to progress on SDG13, including a phase-out of fossil fuels, and the inclusion of youth in the climate space, such as the Early Warnings for All Initiative, NDC assessments and VNRs developments; The youth of the region urge to stop all ongoing devastating conflicts and wars and to uphold the fundamental freedoms of speech and peaceful protest, necessary to achieve SDG16 and all the Goals, and propose to establish Youth Well-Being Index to facilitate evidence-based relevant youth policy; Aligned with SDG17, they recognize the key role of multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnerships to achieve the SDGs, which need inclusive and disaggregated data, transparency, and inclusive social dialogue.

As we approach the High-Level Political Forum and the Summit of the Future, inter- and cross-generational solidarity becomes imperative to ensure meaningful implementation of the SDGs, as echoed in the recommendations drafted by youth from the ECE region. Giving youth a seat at the table through inclusive dialogue and partnerships is fundamental to ensure that intergenerational approaches are guiding the Pact of the Future and the Declaration on Future Generations.

OBJECTIVES OF SESSION/PLENARY

1. Reflecting on the outcomes of the Regional Youth Assembly and the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD) and how they inform **tangible action to achieve SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16, and 17** in the lead up to the High Level Political Forum and the Summit of the Future.
2. Building on the ECE Regional Youth Report with recommendations on each of the SDGs under review as a direct result of the Regional Youth Assembly, follow up on the regional consultations and **give young people in the ECE region a platform in the UN headquarters** in New York to further share their experiences, expertise, priorities, recommendations, and demands regarding the SDGs under review in the upcoming HLPF and SoTF processes.
3. Showcasing successful examples of **best practices of meaningful youth inclusion and engagement** in decision-making.
4. Providing an **interactive platform between youth and Member States** to exchange priorities and inputs for the negotiations of the Pact for the Future.

OVERALL FORMAT/STRUCTURE

⁴ Our Common Agenda-Report of the Secretary-General, 2021. Accessible [online](#).

Time	Activity	Speakers
7 min	- <i>Welcome</i> - <i>Outcome of the Regional Youth Assembly: Presentation of the Youth Report for the UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development on the SDGs under Review for 2024</i>	Cristina Arnés Sanz (European Regional Caucus Coordinator for MGCY)
30 min	Youth Voices from the ECE Region: First Panel on SDGs 1 and 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2-minute interventions from four Youth Panelists ● 2-minute interventions from up to three Member States ● Open-floor discussion 	Moderator: Sofia Calicchio Youth Speakers: Tarini Gupta Natalia Roveló Tianjun Zhu Vaishnavi Kumbala
30 min	Youth Voices from the ECE Region: Second Panel on SDGs 13 and 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2-minute interventions from three Youth Panelists ● 2-minute interventions from up to three Member States ● Open-floor discussion 	Moderator: Cristina Arnés Sanz Youth Speakers:: Dominik Juling Anurag Koyada Sidorela Vatnikaj
20 min	Youth Voices from the ECE Region: Third Panel on SDG17 and Summit of the Future <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Short overview about SoTF ● 2-minute interventions from two Youth Panelists ● 2-minute interventions from up to two Member States ● Open-floor discussion 	Moderator: Shannon Lisa Youth Speakers: Giulia Tariello Marvin Huber Michal Tuczapski
3 min	Closing	Moderators

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

There are 4 guiding questions per panel broadcast on the screen (provided to panelists/member states beforehand). Speakers and participants in the audience can choose one most relevant to them to respond to. There will also be a Jamboard for participants to chime in the conversation/contribute to the questions in real time: <https://jamboard.google.com/d/1EGrJ9854E3pHMclQizvhVTQZV1P8K6DiiT81ZFBnfiE/edit?usp=sharing>

Youth Voices from the ECE Region: First Panel on SDGs 1 and 2

SDG1

- What are some of the existing and/or emerging barriers to addressing intergenerational poverty specific to your community and/or country?
- What do you consider important for Member States and the UN to tangibly implement in order to achieve SDG1? And, how can youth experiences make these solutions more inclusive and accessible to all?

SDG2

- How can we ensure that decision-making processes related to food systems involve diverse stakeholders, especially the youth, to account for varying perspectives and needs in the region?

- How can different stakeholders—including governments, businesses, local communities, and youth—collaborate to address the interconnected challenges of achieving food systems that are more sustainable, efficient, and resilient amid the ongoing challenges in our region?

Youth Voices from the ECE Region: Second Panel on SDGs 13 and 16

SDG13

- How can countries in the ECE region enhance cross-border collaboration to tackle climate change more effectively, ensuring youth engagement and leadership?
- With the ECE region facing multiple crises, how can climate action remain a priority, ensuring that recovery efforts are sustainable and aligned with SDG 13 objectives?

SDG16

- What barriers need to be overcome to enhance meaningful youth participation in the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda?
- Strong institutions are institutions that represent society well. To what extent are youth effectively involved in policy-making and decision-making processes in your community/country? What can we, young people do to drive policy changes in our local and national governments, as well as international institutions representing our region?

Youth Voices from the ECE Region: Third Panel on SDG17 and Summit of the Future

- What does intergenerational justice mean to you?
- What demands do you have for Member States and the UN, in light of the upcoming HLPF and SoTF?
- How can UN entities and governments safeguard the interests of future generations of the ECE Region?

NAMES AND TITLES OF SESSION SPEAKERS AND MODERATOR(S)

Moderators:

Ms. Cristina Arnés Sanz
Ms. Sofia Calicchio

Youth Speakers:

Ms. Shannon Lisa
Ms. Tarini Gupta
Ms. Natalia Rovelo
Ms. Vaishnavi Kumbala
Mr. Tianjun Zhu
Mr. Dominik Juling
Mr. Anurag Koyyada
Ms. Giulia Tariello
Mr. Michal Tuczapski
Mr. Marvin Huber
Ms. Sidorela Vatnikaj

OVERVIEW OF PREPARATORY EVENT/CONSULTATION

This session builds on the **Regional Youth Assembly in the lead-up to the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD)**. Over a hundred adolescents and youth gathered virtually on March 7th and 8th, and around thirty individuals convened in-person in Geneva on March 12th as the Pre-Meeting to RFSD, to frame their priorities and demands - as well as showcasing how young people across the region are leading action on the SDGs. The Youth Assembly provided a dynamic platform for policy discussions, training and capacity building for youth engaging at the RFSD. In particular, the youth assembly reflected on the themes of the RFSD, with a focus on the SDGs under review, specifically progress in the areas of SDG 1 (no poverty); SDG 2 (zero hunger); SDG 13 (climate action); SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions); and SDG 17 (partnership for the Goals).

ADDITIONAL DETAILS, SUGGESTED READING, IF ANY

- [Sustainable development in the UNECE Region: Facing a Headwind in 2024](#)
- [Youth Report for the UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development on the SDGs under Review for 2024](#)
- [UNECE support for climate action](#)
- [Highlights from the Regional Conference on ICPD30 "Population and Development: Ensuring Rights and Choices"](#)
- [UNECE support for climate action](#)
- [UNFPA EECA | Publications](#)
- [Research and reports | UNICEF](#)