

# THE NETHERLANDS



## Youth delegate programme

**Existing since:** 1970

**Sending youth delegates to:** The United Nations General Assembly, (the Commission for Social Development (CSocD)), the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Youth Forum.

**Call for application:** Beginning of August

**Number of youth delegates:** 5 (two for the General Assembly and the Commission for Social Development (CSocD), two for the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and one for UNESCO)

**Length of term:** 2 years for the General Assembly, CSocD and CSD and 1 year for UNESCO. Youth delegates are selected in October. During the first year, the youth delegates take on an active role by attending intergovernmental meetings and working on national projects. During the second year, the youth delegates act as mentors and support the next youth delegate.

**Criteria for applying:** - Between 18-25 years old

**Visa Procedure:** A G2 visa

## Selection Process for the General Assembly

The selection process is organized by the Dutch National Youth Council (DNYC). In response to a call for applications, interested candidates submit their CV and answer a few questions in an online questionnaire on what they would do if they were selected as a youth delegate. In September, the DNYC selects sixteen young people who qualify for the next round. The second round consists of a debate, where groups of four people debate against each other on two different topics. The six best debaters are chosen by a jury including a previous youth delegate and representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the United Nations Association of the Netherlands. In the third round, the six selected young people compete against each other in a weeklong election process. Everyone in the Netherlands can vote either through the Internet, by ballot-paper or by sending text-messages.

The three candidates that receive the most votes are selected for the finals. The final takes place on 24 October, United Nations Day. The three finalists hold debates and try to gather as many votes as possible. Through the youth council, every finalist gets a small amount of money to use for their campaigns, which include leaflets, articles in newspapers and posters. People can vote either by being present at the final or by sending text messages. The person with the most votes is the winner and becomes the next youth delegate.

## Before the Intergovernmental Meeting

The youth delegates travel around the country to meet young people, attend conferences organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, participate in debates and give speeches at various conferences. The youth delegates also receive support from the senior youth delegate, read background documents and participate in preparatory online consultations with other youth delegates. S/he also attends a preparatory meeting organized by the European Youth Forum.

## At the General Assembly

The youth delegate is an official member of the national delegation and delivers a statement to the Third Committee of the General Assembly. The youth delegate also participates in informal consultations on resolutions concerning youth, and organizes side events together with other youth delegates. The Dutch youth delegate is normally at the General Assembly for three weeks.

## When returning home

The youth delegate reports back to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Dutch National Youth Council. The youth delegate also participates in various lectures, debates and workshops and gives speeches in order to inform as many youth as possible about his/her experience at the intergovernmental meeting.

## Funding

The Dutch National Youth Council covers travel expenses within the Netherlands. The European Youth Forum pays costs related to the preparatory meeting. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs covers expenses related to the intergovernmental meeting, including accommodation, flight and food.

## Dutch youth delegates to UNESCO and the Commission on Sustainable Development

The youth delegates participating in the UNESCO Youth Forum undergo a similar selection process as those attending the General Assembly. After a call for applications, interested candidates have to submit a personal letter and CV. Shortlisted candidates are then selected for an interview with the DNYC. After that, the member organizations of the DNYC vote for the candidate they want to see as the next youth delegate. The candidate that receives the most votes from the member organizations becomes the next youth delegate to UNESCO.

The youth delegates attending the CSD are also chosen through a few rounds of interviews conducted by the DNYC. The final takes place at a Sustainable Development event, where the public votes for the candidate they would like to see as a youth delegate.

## Contact

To learn more about the selection process and the Dutch youth delegate programme please visit the Dutch Youth Council [www.njr.nl/](http://www.njr.nl/)