



ECOSOC
YOUTH FORUM
10TH ANNIVERSARY

#YOUTH2030

10th Economic and Social Council Youth Forum

A Decade of Action: Building a Resilient Recovery

PROGRAMME

7-8 April 2021

FIRST DAY

WEDNESDAY
7 APRIL

10X10: TEN YEARS OF #ECOSOCYF - BUILDING UP FOR A DECADE OF ACTION

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM

The Youth Forum of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will celebrate its 10th Anniversary in 2021.

Over the past ten years, the ECOSOC Youth Forum has evolved into a key platform where young people can contribute to policy discussions at the United Nations through their ideas, priorities, solutions and innovations. The Forum has given a unique opportunity for youth to jointly address common challenges as well as advance their contributions to achieve the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

Opening remarks by:

- H.E. Mr. Munir Akram, President of the Economic and Social Council
- Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations
- H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir, President of the 75th Session of the General Assembly
- Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
- Ms. Anika Jenne Dorothy, Executive Director of the Green Congress of Kenya

#YOUTH2030 #GlobalGoals

WEDNESDAY
7 APRIL

#YOUTHLEAD: YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT TO BUILD BACK BETTER

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM

The Forum will take place at a critical historical juncture when the world is continuing to respond to the multidimensional challenges of COVID-19.

The pandemic has upended the lives of young people from every region obliging them to adapt to new challenges to health, decent work and employment, food and nutrition security as well as social isolation and exclusion, among others. Young people have been forced to adjust to a “new normal” where social distances prevail, notably with respect to diverse forms of distance learning to ensure the continuation of education and skills acquisition. Despite being disproportionately impacted, young people around the world are coming together to respond to this crisis demonstrating resilience, resourcefulness and leadership.

Moderator: Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi, Secretary-General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement

- H.E. Mr. Carlos A. Alvarado Quesada, President of Costa Rica
- Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO)
- Ms. Nadine Khaouli, Co-Founder, Kafe be Kafak and Member of Generation 17
- Ms. Chandra Tripura, Founder & Director, Hill Resource Centre

Interactive Dialogue

[#GlobalGoals](#) [#COVID19](#) [#EndPoverty](#)

WEDNESDAY
7 APRIL

PART A

ACHIEVING THE SDGs WITH AND FOR YOUTH

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

This interactive virtual roundtable will feature discussions among Ministers, government representatives, youth organizations and youth delegates on national progress, gaps and next steps in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda *with* and *for* youth in the context of the UN System-wide Youth Strategy: Youth 2030 and the Decade of Action and delivery for sustainable development.

Moderator: Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

Interactive Dialogue

1:00 PM – 1:30 PM: BREAK

**WEDNESDAY
7 APRIL
AFTERNOON**

Parallel Thematic Breakout sessions

As young people embark on the recovery efforts from an unprecedented pandemic – and building a “better” world -, they will be invited to frame their discussions and share their views, experiences and ideas on the SDGs under review at the HLPF in 2021 during the thematic breakout sessions. In the context of highlighting integrated approaches to achieve these SDGs, linkages will be made on issues such as financing the COVID-19 response and recovery, SDGs and climate goals; sustainable infrastructure development; and advancing science and technology for sustainable development.

The parallel thematic breakout sessions will provide a space for open discussions and the sharing of innovative policy ideas by a wide range of stakeholders (Government officials, UN and youth leaders) on the individual and collective actions to build back better during the SDGs Decade of Action.

**WEDNESDAY
7 APRIL**

A PEOPLE-CENTRIC RESPONSE
(Parallel Session - 1a)

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

The slowdown in economic activity due to the impact of COVID-19 has weighed heavily on household incomes and youth sources of livelihoods. In the face of such challenges, youth have stepped up and are contributing to their communities by engaging in agriculture and rural development in support of SDG 2, thus contributing to address youth unemployment, poverty and migration. Young people working in the health sector (SDG 3) are also helping their communities by speaking out for – and in some cases, providing – effective, equitable care and emergency health response. Effective mental health support services for children and young people need to be put in place to address the psychological impact of COVID-19.

This breakout session aims to bring together the contribution of young people in their communities in support of **SDG 2** (Zero Hunger) and **SDG 3** (Good Health and Well-being).

Co-Moderators: Ms. Pramisha Thapaliya, Major Group for Children and Youth – SDG2 Youth Constituency; and Lucy Fagan, Major Group for Children and Youth – SDG 3 Youth Constituency

#ZeroHunger #SDG3 #YOUTH2030 #GlobalGoals

ACCELERATING ACTION FOR THE PLANET

(Parallel Session - 1b)

**WEDNESDAY
7 APRIL**

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Young people feel that the determination to fight COVID-19 should also be used in addressing climate change (SDG 13). Recovering back better should also include actions to recover in a greener and more sustainable way (SDG 12).

In this breakout session, young people will show how they can help improve **SDG 12** (Sustainable Consumption and Production patterns) during and post-COVID-19. They will also address the importance of protecting our planet by fighting against **SDG 13** (Climate Action). Young engineers and activists could also discuss how to advance a greener and more sustainable infrastructure, which can have cross-cutting effects in all the SDGs. They could also advance creative ideas to accelerate investments for a sustainable infrastructure facility and its impact in transforming economies for jobs creation and climate action.

Moderator: Mr. Elliott Harris, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

#SDG12 #ClimateAction #YOUTH2030 #GlobalGoals

PROSPERING AND THRIVING:

(Parallel Session - 2a)

**WEDNESDAY
7 APRIL**

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

Young people are navigating lost incomes, limited social protection and rising prices for essential goods and services (**SDG 8**) as the result of COVID-19. The number of young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) has increased dramatically. Social protection measures, which are normally designed to help people in moments of crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic, rarely sufficiently address the specific needs of young people. As a result, youth worldwide are uniquely vulnerable to the socio-economic consequences of COVID-19 and can be pushed irreparably into extreme poverty (**SDG 1**).

In the context of COVID-19, this breakout session will address key challenges young people face in fighting **SDG 1** (No poverty) and **SDG 8** (Decent Work and Economic Growth). They may discuss how investing in a new global deal post-COVID-19 could enable young people to live in dignity; will ensure women have the same prospects and opportunities as men; and will protect the sick, the vulnerable, and minorities of all kinds. Government officials and youth leaders will discuss, elaborate and bring innovative policy ideas.

Moderator: Ms. Viridiana Murillo, Global Focal Point, Civil Society Financing for Development Youth Constituency, Major Group for Children and Youth

#EndPoverty #DecentWork #YOUTH2030 #GlobalGoals

WEDNESDAY
7 APRIL

INCLUSIVE PEACE: THE WAY FORWARD (Parallel Session - 2b)

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

The fallout of the pandemic, and its exacerbation of pre-existing inequalities (SDG 10) and discrimination, have highlighted the importance of the provision of justice, anti-discrimination legislation and strong institutions in supporting the rights of all, including youth (SDG 16). Indeed, targets 10.2 and 10.3 directly relate to SDG 16's commitment to non-discriminatory laws and policies.

In this breakout session, the discussions will focus on **SDG 10** (Reduced Inequalities) in the context of access to services, decent jobs, quality education and justice. It will also address the youth contribution towards realizing **SDG 16** (Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies) by launching a youth call for transparency and accountability in COVID-19 response; raising awareness of preventive measures; bringing the voices of the most marginalized to policy deliberations; advocating for peace and social cohesion; participating in youth-led efforts, providing psychosocial training for peers; and fighting hate speech and misinformation. This session may also advance more synergies between the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda and the ECOSOC Youth Forum.

Co-Moderators: Ms. Kirsty Rancier, Strategic Planning and Inter-Agency Affairs Unit, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); and Mr. Mohamed Edabbar, Global Youth Caucus for SDG 16

#SDG10 #SDG16 #YOUTH2030 #GlobalGoals

WEDNESDAY
7 APRIL

HARNESSING PARTNERSHIPS, RESOURCES AND SCIENCE: WORKING TOGETHER TO GET THINGS DONE

4:00 PM – 5:15 PM

The work to build back better from the dramatic impacts of a raging pandemic requires new thinking, International solidarity, investments in sustainable development, new partnerships and mobilizing science and technology. Such efforts need to effectively engage young people as critical actors, partners and leaders. To be effective, recovery efforts should pursue a more equitable distribution of wealth and basic social services, respect for planetary boundaries and other SDGs. They should reflect new models such as creative economies and enjoy the ownership of all.

In this breakout session, young people will address **SDG 17** (Partnerships) and its importance to build inclusive, fair and resilient communities, societies and economies. The discussions could focus on the means of implementation, including financing for development, development cooperation, science, technology and innovation. More specifically, the discussions could address how best reduce the digital divide and improve access to new technologies, including frontier technologies, such as artificial intelligence. In addition, the session could look at how the creative economy could contribute to advance new partnership models.

Moderator: Ms. Claire Sterngold, Youth & Trade Programme, Division of Enterprises and Institutions, International Trade Centre, and **Closing Remarks** offered by Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Executive Director, International Trade Centre

#SDG17 #YOUTH2030 #GlobalGoals

WEDNESDAY
7 APRIL

CONNECTING, AMPLIFYING, AND LEVERAGING – A VIRTUAL NETWORKING RECEPTION FOR YOUNG CHANGEMAKERS

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Participants at the Youth Forum would be invited to attend a virtual networking reception organized around groups of discussion facilitated by a series of moderators. The discussions could focus primarily on the role that young people play in contributing to the implementation of the SDGs by 2030. International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO) and Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) could jointly organize this reception.

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-END OF THE FIRST DAY-



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A Decade of Action: Building a Resilient Recovery

SECOND DAY

THURSDAY
8 APRIL

MORNING

Regional Realities - Challenges, priorities and actions for the post COVID-19 recovery and realizing the SDGs Decade of Action

Breakout sessions with Government officials and youth leaders

The regional breakout sessions will identify gaps and scalable solutions that will lead to rapid transformational change, build back better and accelerate achievement of the SDGs during the Decade of Action. These sessions may build on the outcomes of youth consultations, and other outcomes from youth engagement in relevant regional fora, in particular at the regional sustainable development forums. The regional commissions will be invited to co-organize these sessions.

(Selection made on time zone convenience).

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

(Parallel Session - 1a)

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM

Co-Moderators: Ms. Regine Guevara, Asian Youth Peace Network

ARAB STATES REGION

(Parallel Session - 1b)

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM

Moderator: Mr. Samir Anouti, Regional Adviser, Youth and HIV/AIDS, Arab States Regional Office (ASRO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

AFRICA

(Parallel Session - 2a)

9:40 AM – 11:10 AM

Moderator: Ms. Gogontlejang Phaladi, Founder and Executive Director of the Gogontlejang Phaladi Pillar of Hope Project (GPPHP)

EUROPE, NORTH AMERICA AND OTHER STATES

(Parallel Session - 2b)

9:40 AM – 11:10 AM

Moderator: Ms. Anja Fortuna, Vice President of the European Youth Forum

LATIN AMERICA

(Parallel Session - 3a)

11:20 AM – 1:00 PM

Moderator: Mr. Max Trejo, Secretary-General, Ibero-American Youth Organization

THE CARIBBEAN

(Parallel Session - 3b)

11:20 AM – 1:00 PM

Moderator: Ms. Dominique Noralez, Youth Advocate, Caribbean Regional Youth Council

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**THURSDAY
8 APRIL**

PART B

ACHIEVING THE SDGs WITH AND FOR YOUTH

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

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Moderator: Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

Interactive Dialogue

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**THURSDAY
8 APRIL**

LEAVING NO YOUTH BEHIND: ADDRESSING THE LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES OF COVID-19 FOR VULNERABLE YOUTH GROUPS

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

This interactive session will aim to discuss leaving no one behind and how to address the impact that COVID-19 has had in vulnerable youth groups. Young people from the most often left behind groups (young women and girls, indigenous youth, youth in conflict situations, refugees and internally displaced youth and migrants, young peoples with disabilities, youth people living with HIV/AIDS, among others)¹, in different regions will share stories and perspectives on how COVID-19 has further exacerbated pre-existing discrimination, but also how youth, can be further empowered to address these challenges, advance a journey of resilience and take the necessary actions to support each other in the new normal. A human rights perspective will be taken in this session.

Setting the Stage: Mr. Elliott Harris, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

Moderator: Mr. Derrick León Washington, OHCHR Minority Fellow at OHCHR

Segment A

- Ms. Angelica Ojinnaka, Youth Advocate and Researcher
- Ms. Nujeen Mustafa, Author, disability and refugee activist, UNHCR high profile supporter
- Mr. Tushar Kanti Baidya, Human Rights Activist

Interactive discussion

Segment B

- Ms. Alba Verónica Yacabalquiej, Representative of the IDEI Association and of the Network of Youth Human Rights Defenders
- Ms. Lynda Romdhane, Lawyer, Activist for gender equality, Representative SheDecides Tunisia

¹ Language from General Assembly Resolution 70/1, "[Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)", paragraph 23.

Interactive discussion with Ms. Fiona McCluney, UN Resident Coordinator in Albania and Mr. Clement Voulé, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association

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THURSDAY
8 APRIL

REFLECTING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD – CELEBRATING A DECADE OF THE YOUTH FORUM AND THE START OF DECADE OF ACTION

4:00 PM – 4:30 PM

This session aims to reflect on the contribution of youth to the HLPF and the Decade of Action. It will include concluding thoughts on strategic opportunities for youth to influence UN processes and debates, and perspectives on what to expect and what to be hopeful for the next 75 years of the UN. It will also focus on what youth want to see and how they can be a part of it.

This session will be a conversation with:

- Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
- Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
- Ms. Dilan Ezgi Koç, UN Youth Champion for Disarmament
- Mr. Abdullah Al-Khafajy, Liaison Officer for Medical Education issues, International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)
- Ms. Mariana Vasconcelos, Co-Founder & CEO, Agrosmart

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THURSDAY
8 APRIL

CLOSING SESSION OF THE ECOSOC YOUTH FORUM

4:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Closing remarks by:

- Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs
- Misses Melati and Isabel Wijzen, Founders of Bye Bye Plastic Bags and Founders of YouthTopia

- Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
- H.E. Mr. Munir Akram, President of the Economic and Social Council

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- **Opening and Closing sessions**
- **Plenary sessions**
- **Thematic breakout sessions**
- **Regional breakout session**
- **Additional activity**