



#YOUTH2030

6th Economic and Social Council Youth Forum CONCEPT NOTE

“Interactive Roundtable on Means of Implementation and Financing for Youth Development”

31 January 2017
Trusteeship Council Chamber
3:00 – 5:30 pm
United Nations Headquarters, New York

1. Background:

2016 was a crucial year for international development. On 1 January 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development—adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic UN Summit—officially came into force. Over the next fourteen years, with these new Goals that universally apply to all, countries will need to mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

The 2030 Agenda offers an integrated and transformative vision for a better world. Youth-specific and youth-related targets have been secured in several of the SDGs. In fact; youth development issues are cross-cutting and run through the entire agenda, including several mentions of Youth-related topics in the opening declaration. The means of implementation targets under each SDG and Goal 17 are key to realising the Agenda and are of equal importance with the other Goals and targets. The success of the Agenda and achievement of the SDGs necessitates continued and inclusive review and engagement of the means of implementation, including adequate financing.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), adopted by Member States in July 2015 and an integral part of the Means of Implementation of the 2030 Agenda, recognizes that investing in youth is critical to achieving inclusive, equitable and sustainable development for present and future generations ([reference: para 7](#)) and calls on Member States to promote national youth strategies as a key instrument for meeting the needs and aspirations of young people ([reference: para 16](#)). Member States furthermore committed to develop and operationalize,



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by 2020, a global strategy for youth employment (reference: para 16 in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda), which is also reflected in target 8.b of the SDGs.

The 2030 Agenda underscores the need for multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries. At the 2016 ECOSOC Youth Forum, the UN launched the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth to expand action and impact on youth employment and assist Member States in delivering on related Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including through innovative interventions, knowledge sharing and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

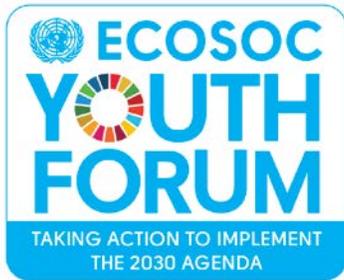
At a time when policy and investment decisions are increasingly data driven, information on youth development and well-being unfortunately often remains fragmented and inconsistent. This limits understanding of how young people are doing vis-à-vis other population groups and peers in other countries, and it helps explain why needs of young people often remain underexposed. Quality data is crucial for monitoring progress and for ensuring continued commitment around key AAAA and SDG priorities for youth.

Strong coordination between ministries of finance, planning and relevant line ministries and agencies is required. A country's budget in particular reflects how well political commitments are being translated into direct actions to benefit the most marginalized youth. Regretfully, Ministries of Youth often tend to be under-funded and their portfolios isolated. Also global funding for youth organisations and youth movements is inadequate to facilitate their contributions to youth development, sustainability and growth.

Mindful of the importance of national allocation as well as development assistance to address the immediate financing needs of youth, there is also a strong case for increasing external support for youth-specific purposes in countries most in need. The size of investment required to reap the full benefits from ongoing demographic changes are clearly beyond the financing capacities of most low and lower middle income countries. Prioritizing aid for youth-focused services in these contexts can strengthen the catalytic role of development assistance, the private sector and philanthropies, and contribute to the SDGs' wider goal of sustainable and inclusive growth in the long run.

2. Session objectives:

This session will be the final plenary session of the Forum and should seek to set a forward looking and proactive tone for participants. At a time when many will be reflecting on the



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progress made in the first year of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the final plenary session at the 6th ECOSOC Youth Forum will seek to:

- Provide the opportunity for candid and robust discussion on the opportunities and challenges facing the successful means of implementation of the Agenda as it pertains to youth development, with a special focus on financing for youth development whilst highlighting potential solutions and promising practices, to overcome them.
- Share best practices and facilitate exchange of information on how financing for youth development has been facilitated by Member States in the implementation of the national plans designed to achieve 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Reflect on progress made in implementing multi-stakeholder partnerships and initiatives at global and other levels to advance progress in addressing specific youth needs and to assist Member States in delivering on youth development related matters within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, such as the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth among others.
- Provide an opportunity to discuss emerging initiatives for improving data quality and availability and measuring progress with regards to youth development and well-being by tracking data over time against relevant indicators, at national, regional and global levels.
- Provide an opportunity to assess emerging trends and underutilised mechanisms for financing youth development, with a particular focus on some of the time-sensitive opportunities in the second year of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This may include initiatives around citizen participation such as participatory budgeting and the role of young people directly in ensuring adequate means of implementation.
- Provide a platform for a diverse set of stakeholders, including Governments, as well as Youth Organizations and Networks, Civil Society Organisations, UN entities, and others to share their perspectives on where we stand, as the international community has transitioned to the active implementation phase of the SDGs

3. Session Format

The session is designed as a High Level Dialogue on the Means of Implementation and Financing for Development of the 2030 Agenda.



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The focus of this session will be on discussing the establishment of a conducive policy and programming environment for this engagement to succeed and for youth needs and rights to be addressed. This session will be addressed by the Ministers in charge of Youth, Development and Cooperation portfolios and other highest level authorities on youth, as well as other high level officials in attendance of the Forum representing the United Nations, development agencies, civil society, multilateral development banks, youth organizations and other appropriate multilateral or regional organisations.

The Roundtable intends to enable the Member States to use the platform offered by the ECOSOC Youth Forum to inform different stakeholders on progress made and challenges faced in mainstreaming youth rights and priorities into the national SDG implementation programs, share best practices and facilitate exchange of information on actual youth participation in the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national level. A brief guidance note will be communicated to the participating Member States to structure their inputs geared towards the overall objective of the Forum.

This final plenary session will include an interactive discussion with a variety of presenters/speakers to cover multitude of issues and perspectives, spanning from global to local levels, and allow – at select intervals - for participants from the floor to share insights, raise questions, make comments and engage in a constructive dialogue on the overall theme and with relation to specific interventions and contributions made.

4. Questions for the Audience

- What are the barriers that exist to adequate financing for youth development and effective means of implementation?
- What are the challenges in securing financing for national youth policies and ministries of youth, as well as for youth-led organisations?
- How are member states, development agencies, legislators, multilateral development banks, civil society and the UN system responding to the specific needs of young people?
- What new initiatives and/or partnerships have formed to accelerate youth development within the SDG framework?
- What progress has been made on the means of implementation and financing for youth development which can be replicated elsewhere? What are the key areas for action?
- What efforts are underway to improve youth-related data collection, quality and availability and how can these efforts strengthen accountability with regards to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda?



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5. Recommended Reading:

- Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>
- Secretary-General's Report on Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals - http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2016/75
- Addis Ababa Action Agenda - http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf
- Financing for Development Follow Up report (p.28, Investing in Children and Youth) - http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Report_IATF-2016-full.pdf
- Financing for Development Follow Up Issues Brief on Investing in Children and Youth - http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Investing-in-Children-and-Youth_UNICEF-and-Envoy-on-Youth_IATF-Issue-Brief.pdf