



**Concept note  
Informal Briefing**

**Local Youth Representation: World Urban Youth Councils Network**



**ECOSOC Youth Forum 2018  
30 January 2018, 13:15, Conference Room F  
United Nations Headquarters, New York**

**Background**

SDG 11 on the sustainable cities targets enhancing inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries by 2030.

And also, The New Urban Agenda has following commitments on the local youth empowerment:

1. The encouragement of the effective participation and collaboration among all relevant stakeholders, including local governments, the private sector, civil society, women and youth organizations in order to identify opportunities for urban economic development and identify and address existing and emerging challenges. (NUA paragraph 48),
2. The promotion of the strengthening of the capacity of national, sub-national, and local governments, including local government associations, as appropriate, to work with youth in shaping organizational and institutional governance processes, enabling them to effectively participate in urban and territorial development decision-making (NUA paragraph 148),
3. The promotion of the capacity development initiatives to empower and strengthen skills and abilities of the youth for shaping governance processes, engaging in dialogue, and promoting and protecting human rights and anti-discrimination, to ensure their effective participation in urban and territorial development decision-making (NUA paragraph 155).

## **2. Objectives**

The aim of this event is to bring the representatives of the local authorities, urban youth organizations, UN-Habitat Youth Unit, UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board, UN MGCY, SDSN and Urban Youth Councils to discuss the mechanisms which can contribute to the local youth engagement and urban youth empowerment, and to announce the establishment of a World Urban Youth Councils Network as a permanent international youth mechanism to follow up the SDG 11 and the implementation of the NUA in local, regional, national and global level.

The World Urban Youth Councils Network will present the views of local young people to local, national and international decision-makers and with the aim of enhancing young people's strategic engagement as actors of positive change and transformational leadership within the new sustainable urban development agenda.

This event will focus on the position of the youth in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the establishment of the World Urban Youth Council Network and some other permanent mechanisms that ensure to reach the following goals:

- Establish an urban youth councils' framework for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and the important SDG 11 to achieve more sustainable cities and communities.
- Develop strong local partnerships and make urban youth organizations more institutional. Develop networks leading to the exchange of experiences between urban youth councils at the global level while providing assistance to one another in the form of training and conferences.
- Promote Urban Youth Councils as an organization, open to all young people, regardless of their background.
- Empower Urban Youth in urban decision-making processes and empower their representation.
- Empower local/Municipal Youth councils for creating collectively managed, socially included, democratically governed participatory cities

The outcome will consist of a short summary of the discussions to be presented to the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council and UN-Habitat Governing Council and an declaration on the establishment of the World Urban Youth Councils Network.

### **Moderator:**

Sharmaarke Abdullahi, UN-Habitat Youth Unit

### **Panelists and Presenters:**

Roman Chukov, St. Petersburg City Youth Committee  
Nidal Benali, Morocco City Youth Councils Network

Laura Furr, National League of Cities of US  
Ema Smith, Youth Council of Greenbelt, Maryland  
Mohammad Baies Haqani, Ottawa City Youth Council  
Faisal Seddiq Alattar, Dubai City Youth Council

**Programme:**

- 13:15 – 13:20 Keynote on “The Position of the Urban Youth Organizations in the context of the New Urban Agenda and SDG 11
- 13:25 – 13:0 Presentation and discussion of the potential roles, and responsibilities of the city youth councils and the challenges regarding the urban youth representation. Turkey and Brazil City Youth Councils Presentations, Samed Agirbas, President of the Turkish City Youth Councils Alliance  
Rodrigo Reis, National Youth Council of Brazil(CONJUVE)
- 13:40 - 14:10 Panel Discussion: Various urban youth representation models in different cities
- 14:10 - 14:20 Closing Remarks, Dr. Mathieu Eugene, NYC City Council Committee on Youth Services
- 14:20 - 14:45 Announcement of the World Urban Youth Councils Network and Signing Ceremony