

## **Youth rights: time for action!**

### **Promoting equality for young people**

13 February 2019 | 11:30am - 12:45pm | Room CR.A  
United Nations, New York

#### **BACKGROUND**

For many years, conversations around youth in the UN took place in the context of social development, but more recently, youth has received increased attention across the work of the UN system. For example:

- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises young people as critical agents of change.
- UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security and the more recent Resolution 2419 recognise young people as key stakeholders in peace processes and peace agreements.
- The UN Human Rights Council adopted Resolution 35/14 in 2017, calling on the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to conduct a detailed study on the situation of young people as regards their human rights as well as discrimination they face.
- In September 2018, the UN Secretary General and the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth launched the UN Youth Strategy 'Youth 2030: working with and for young people' which recognises young people as rights-holders and identifies youth and human rights as one of its five priority areas.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

Ahead of the 2019 biennial youth resolutions at the Commission for Social Development and the Third Committee of the General Assembly, and given recent developments on youth and human rights at the Human Rights Council, the event will bring together Member States, actors from the UN system, experts, youth organisations and other civil society organisations to:

1. Discuss the key challenges and discrimination young people face
2. Highlight the necessity and urgency of a rights-based approach to youth in the context of social and sustainable development
3. Explore how the biennial Commission for Social Development and Third Committee resolutions on policies and programmes involving youth can take a more rights-based approach in order to achieve progress for youth
4. Identify possibilities to create greater links and synergies in work on youth across UN pillars, and processes in New York and Geneva
5. Explore what other measures are necessary within the UN system to ensure a greater focus on young people's rights and overcoming the barriers they face