



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

IDENTIFICATION	
Session title	"Latin American and Caribbean children, adolescents and youth shaping sustainable and innovative solutions: Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of crises"
Session focus	Latin America
Session co-leads	UN ECLAC, Children, Adolescents and Youth Group - MeSCLAC / MGCY LAC Regional Caucus, Corporación de Estudios y Desarrollo Norte Grande and The Millennials Movement
Session co-organizers	UNFPA, UNDP International Planned Parenthood Federation, Movimiento Mundial por la Infancia
BACKGROUND & KEY ISSUES	
<p>Towards the 2024 ECOSOC Youth Forum, a series of activities are being delivered to extend the dialogue with and for youth in Latin America and the Caribbean to create further opportunities to gather their opinions, expertise and recommendations on the five SDGs under review at the next High-Level Political Forum, namely 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).</p> <p>In this year's process, it has been recognized that within the scope of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under review, there are pertinent issues for Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) youth to consider, including:</p> <p><u>SDG 1: No Poverty</u></p>	

In the early 2000s to early 2010s, Latin America made progress in reducing extreme poverty, but recent years have seen setbacks, hindering the achievement of SDG1. Extreme poverty declined slightly between 2010 and 2014 but has risen steadily since. The region's extreme poverty rate is projected to reach 11.4% by 2023, a 2.7 percentage point increase from 2015. Poverty rates are also stagnant, with 29.1% expected in 2023, slightly above 2015 levels. Poverty disproportionately affects certain demographics, such as a 42.5% poverty rate among those aged 17 and below, surpassing adults aged 35 to 44 by 16 percentage points.

Likewise, despite some expansion, non-contributory policies like conditional cash transfers cover only 25.9% of the population, often with inadequate support.

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

Child malnutrition prevails in the region, mainly affecting vulnerable, Afro-descendant and rural populations; It has been estimated that between one-third and one-half of obese children become obese adults. Likewise, while progress has been made, with an average reduction of 43.6% by 2022 in the region, challenges remain, particularly in addressing stunting, where current progress of 35.4% falls short of the necessary 62.7% to meet the target by 2030.

Young people can accelerate the transition to modern and sustainable agri-food systems

SDG 13: Climate Action

Latin America and the Caribbean, despite contributing only 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions, are highly vulnerable to climate change due to geographic location and socioeconomic factors. Within the region, higher-income groups emit more greenhouse gases, while lower-income populations bear the brunt of climate impacts without the means to adapt. In LAC, more than 169 million children and adolescents live in areas exposed to at least two climatic or environmental major disturbances per year.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

The persistently high homicide rates in the region have been attributed to violent actions related to conflicts between organized criminal groups vying for control of illegal markets, as well as structural issues such as weak rule of law, social inequality, and youth unemployment. Additionally, cyclical issues such as drug production, possession, and use of firearms contribute to the problem.

Young people in Latin America and the Caribbean grow up in societies characterized by various forms of violence, which significantly impact their opportunities for inclusion, development, and collective empowerment necessary for transforming their realities. In the digital era, this violence against youth assumes new dimensions.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals

For a sustainable development agenda to be effective, alliances are needed between governments, the private sector and civil society. These inclusive partnerships are built on principles and values, a shared vision and common goals that put people and the planet first, and are needed at global, regional, national and local levels.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, particular emphasis is being laid on South-South cooperation to enhance partnerships for the Goals.

OBJECTIVES OF SESSION

1. Provide space for young people of the LAC region to express their recommendations, insights and expertise on pressing needs and issues, especially those related to SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17.
2. Showcase the youth engagement processes in preparation for the seventh meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development and the ECOSOC Youth Forum Latin America Regional Roundtable with the 2024 HLPF theme "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of crises".
3. Follow up on regional youth consultation and local dialogue efforts towards the implementation and review processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and processes beyond such as the HLPF, the Summit of the Future, the Regional Youth Forum in the margins of the Forum of Countries, among others.
4. Reflect on the role and progress of National Youth Policies as potential SDGs accelerators during the Decade of Action, highlighting the role of youth and youth authorities and organizations, as other potential partners within the mechanisms for strengthening of youth participation.
5. Strengthen the functioning of an interactive platform between youth and Member States and youth institutions, generating spaces for articulation and including links with youth authority representatives, cooperation and meaningful youth engagement in the revision, implementation and follow-up process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

OVERALL FORMAT/STRUCTURE

Moderators:

- Walter Ibarra, C&Y LAC Caucus, The Millennials Movement, Perú
- Raquel Santos Garcia, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Time	Activity	Presenters
4 min	Welcome words and opening remarks	Marilynn Holguin, C&Y LAC Caucus, The Millennials Movement
8 min	Process: Presentation of the outcomes of the national and regional consultations	Bruno Ibarra, Deputy Global Focal Point, C&Y LAC Caucus, The Millennials Movement (TBC)
45 min	LAC Youth Voices	<p>Moderated by: Maria Sujkowska, Children and Youth LAC Caucus, Corporación de Estudios y Desarrollo Norte Grande (tbc)</p> <p>Youth Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODS 1: Valentina Wiñay Wara Quispe Isnado, Soy Warmi Global, Bolivia • ODS 2: Erika Xananine Calvillo Ramirez, Stop Financing Factory Farming Coalition, Mexico

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODS 13: Miguel Angel Cuetocue Quiguanas, Indigenous Abya Yala (TBC), Colombia • ODS 16: Jesus Mauricio Pahuara Arango, C&Y LAC Caucus, Juventud, Política y Desarrollo, Perú • ODS 17: Walter Ibarra, C&Y LAC Caucus, The Millennials Movement, Perú <p>Comments from Member States (tbc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission of Argentina at the UN • Mission of Peru at the UN • Mission of Costa Rica at the UN • Mission of Brazil at the UN
30 min	Youth shaping sustainable and innovative solutions: Interactive discussions	<p>Moderated by Marianela Vega, Youth Peace and Security Officer Governance, UNDP</p> <p>Questions - interventions from the floor : <i>* list will be open before the segment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present in the room - youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samuel Vidal Soares, City Hall Florianopolis, Brazil • Larissa Fuentes Torres, C&Y LAC Caucus, The Millennials Movement, México • Vitória Pinheiro, Palmares Action Lab / PerifaConexión, Brazil • Stephanie Araceli Reyes Márquez, Director-General of Youth, Guanajuato, México • Additional requests - Member States <p>Participation from additional Member States, UN Agencies and Commissions, Youth Organisms and other youth attending</p>
10 min	Q and A	Moderated by Max Trejo, Secretario General, OIJ (TBC) and Marilyn Holguin, Children and Youth LAC Caucus, The Millennials Movement
6 min	Closing remarks	Maria Sujkowska, Global Focal Point, C&Y LAC Caucus, Corporación de Estudios y Desarrollo Norte Grande (TBC)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are the main regional difficulties or ongoing challenges that youth identify regarding the SDGs under review?

- What are the main recommendations from youth in order to advance the implementation of the SDGs under review at the local, national and regional level, considering the identified challenges?
- How do you consider that States, cooperation agencies, private sector and/or civil society should involve children, adolescents and youth as allies to promote the progress and implementation of the SDGs under review? How have they been including youth and have you seen any significant change along the years?
- In what ways do young people in the LAC region want to be included in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs under review?
- What are the main contributions and good practices that children, adolescents and youth have been making within their territories?
- Why is it important for Member States to actively include youth in the acceleration of the 2030 Agenda to reinforce the 2030 Agenda and eradicate poverty in times of crises?

NAMES AND TITLES OF SESSION SPEAKERS AND MODERATOR(S)

Moderators:

Mr. Walter Fernando Ibarra Davila, Children and Youth LAC Caucus - MGCY, The Millennials Movement
Ms. Raquel Santos Garcia, Oficial de Asuntos Sociales, División de Desarrollo Social, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Speakers:

- **Mr. Max Trejo**, Secretario General, Organismo Internacional de Juventud para Iberoamérica (OIJ)
- **Ms. Marianela Vega**, Youth Peace and Security Officer Governance, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- **Ms. Marilyn Holguin Clover**, Children and Youth LAC Caucus - MGCY, The Millennials Movement
- Speakers:
- **Ms. Valentina Wiñay Wara Quispe Isnado**, Founder and Director, Soy Warmi Global
- **Ms. Erika Xananine Calvillo Ramirez**, Stop Financing Factory Farming Coalition, Mexico
- **Mr. Jesus Mauricio Pahuara Arango**, Children and Youth LAC Caucus - MGCY, President, Juventud, Política y Desarrollo (JPD)
- **Mr. Samuel Vidal Soares**, Special Advisor for Childhood and Youth, City hall Florianópolis
- **Ms. Larissa Fuentes Torres**, C&Y LAC Caucus, The Millennials Movement, México
- **Ms. Vitória Pinheiro**, Palmares Action Lab / PerifaConexión, Brazil
- **Ms. Stephanie Araceli Reyes Márquez**, Director-General of Youth, Guanajuato, México

OVERVIEW OF PREPARATORY EVENT/CONSULTATION

The Children and Youth (C&Y) Latin America and the Caribbean Caucus MGCY is actively pursuing its mission to involve young people from the region in monitoring the progress of the 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development. As part of this effort, the C&Y LAC Caucus is conducting a series of diverse consultations, both in person and online, to gather the perspectives of young people throughout the region on the progress and challenges in implementing the SDGs under review in 2024, as well as to provide recommendations for accelerating their achievement. The preparatory events organized by the C&Y LAC Caucus included:

- Informative session on February 16th, with the objective of sharing with the youth of the region the scope of the prioritized SDGs. [LINK](#)
- Two trainings on SDGs under review, [February 19th](#) & [March 4 th](#).
- Virtual consultations for Latin American and Caribbean Youth on the road to the 7th Session of the Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Countries on Sustainable Development and the Thirteenth ECOSOC Youth Forum, available in English, Spanish and Portuguese, from February to April 10, 2024 with an aim to gather the opinions and recommendations of the region's youth ([link here](#)).
- Local Dialogues: The youth of LAC carries out dialogues in their communities to collect the voices of children and youth on the SDGs under review and to be able to contribute to the declaration that is sought to be presented at ECOSOC and the Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Countries, available to be carried out in English, Spanish and Portuguese ([link here](#)).
- Latin American and Caribbean Youth Virtual Consultation 2030: Road to the 7th Session of the Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Countries on Sustainable Development and the 13th ECOSOC Youth Forum, held on April 4th, 2024.
- In-person LAC Youth Forum ahead of 7th Session of the Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Countries on Sustainable Development and the 13th ECOSOC Youth Forum, to be held on April 14-15, 2024 ([information here](#))
- Even though the preparatory processes of Latin American region are still ongoing, youth of the region has managed to see the involvement of youth from 11 countries across the region in the online consultation process, the registration of 25 local dialogues from 8 countries across the region, along with youth participation in online sessions. We have seen the involvement in the review of SDG 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS, SUGGESTED READING, IF ANY

- Social Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean 2023: Labour inclusion as a key axis of inclusive social development: <https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstreams/7ddf434a-6073-4f1e-8b71-a6639e4586d5/download>
- Social Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean 2022: Transforming Education as a basis for sustainable development: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/48519-social-panorama-latin-america-and-caribbean-2022-transforming-education-basis>
- Social Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean 2021: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/47719-social-panorama-latin-america-2021>
- Las juventudes latinoamericanas y caribeñas y la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible: una mirada desde el sistema de las Naciones Unidas: <https://repositorio.cepal.org/handle/11362/47112>
- Inclusión laboral de las personas jóvenes en América Latina y el Caribe en tiempos de crisis: desafíos de igualdad para las políticas públicas: <https://repositorio.cepal.org/handle/11362/47893>

- Jóvenes y familias Políticas para apoyar trayectorias de inclusion (2021):
https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/47646/S2100688_es.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y
- FAO, IFAD, PAHO, UNICEF & WFP. 2023. Latin America and the Caribbean – Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2023: Statistics and trends. Santiago.
<https://doi.org/10.4060/cc8514en>