



ECOSOC
YOUTH FORUM

YOUTH 2030



**Summit of
the Future**
Our Common Agenda

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

16 - 18 April 2024

MODERATED CONVERSATION: YOUTH FOR SOLUTIONS AND INNOVATIONS

**16 April 2024
10:45 – 11:30 AM**

Background

The ECOSOC Youth Forum is occurring against the backdrop of multiple global challenges, including rising costs of living, conflicts, and an escalating climate emergency. Many countries are still grappling with the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis, which has significantly impacted the lives of young people, affecting their social, educational, and economic activities.

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), young people aged 15–24 encounter significant challenges in securing and maintaining decent employment. Globally, in 2023, the youth unemployment rate stood at 13.3 per cent, significantly higher than the adults unemployment rate of 3.9 per cent. This means that as of 2023, young people were 3.5 times more likely to be unemployed than adults.¹

Young people from across the world are still demonstrating that with their eagerness, determination and courage, they are ready to tackle any roadblocks to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The ILO stressed that "Young people often have to accept any job just to gain work experience and increase their chances of finding a better job at a later stage."² From eradicating poverty to ending hunger, combating climate action, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, and strengthening global partnerships, young people represent powerful agents of change for current and future generations.

Approach and Objectives

Young people play a critical role as innovators and implementers developing innovative solutions and new perspectives to address the world's most pressing challenges. In this context, it is important to recognize, promote and support their positive role as engaged citizens, positive

¹ ILO, [World Economic and Social Outlook Trends 2024](#), 2024.

² ILO, [Work Wise Youth: A guide to youth rights at work](#), 2024 – Page 26

agents of change and bold innovators. They can help steer their societies toward a more equitable and sustainable future.

In this session, speakers will:

- *Provide* an opportunity for the world's young people to leverage their experiences, expertise and creative approaches to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs.
- *Propose* solutions to support youth in overcoming the significant challenges they face, including the impacts of major conflicts worldwide and their devastating repercussions in the global economic, social, and humanitarian context, as well as the need to build youth resilience to future shocks.
- *Amplify* the voices of young people and enhance their meaningful engagement and participation in policy development in key areas of their interest, such as poverty, decent work, economic security, social inclusion and cohesion, climate action, enhancing youth resilience and building peace.

Format and Speakers

Ms. Augusta Saraiva, Economic Reporter and UN Correspondent, Bloomberg News will be the moderator of the opening session. The objective is to generate a discussion to cover a variety of issues on the role of youth today.

Speakers:

- Dr. Felipe Paullier, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs
- Ms. Oumaima Makhlouk, Data Scientist at Intel and Data Focal Point of the Youth SPI Platform, MGCY
- Ms. Terry Otieno, Co-Chair of the United Nations Office for Disaster Reduction (UNDRR) Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism and Global Focal Point in DRR Working Group, MGCY
- Ms. Narabene Farka Zeinaba, Telecom Engineer, President of the Network of Sahelian Youth for Climate (RJSCLIM-Mali), Youth4Climate champion, National Vice-President of Mali's Junior Chamber International, and Member of the National Steering Committee of the Global Environmental Fund's Micro-Financing Program (PMF-FEM)
- Ms. Justice Faith Betty, Co-founder of the Organization, "Révolutionnaire"

Biography

Dr. Felipe Paullier **Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs**

Dr. Felipe Paullier served as the Director General of the National Youth Institute of Uruguay since 2020 before his appointment as the first UN Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs,

He also served in various political management positions, including as Deputy Mayor in the Municipality of the CH jurisdiction of Montevideo (2015-2020) and Alternate Counsellor in the Montevideo Departmental Legislative Court (2010-2015). He served as a Clinical Doctor and Pediatric Resident Physician at Pereira Rossell Pediatric Hospital (2017-2020), a Medical Intern in the Administración Nacional de Servicios de Salud del Estado (2015-2016) and as a Research Assistant in the Clinical Research Organization, BdBeq CRO (2012-2014).

Dr. Paullier is a Medical Doctor specialized in Pediatrics. He graduated from the School of Medicine of the Universidad de la República Oriental de Uruguay and is currently completing a

master's in business administration at the Universidad Católica de Uruguay. He is fluent in English and Spanish.

Ms. Oumaima Makhoulouk
Youth SPI Platform

Ms. Oumaima Makhoulouk has been mostly involved in tech-driven initiatives that aim at addressing SDGs, including participating in the STI Forums, speaking at events such as the Global Peace Chain or helping to write briefs, such as “Towards a New Social Contract: Reducing Inequalities through Digital Public Goods and Youth Collaboration for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”. But most importantly, in the last three years, she has had the pleasure and honor to lead the organization of the annual UN Datathon (previously 2021 UN Youth Hackathon and 2022 UN Big Data Hackathon), in collaboration with the UN Statistics Division, the UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics (UNCEBD) and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data. The UN Datathon is a global data science competition for students and data professionals to work on solutions to address the challenges of the Sustainable Development Goals. This year, more than 1900 participants forming a total of 429 teams will be participating in the event, both virtually and on-site in 8 global locations. Her role as an organizer is to mentor the teams to create an innovation solution using geospatial or geocoded data and leveraging one or several of the six key transitions (food systems, education, climate change...). At the end of the Datathon, she worked on getting some of the solutions implemented, through partnerships with the extended UN network of data experts. In addition, she organized several webinars leading up to the Datathon, where youth activists and organizations (such as EarthHacks) were invited to consolidate tech partnerships for SDGs. She is opened to speaking at any events and to mentor teams on solutions addressing some of many of these SDGs. She would like to showcase how youth innovations can truly propose actionable solutions to SDGs, in the form of dashboards tracking Key Performance Indicators of these SDGs, analytical reports explaining where we stand in solving these challenges or prototypes of optimized ways to act (e.g. food optimizer for parcel distributions in areas under conflicts, predictions of poverty indicators...)

Ms. Terry Otieno
Sendai Children and Youth Stakeholder Group

Terry is accomplished with abundant experience as a humanitarian and social activist in the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and waste, and nature and biodiversity loss where I monitor, coordinate, communicate, and execute strategies in line with the established goals. She has engaged in ECOSOC coordination and planning every year since 2020 in different capacities on behalf of the DRR WG, MGCY, and UNDRR SEM.

Currently, Terry is the UNDRR SEM Co-chair, Global Focal Point in DRR Working Group – MGCY, and a Co-chair of the Intergenerational & Youth Sub-committee for the UN Civil Society Conference scheduled for May 9-10 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya. As a Global Focal Point for DRR WG in MGCY - she has helped with the coordination of the SOfF consultation and coordination of the written inputs for the Pact of the Future.

She is also the focal point for UNDRR SEM- running point for the SOfF preparatory process where she does the following: Communication - keep 16 stakeholder groups up to date with the Soft developments, requirements, and engagement opportunities. Planning & Coordination- organizing, moderating, and giving input in consultations, checking written statements, and finding suitable speakers. Research & Report - consolidating stakeholder input and alignment of the same for the UNDRR SEM declarations.

So far, the Soft statement for The Pact of the Future is done and is available on the Soft website, she also submitted the written feedback for the zero draft as well as the Declaration on Future Generations inputs. At the moment, she is coordinating the inputs of the Global Digital

Compact that are due on 8th March - which will likely be annexed into the Pact of the Future if intergovernmentally agreed. She is a Co-chair in the Intergenerational & Youth Sub Committee for the UN Civil Society Conference where the outcomes are expected to inform the Pact of the Future. As a Co-chair she maintains contact between civil society of all generations for specific events and ensures that the needs and interests of all generations are represented at the Conference.

She works with the youth and elderly, encouraging interaction and the sharing of experiences along with exploring similarities. She organizes youth and student events relevant to the Conference theme prior to and during the Conference and coordinate youth/student activities at the Conference making sure there is intergenerational representation across all the sessions in the conference.

Ms. Narabene Farka Zeinaba

Zeinaba Narabene, a telecoms engineer with a passion for the environment, is a driving force for change. A key member of the Steering Committee of the Environment Fund's Microfinance Program since July 5, her commitment to fighting climate change is remarkable. As head of the Sahelian Youth Climate Network in Mali, she implements concrete actions and participates in high-level international events. At the same time, as National Vice-President of Junior Chamber International Mali, Zeinaba embodies determined leadership, focused on making a positive impact in the fight against climate change, aiming to inspire others to join her in this quest.

Ms. Justice Faith Betty The Organization, "Révolutionnaire"

Justice Faith Betty, co-founder of Révolutionnaire and a Forbes 30 Under 30 honoree, is renowned for her entrepreneurship, activism, and reputation as a sought-after speaker. Her commitment to advocacy and youth engagement started at the young age of eight. With Révolutionnaire, she and her sister Nia have developed a platform that empowers young people worldwide to take action in their local communities.

A valedictorian and graduate from the Dual BA Program between Columbia University and Sciences Po Paris, Justice holds degrees in political science and law. She also co-founded Building Blocks, a social change workshop for high school students taught across four continents. Formerly Justice worked as a consultant at McKinsey and Company and intern for Arianna Huffington. Her extensive speaking experience includes the United Nations, the Government of Canada, and numerous corporations and educational institutions. In addition, Justice is a content and host and executive producer of Meet A Revolutionary, a series highlighting young changemakers,

Be Revolutionary, a national campaign in partnership with Canada's largest media company to spotlight Canadian icons and the causes they care about, and Climate Conversations, a sit-down interview with the UN Executive Secretary for Climate Change, Simon Stiell, premiering this March. Currently, Justice is collaborating with UN Women on an initiative at the intersection of art and activism for gender equality and racial justice, launching in 2025. Along with her sister, she has been recognized as a 2024 Forbes 30 Under Honoree, Woman of the Year by Glory Professional, and is listed among Canada's top 25 most influential women. Her influential work and insights have been featured in major publications including Forbes, Global Citizen, Black Enterprise, Essence, Toronto Star, Essence GU, Cheddar, CBC, WWD, Women of The Year, and more. [Click here to learn more about Justice and access additional speaking samples.](#)