



**ECOSOC
YOUTH FORUM**

YOUTH2030

Economic and Social Council Youth Forum

"COVID-19 recovery: Youth taking action for a sustainable future"

CONCEPT NOTE

PLENARY SESSION ON "Q&A: STRENGTHENING SOLIDARITY WITH THE WORLD'S YOUNG PEOPLE"

20 April 2022, 5:00 PM – 5:45 PM

1. Background

The 2022 Annual Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum takes place at a critical point in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be an opportunity for young people to share their perspectives on how to transform the world into a fairer and more sustainable place and reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) amidst the continuing crisis. It will address the theme of ECOSOC and the 2022 UN High-level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF) on "Building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda." It will also review progress in the areas of quality education (SDG4), gender equality (SDG5), life below water (SDG14), life on land (SDG15) and partnerships for the goals (SDG17).

From gender equality to education and skills development to fighting climate change, and protecting our oceans and biodiversity, young people are advocating many initiatives with creativity and commitment in response to our fast-changing world and for future generations. As the UN Secretary-General highlighted in his recent report, ["Our Common Agenda"](#), "it is time to find ways to give more weight to young people's collective interests and to make our systems work to safeguard their futures". This report, which presents his vision for the future of global cooperation, proposes solutions to address today's challenges and highlight main areas of proposals, among them several on youth. Guided by the UN system-wide youth strategy,

[“Youth2030”](#), the United Nations has been strengthening its work for and with young people worldwide. The main objective has been to engage, support and empower young people to put their ideas into action.

2. Objectives

The purpose of the **Q&A: Strengthening Solidarity with The World’s Young People** will be to:

- Provide a platform for the world’s young people to engage with the UN’s leadership by asking their questions on the role of youth in COVID-19 recovery, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Our Common Agenda report, and more. The questions will be gathered through a social media activation organized ahead of the ECOSOC Youth Forum.
- Highlight the UN’s commitment to strengthening solidarity with the world’s young people, which is at the heart of Our Common Agenda report, and promote meaningful, diverse, and effective youth engagement and dialogue from the highest levels of the UN’s leadership and decision-making.
- Allow a broad number of young people worldwide and in all their diversity to ask their questions on a variety of topics connected to COVID-19 response and recovery, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Our Common Agenda report, and more. A special focus will be given to elevating the voices of young people from marginalized and vulnerable groups.
- Create a space for leveraging the creativity, experiences and expertise of young people with the influence and political power of UN leadership.

3. Session Format

In the **Q&A: Strengthening Solidarity with The World’s Young People** Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Under-Secretary-General for Policy at the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, and two youth representatives will answer questions from the world’s young people. The questions will be selected from the ones received through a digital activation (see more below). The session will be moderated by the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth. This session will address the UN Secretary-General’s report on “Our Common Agenda”, the Sustainable Development Goals, and COVID-19 response and recovery.

Digital Activation Format:

An interactive online platform will be established with the intent of engaging young people broadly and diversely in the 2022 ECOSOC Youth Forum, particularly by sharing their questions, thoughts, ideas, and concerns on topics related but not limited to the COVID-19 response and recovery, Sustainable Development Goals, and “Our Common Agenda” report.

This platform will encourage young people to share their opinions and ask their questions by submitting via the online platform, and then sharing with their social media networks. Different modalities of submission will be encouraged, including written (in the 6 official languages of the

UN), video, pictures, and more. Special attention will be given to the voices of young people from vulnerable and marginalized groups.

The content that is submitted will be centrally compiled and visible on the platform, and select questions will be identified from young people in advance of the session, to be addressed as part of this **Q&A: STRENGTHENING SOLIDARITY WITH THE WORLD'S YOUNG PEOPLE** session.

Submissions not addressed during the session may also be addressed directly via social media or other digital channels after the Forum.