



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

18 January 2017

Excellency,

Engaging young people as key agents for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and emphasizing the need to empower them to achieve sustainable development are at the center of my SDG Implementation efforts.

Accordingly, in partnership with *Every Woman Every Child*, my office is organizing a digital *Youth Marketplace on Social Innovations for Health and Wellbeing: Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals* in the margins of the ECOSOC Youth Forum. The event, which will highlight the transformative power of meaningful youth engagement, will take place on 31 January 2017 from 9am – 10am in Conference Room 6.

The event will connect young people in the Youth Forum SDG Media Zone and with youth around the world. The concept note for the event is attached.

I would be grateful if you would kindly encourage your youth delegates to the ECOSOC Youth Forum to join the event in person and/or online via Twitter by using the hashtag #EWECYouth.

With assurances, Excellency, of highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Thomson'.

Peter Thomson

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS
President of the 71st session



**EVERY WOMAN
EVERY CHILD**



Office of the President of General Assembly and Every Woman Every Child

Into the Zone
Youth Marketplace on Social Innovations for Health & Wellbeing

*Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals:
The transformative power of meaningful youth engagement.*

[2017 ECOSOC Youth Forum](#)

9-10 am, 31 January – Conference Room 6 – UNHQ – #EWECYouth

Concept Note

Background

With 1.8 billion adolescents in the world today, young people's aspirations, needs and rights are central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. By acknowledging that the future of humanity lies with the “*younger generation who will pass the torch to future generations*,” their key role in achieving the 2030 Agenda is widely recognized.

Despite making up a sixth of the global population—even a third of the population in many countries—adolescents' health and wellbeing needs are not comprehensively addressed. Globally, an estimated 1.3 million adolescents die each year from preventable or treatable causes such as road injuries, HIV, suicide, pneumonia, and violence.

Too few have access to information and counselling and to integrated, youth-friendly services—especially sexual and reproductive health-care services—without facing discrimination or other obstacles. About 16 million girls aged 15 to 19 and some 1 million girls under 15 give birth every year—most in low- and middle-income countries. However, complications during pregnancy and childbirth are the second major cause of death for 15-19 year-old girls globally.

In many settings, adolescent girls and boys face numerous policy, social and legal barriers that harm their physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing. Among adolescents living with disabilities and/or in crisis situations, the barriers are even greater. By helping adolescents realize their rights to health, wellbeing, education and full and equal participation in society, we are equipping them with the ability to attain their full potential as adults.

Inequalities, income levels and opportunities, especially for youth, have reached their highest levels recorded in more than half a century. If countries in demographic transition make the right human capital investments and adopt policies that expand opportunities for young people, their combined demographic dividends could be enormous.



The President of the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly has endeavored to engage young people as key agents for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Similarly, the *Every Woman Every Child Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health* acknowledges not only the unique health challenges facing young people, but also their pivotal role alongside women and children as key drivers of change and agents for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The *Global Strategy* takes a life-course approach that aims to attain the highest standards of health and wellbeing—physical, mental and social—at every age. The *Global Strategy* also adopts an integrated and multisector approach, recognizing that health-enhancing factors including nutrition, education, water, clean air, sanitation, hygiene and infrastructure are essential to achieving the SDGs.

Format

The *Youth Marketplace on Social Innovations for Health & Wellbeing* to achieve the SDGs will highlight the role of youth as custodians of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in promoting health and wellbeing in a changing world. Moderated by a young activist, it will be a dynamic one-hour pitching session combined with live digital interactivity to discuss the challenges faced by young people to achieve sustainable development. The event will virtually connect young people in different parts of the world with the ECOSOC Youth Forum and make their voices heard in an innovative way.

Young activists will present their social innovation ideas, pitching existing or pilot interventions to showcase and boost meaningful youth engagement to support the implementation of the SDGs, especially in the area of health and wellbeing, focusing on accountability and the three pillars of the *Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health: Survive, Thrive and Transform*. A panel of experts and participants in the room and a global digital audience will challenge the presenters, asking questions about the challenges faced by young people and how to overcome them.

The event, which will be webcast to the SDG media zone premises, in the Express Bar (3rd floor GA building), will be guided by on-spot and online crowd-sourced interventions aiming at highlighting challenges that prevent robust adolescent and youth leadership and ideas to promote youth participation in delivering sustainable development. Online interventions on Twitter, using hashtag #EWECYouth, will be presented live on a Twitter wall in the room. Selected bloggers from the SDG Digital Media Zone will add to the discussion, commenting on online and floor interventions. Representatives from governments, United Nations, civil society, businesses, young leaders from around the world, media, online and social media influencers are invited to join the event.

Programme

9:00 - 9:05	Welcome remarks by the President of General Assembly
9:06 - 9:30	Pitching and Q&A with panel
9:31 - 9:45	Moderated questions by in-room and online audiences
9:46 - 10:00	Remarks by the panel and wrap-up