



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

IDENTIFICATION	
Session title	Progressing from poverty to prosperity: Youth as agents of change
Session focus	SDG1
Session leads	UNDP and Global Youth Caucus for Decent Jobs and Sustainable Economies
Session co-organizers	UN Women and Migration Youth and Children Platform
BACKGROUND & KEY ISSUES	
<p>According to the latest SDG report¹, if current trends persist, 575 million people, equivalent to 7 percent of the global population, will continue to endure extreme poverty, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa. The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index² reveals that out of 1.1 billion poor people, 566 million are children and adolescents under 18, highlighting the disproportionate impact of poverty on youth who are frequently caught in a cycle of societal and political exclusion, voicelessness, and vulnerability to violence and insecurity. Despite progress in reducing extreme poverty from 10.8 percent in 2015 to 8.4 percent in 2019³, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted this positive trend and widened existing inequalities. In particular, it is estimated that by 2030 more than 340 million women and girls — around 8 percent of the world’s female population— will live in extreme poverty⁴, and only one-third of countries will halve their national poverty levels.⁵</p> <p>Multidimensional poverty, often associated with hunger, homelessness, health disparities, forced displacement and educational challenges, has a long-lasting impact on children and youth worldwide. Inadequate coverage of social protection programs disproportionately affects the younger generation. Conflicts, disrupted global trade, forced displacement and climate change exacerbate living costs,</p>	

¹ The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023: Special Edition. UN DESA, UN Statistical System, 2023. Available [online](#).

² Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI): Unstacking global poverty: Data for high impact action. UNDP, 2023. Available [online](#).

³ The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023: Special Edition. UN DESA, UN Statistical System, 2023. Available [online](#).

⁴ Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2023. UN Women, UN DESA, 2023. Available [online](#).

⁵ SDG 1, UN Statistical Division, UN DESA, 2023. Available [online](#).

negatively impacting **young people, who are three times more likely to experience unemployment**,⁶ and remain an obstacle threatening the pillars of development. Gender disparities further compound these challenges, with **young women and girls facing intersecting forms of discrimination** that limit their access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. Young people frequently inherit poverty and have limited earning and learning opportunities to break this intergenerational poverty cycle, characterized by deficiencies in essential capabilities needed for a dignified life.

Addressing the unique needs of young people, particularly in times of crises, and recognizing and leveraging their skills, experience, and immense potential is essential for achieving sustainable and inclusive development and advancing SDG 1 globally. Therefore, this session aims to:

- Highlight the urgent need for targeted interventions to address the root causes of multidimensional poverty, with a focus on leveraging collective intelligence for building resilience, empowering young people as catalysts for change, and co-creating solutions with youth and for youth.
- Discuss challenges and opportunities, barriers and tools, for inclusive eradication of poverty that reverses indignity and denial of basic human rights and showcase innovative approaches and promising practices from youth-led initiatives worldwide that have successfully tackled poverty and its associated challenges.
- Foster multi-stakeholder collaboration and knowledge-sharing among policymakers, practitioners, and youth advocates to develop effective and sustainable solutions for poverty alleviation, particularly in crisis contexts.
- Advocate for increased investment in youth and gender-focused programmes and integrated policies that prioritize spending on social protection, investments in the green economy and education, healthcare, and better infrastructures to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty.
- Emphasize the importance of mainstreaming youth perspectives and voices in policy formulation and implementation processes at all levels, ensuring their meaningful participation and representation in decision-making fora related to poverty alleviation efforts.
- Call for comprehensive measures to address systemic barriers and structural inequalities that hinder young people's access to opportunities, including but not limited to discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, disability, and socioeconomic status, by promoting inclusive policies and affirmative actions.

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF SPOTLIGHT SEGMENT

The spotlight session titled 'Youth in a World Without Poverty' will feature two short, pre-recorded videos showcasing the latest data and trends on SDG1, as well as young women voices from the Pacific. This will be followed by inspirational spark talks by two young leaders from the Major Group for Children and Youth and the UNDP-Samsung Generation17 Initiative.

OBJECTIVES OF SESSION/PLENARY

⁶ Global Employment Trends for Youth 2022: Investing in transforming futures for young people. ILO, 2022. Available [online](#).

1. Highlight the urgent need for targeted interventions to address the root causes of multidimensional poverty, focusing on leveraging collective intelligence, empowering young people as catalysts for change, and co-creating solutions with and for youth.
2. Discuss challenges, opportunities and tools for inclusive eradication of poverty, showcasing innovative approaches and promising practices from youth-led initiatives worldwide.
3. Foster multi-stakeholder collaboration and knowledge-sharing among policymakers, practitioners, and youth advocates to develop effective and sustainable solutions for poverty alleviation, particularly in crisis contexts.
4. Advocate for increased investment in youth and gender-focused programs, integrated policies prioritizing spending on social protection, investments in the green economy, education, healthcare, and better infrastructures to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty.

OVERALL FORMAT/STRUCTURE

1. Opening Remarks (3 minutes)
2. Deep dive discussion (30 minutes): Diverse speakers discussing multidimensional poverty, innovative approaches, policy recommendations, and collaboration opportunities.
3. Interactive Q&A (30 minutes): Engagement with the audience for questions and dialogue.
4. Closing Remarks (3 minutes)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Key discussion points:

- How can we harness the skills, experiences, and potential of young people to develop sustainable solutions for poverty eradication?
- What measures can be taken to strengthen the resilience of youth and communities facing poverty amidst crises such as pandemics, conflicts, and climate change?
- How can governments and international organizations better support youth-led initiatives and integrate youth perspectives into poverty alleviation strategies and ensure resources are directly reaching people in situations of vulnerability?
- What role can multilateralism and partnerships between the UN, governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector play in empowering youth to eradicate poverty?
- What are some effective practices and innovative approaches that have engaged youth in the design and implementation process, and have successfully addressed poverty and its associated gender disparities at the global and local level?
- How can technology, education, and digital innovation be leveraged to amplify the voices of marginalized youth, enhance their access to information and resources, and facilitate inclusive economic participation as a means to combat poverty and foster sustainable development?

NAMES AND TITLES OF SESSION SPEAKERS AND MODERATOR(S)

Moderators:

- Sophia Fei Ya Chen, Global Focal Point (GFP), Global Youth Caucus for Decent Jobs and Sustainable Economies, United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth
- Murilo Fragoso Slomka de Oliveira, Founder of the "Blossom Project" in Brazil

Speakers for the Spotlight Session:

- Yi Jun Mock, Generation17 Young Leader, Singapore
- Mahlet Redi, Global Youth Caucus for Decent Jobs and Sustainable Economies, MGCY, Ethiopia

Speakers for the Thematic Session:

- Opening remarks: Francine Pickup, Deputy Assistant Administrator & Deputy Director in the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP
- Elliot Harris Reyes, Head of International Community Programs & LATAM at CITI Foundation, Mexico
- Bénédicte Mundeke Kuvuna Founder and manager of Surprise Tropical, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
- Mwinji Nachinga, African Youth Commission and Commonwealth Youth Human Rights and Democracy Network, Zambia
- Abobakar Sediq Miakhel, AILEM Co-Founder, Afghanistan
- Asami Segundo, Ikalahan youth leader, Philippines
- Closing remarks: Lopa Banerjee, Director of the Civil Society Division, UN Women

OVERVIEW OF PREPARATORY EVENT/CONSULTATION

Young people from around the world had the opportunity to contribute to discussions around SDG 1, multidimensional poverty, gender, education, training and capacity building, access to finance and technology, and the road to the Summit of the Future 2024, during three key moments:

- “Hear our Voice! Young People at the Summit of the Future” global online [consultation](#) hosted on SparkBlue from 4 to 22 March 2024 by UNDP, UN Women, MGCY, other UN agencies and the UN Foundation.
- The 68th annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) Virtual Youth Forum hosted by UN Women from 1 to 2 March 2024.
- CSW68 in person Youth Forum from 15 to 17 March 2024, hosted by UN Women in New York.

These consultations highlighted the key role young people play in poverty eradication, their innovative youth-led solutions, the importance of leveraging technology and enhancing access to quality education and funding opportunities, and the importance of meaningful and inclusive engagement, especially involving under-represented groups such as young women and girls, refugees, migrants, indigenous youth and grassroots movements, in fostering innovation and sustainable and inclusive development.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS, SUGGESTED READING, IF ANY

- The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023: Special Edition. UN DESA, UN Statistical System, 2023. Available [online](#).
- Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI): Unstacking global poverty: Data for high impact action. UNDP, 2023. Available [online](#).
- Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2023. UN Women, UN DESA, 2023. Available [online](#).

- Global Employment Trends for Youth 2022: Investing in transforming futures for young people. ILO, 2022. Available [online](#).
- The Human Development Report 2023-2024. UNDP. Available [online](#).
- Policy Brief: BEYOND BORDERS: Unveiling the Gender Dimensions of Forced Displacement. Migration Youth and Children Platform, Politics4her,2023. Available [online](#).