



## - PROGRAMME -

# United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum

4 May 2012, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm  
ECOSOC Chamber - North Lawn Building  
United Nations Headquarters, New York

9:30 – 9:55 AM

### **OPENING**

- Welcoming Address by H.E. Mr. Luis Alfonso de Alba, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council and Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations
- Opening address by Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
- Keynote address by Mr. Ronan Farrow, Special Adviser to the Secretary of State for Global Youth Issues and Director of the State Department's Global Youth Issues office

9:55 AM - 11:00 AM

### **SESSION ONE:**

#### **Training and Education to Facilitate Access to Job Market**

In addition to the challenge of unemployment, many young people around the world are engaged in poor quality and low-paid jobs with intermittent and insecure work arrangements, both in the formal and informal economy. This is as a result of poverty, gender inequality, a mismatch between education and market demands, a lack of an enabling environment for starting businesses, marginalization, age-based and other forms of discrimination, limited or no access to decision-making processes. This session will identify recommendations to build young persons' skills and capacities and enable their constructive participation in the economic life of their societies.

- Moderator: Mr. Rishi Jaitly, Program Director, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

### **SESSION TWO:**

#### **Promoting Youth Employment – Creating Jobs for a More Sustainable Future**

This session will exchange good practices in creating decent jobs for young people, especially in the new high growth sectors. This may include good policies, strategies, partnerships and programmes that create jobs in dynamic sectors such as jobs that promote sustainable development and new information and communication technologies. These jobs not only provide much-needed employment opportunities for youth, they also give young people an outlet to contribute directly to the fight against climate change by adopting green behavior in the workplace as well as in their private lives.

- Moderator: Dr. Gernot Wagner, Economist, Environmental Defense Fund, Adjunct Professor, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, and author of “But Will the Planet Notice?”

12:00 – 12:45PM

### **REPORTING BACK ON THE OUTCOME OF THE SESSIONS**

- Members of the UN Academic Impact presenting the conclusions of their preparatory events
  - Moderator: Dr. Nancy Mezey, Director, Institute for Global Understanding, Monmouth University, United States
  - Dianne Despi, Graduate Institute of Peace Studies, Kyung Hee University, Republic of Korea
  - Alexandru Stanciu, student, Ovidius University
  - Professor Imraan Valodia, School of the Built Environment and Development Studies, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
  - Dr. Carmina V. Tolentino, Manuel S. Enverga University Foundation, Philippines
- **Reporting back of key messages and recommendations** by the moderators and youth representatives from Sessions One & Two
  - Mr. Rishi Jaitly, Program Director, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; and Ms. Vivian Onano, student, Carthage College on Session One, “Training and Education to Facilitate Access to Job Market”
  - Dr. Gernot Wagner, Economist, Environmental Defense Fund; and Ms. Dora Tuz, Graduate Student, WU Vienna University of Economics and Business and Queen's School of Business on Session Two, “Promoting Youth Employment – Creating Jobs for a More Sustainable Future”

12:45 – 1:00 PM

### **CLOSING**

- **Closing Keynote Address** by Ms. Danielle Fong, Chief Science Officer and Co-Founder LightSail Energy
- Closing statement by Mr. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; and
- Mr. Maher Nasser, Acting Head, Department of Public Information

Closing by H.E. Mr. Luis Alfonso de Alba, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council and Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations