



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

IDENTIFICATION	
Session title	Insights and Recommendations: The Voices of Youth in the lead up to the Summit of the Future
Session focus	All SDGs
Session leads	UNDP, UNFPA, MGCY and ICMYO
Session organizers	UNESCO, OHCHR, UN Youth Office, UNWOMEN, UNAIDS, SPI Youth Platform, Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, Youth Working/Focus Group for Summit of the Future
Other co-organizers	UN Foundation
BACKGROUND & KEY ISSUES	
<p>The 75th anniversary of the UN in 2020 came amid the world confronting the shared threats of the COVID-19 and climate change, risks and opportunities of technological advances, and stagnation on the SDGs. In recognition of these challenges and their interconnectedness, Member States asked the Secretary-General to prepare recommendations. The Secretary-General published Our Common Agenda, calling for solidarity and renewal of the multilateral system to accelerate implementation of existing commitments and fill gaps in global governance since 2015. The report proposed a <i>Summit of the Future</i> as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to take these steps. UNGA decide for the Summit to happen in September 2024, building on the 2023 SDG Summit, with an intergovernmental outcome Pact for the Future, comprising five chapters on i) sustainable development and financing for development; ii) international peace and security; iii) science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation; iv) youth and future generations; and v) transforming global governance. The negotiations for the Pact are already taking place with different iterations of Pact being made available.</p> <p>Young people today make up one quarter of the total global population with 87% living in developing countries.¹ Whilst youth are often at the forefronts of impacts of planetary crisis, through their intellectual contributions, ability to mobilize support, lead campaigns, empower communities and take action on the ground, they have been leading transformative changes globally. Youth are disproportionately affected by the global financial architecture, as it shapes employment opportunities, access to education, health services and social mobility, leading them to experience a 23% employment loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic, compared to a 13% loss among adults older</p>	

¹ <http://cmydiprod.uksouth.cloudapp.azure.com/sites/default/files/2016-10/2016%20Global%20Youth%20Development%20Index%20and%20Report.pdf>

than 25.² Additionally, the burden of national and personal debt, alongside limited access to financial resources restricts the ability of youth-led organizations to innovate or even operate in many cases. The New Agenda for Peace must be an agenda supporting young people. In 2019, it was estimated that nearly 408 million young people lived in areas affected by armed conflict, which has only increased within the past year.³ Despite this, young people remain underrepresented in decision-making forums, limiting their ability to contribute to peace and security solutions. The digital divide, characterized by unequal access to and proficiency in digital technologies, poses a significant challenge to achieving SDGs worldwide. Bridging this gap is essential for promoting inclusive economic growth, improving access to education and healthcare, and fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in the digital age.

Young people’s participation and leadership in the lead up to the Summit of the Future and in the Pact for the Future is critical, and must be translated into a consultative process before, during and after the Summit of the Future, with special focus on mainstreaming youth voices global south, SIDS and other marginalized communities. To that purpose, on the third day of the ECOSOC Youth Forum, the plenary session “INSIGHTS & RECOMMENDATIONS: THE VOICES OF YOUTH TO THE SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE”, will offer a platform for a multi-stakeholder dialogue and consultation. The moderated conversation and outcomes of the session will serve as a key input to the upcoming High-Level Political Forum and Summit of the Future

Young people have been organizing their participation and inputs for the Summit of the Future since 2022 ([access roadmap here](#)) across various UN fora. The Youth Working/Focus of Summit of the Future, launched by MGCY in 2022, provides direct inputs to the process. The first version of the global youth policy paper for the Summit was published in January 2024 and the inputs to the zero draft published in February 2024. Young people and youth organizations also actively engaged during the various consultations hosted by the co-facilitators of the negotiation process.

Therefore, building on these processes and existing groundwork, this session will allow to collect and further mainstream youth voices and feedback on the Pact for the Future, and its associated documents - Declaration on the Future Generations and the Global Digital Compact, and young people’s contributions to the 2030 Agenda and vision for the future. It will feature high-level officials, and a diversity of young people, Member states representatives, civil society, and other young development practitioners.

OBJECTIVES OF SESSION/PLENARY

- To convene diverse youth constituencies and partners in lead up to HLPF and Summit of the Future, building upon existing and ongoing youth consultations on SDGs, Pact for the Future, Declaration on Future Generations and Global Digital Compact
- To amplify and consolidate young people’s voices and collect their feedback, including from marginalized and underrepresented youth communities in a safe and meaningful space.
- To feed into the ECOSOC Youth Forum informal summary and Presidential statement, and the “Voices of Youth” Report by youth constituencies
- To highlight on-ground solutions by youth-led organizations and partners in advocating and taking action for their future, as good practices for the Pact’s implementation

OVERALL FORMAT/STRUCTURE

The plenary session will follow the following structure:

² <https://ilostat.ilo.org/assessing-the-current-state-of-the-global-labour-market-implications-for-achieving-the-global-goals/>

³ <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/data-youth-peace-security/>

1. Opening Remarks: Introduction to the session's theme.
2. Keynote Address by UNFPA, UNDP and MGCY
3. Segment I: Youth Demands for the Pact for the Future - featuring youth speakers
4. Moderated Panel Discussion - Intergenerational Dialogue: Bringing young gender advocate's voices to the Global Decision-making Processes. It will feature a youth speaker and the former President of Chile, Michelle Bachelet
5. Segment II: Youth Recommendations to the Summit of the Future - featuring youth speakers
6. Interactive Q&A: Online engagement through Slido.
6. Closing.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are your main demands and perspectives to member states toward the Summit of the Future - including to the Pact, Declaration on the Future Generations and the global Digital Compact?
- What are some of the main findings and key messages coming from the youth preparatory process leading up to the Summit of the Future?
- How can we integrate the objectives of the Summit of the Future with the SDG agenda to enhance collective outcomes?
- What are some of the challenges or barriers you have faced or identified as a young person or youth organization, movement, and network, when taking action on SDGs? How can governments, UN entities, development partners help to overcome these barriers?
- How can governments, UN entities, development partners, youth organizations, movements and networks, philanthropy, civil society actors, and the private sector better partner to further impact, commitments, and financing for young people?
- How can the meaningful engagement of young people, in particular from marginalized communities, be further strengthened and mainstreamed in implementation of the outcomes of the Summit of the Future, through policy and programming including at the grassroots level?
- How are you supporting or planning on supporting youth-led and youth-inclusive efforts and consultations that could inform the Summit of the Future?

NAMES AND TITLES OF SESSION SPEAKERS AND MODERATOR(S)

Moderators:

- *Dr. Sameh Kamel, Organizing Partner, MGCY*
- *Ms. Alicja Lelwic-Ojeda, Global Focal Point, Migration Youth and Children Platform, MYCP/MGCY*
- *Saru Duckworth, UN Foundation Next Generation Fellow (Moderated Panel Discussion)*

Speakers opening:

- *Ms. Diene Keita, UNFPA Deputy Executive Director, Programmes*
- *Ms. Shoko Noda, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Crisis Bureau, UNDP*
- *Ms. Yugratna Srivastava, Organizing Partner, Major Group for Children and Youth*

Speakers Segment I:

- *Doreen Moraa Moracha, host of Maisha Health Digital, Founder of "I AM A BEAUTIFUL STORY", and part of the Education Plus, Young Women Leadership Hub*
- *Ms. Katherine Sotomayor, Regional Focal Point, Sendai Children and Youth Stakeholder Group, Major Group for Children and Youth*
- *Mr. Joaquín Parafita, World Organisation of Scouts Movement*
- *Mr. Jorge Hernandez-Perez, Association of International Educators at the United Nations, Columbia University*

Respondents from member states, youth and other stakeholders

Speakers Panel discussion:

- *Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*
- *Ms. Ropati Charitie, Indigenous Scientist and Scholar*

Speakers Segment II:

- *Ms. Shannon Lisa, Global Focal Point, Chemicals and Waste Constituency*
- *Mr. Zubair Junjuna, Generation 17 Young Leader and Founder of ZNotes*
- *Ms. Alexis Manzano, Global Youth Indigenous Caucus, Major Group for Children and Youth*
- *Ms. Chelsea Antoine, Caribbean Regional Youth Council*

Respondents from member states, youth and other stakeholders**OVERVIEW OF PREPARATORY EVENT/CONSULTATION**

A number of preparatory consultations have already taken place in October 2022. Between March 4 and March 22 2024, a global online consultation titled "[Hear our Voice! Young People at the Summit of the Future 2024](#)" has been launched. It featured inputs from youth across the globe. As an outcome, a detailed insight paper will be presented during the Session. It will outline key youth recommendations for Summit of the Future. Following youth consultations/events are expected to take place that will feed into the session: Asia Pacific Regional Youth Forum before AP RFSD, ECE Youth Forum, etc. Full details are available [here](#). Additionally, all partners were conducting weekly coordination meetings to shape the Session.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS, SUGGESTED READING, IF ANY

- Youth Information Hub for the Summit of the Future: www.linktree.com/youth_for_sotf
- Latest version of the global youth policy paper for the Summit of the Future
- "Our Common Agenda Decoded: Making Policy Make Sense": <https://ourfutureagenda.org/our-common-agenda-decoded/>
- Human Rights 75 Youth Declaration: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/outcome-documents/human-rights-75-youth-declaration>