



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

8 March 2018

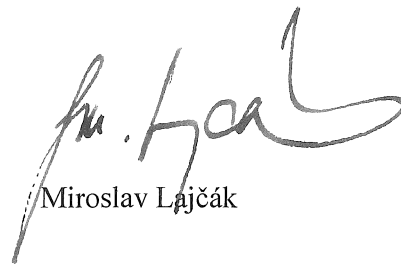
Excellency,

As part of my effort to bring the United Nations closer to young people, I will convene a Youth Dialogue on 30 May 2018. The event will focus on education, employment and the prevention of radicalization leading to violent extremism. In this context, I have the honour to share with you a concept note for the Youth Dialogue.

The Youth Dialogue will be an event for youth, by youth. It aims to provide a platform for dialogue between Member States, civil society and other stakeholders, with strong participation from young people on all sides. It will also rally political commitments to youth, galvanize existing efforts and forge new partnerships. One of the outcomes will be a youth toolkit – a veritable compilation of best practices, ideas and solutions to drive youth inclusion.

It is my hope that this event will attract the highest possible level of participation from your Government, including youth delegates and representatives.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Miroslav Lajčák

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

## **Youth Dialogue**

### ***Approaches to Education, Employment and Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violent Extremism***

30 May 2018; 10:00 a.m. – 06:00 p.m.

ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York

**“The future of humanity and of our planet lies in our hands. It lies also in the hands of today's younger generation who will pass the torch to future generations.”** *2030 Agenda, paragraph 53*

As part of his commitment to bring the United Nations closer to young people, the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák will convene a Youth Dialogue on 30 May 2018.

The Youth Dialogue aims to listen to the ideas, needs and concerns of young people on bridging education and skills training with employment in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, as well as on the prevention of radicalization leading to violent extremism, in order to build a conversation between young people, ministers, permanent representatives, civil society representatives and others.

Listening to young people is the key component of the dialogue, and, it is equally important that Member States, high-level representatives, civil society organizations and other stakeholders be present in the room to listen and respond to contributions made.

The event further seeks to galvanize the efforts of many global alliances and initiatives that are empowering young people.

The President of the General Assembly is seeking input from young people through his website and online surveys to shape this event.

### **Background**

The engagement, leadership and contribution of young people are critical for a more sustainable, peaceful and inclusive world. Young people often act as agents of change. They are not just our future, they are our present.

The United Nations acknowledges the key role of youth as drivers for peace, sustainable development and human rights in resolutions, agreements and conventions, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Security Council Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security (2250), human rights conventions and declarations and, most recently in the resolution on Youth Programmes and Policies (A/RES/72/146).

However, despite increasing efforts to engage young people in the work of the United Nations, they are not always part of discussions or decision-making processes, including on issues that disproportionately affect them – such as education, employment and the prevention of radicalization leading to violent extremism.

Youth employment remains a global challenge. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates the global unemployment rate to be at 13.1 percent (2017). There are 67 million unemployed young people across the globe, which is expected to increase in the near future.

The challenge of youth unemployment is further compounded by a lack of quality jobs.

At the same time, technology is transforming industries and reshaping business needs at a rapid pace. The types of education, experience and skills needed in today's work environments are constantly changing due to globalization, climate change, the Fourth Industrial Revolution and migration. This

makes forecasting the emergence of new professions and associated required skills increasingly difficult. Notwithstanding the increase in access to higher education, disparities based on income and other factors remain widespread.

Given the complexity of this education-employment gap, the solutions may remain marginal without the active involvement of young people. Young people's voices are vital to spur the systematic changes needed in education and training.

Another issue affecting young people is radicalization leading to violent extremism. This phenomenon has many push and pull factors, and the process is not fully understood. However, it should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group (A/RES/70/254). Radicalization leading to violent extremism undermines all three pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, human rights and development. To tackle this phenomenon, we need to include young people, particularly marginalized youth. Quality education, skills training and employment, among others, can provide avenues for social inclusion and, in so doing, contribute to the prevention of radicalization leading to violent extremism.

## **Objectives**

The overarching objective of the one-day Youth Dialogue is to bring the United Nations closer to young people.

Specifically, the event aims to:

- provide a platform for dialogue between young people, policy makers and other stakeholders;
- rally political commitments, galvanize existing efforts and forge new partnerships to empower young people, especially the marginalized;
- discuss ideas, challenges and best practices on how to bridge education and skills training with employment needs in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; and
- explore tools to strengthen young people's resilience against radicalization and violent extremism.

## **Format and Outcome**

The one-day event will be divided into an opening segment and two interactive chats in the morning, and a standing lunch and an "open mic" session in the afternoon. Additionally, there will also be an interactive space showcasing youth participation and empowerment.

The event is designed to be an interactive dialogue. Participants are strongly discouraged from bringing prepared statements.

The President of the General Assembly will circulate a summary of the discussions to all Member States and other stakeholders as an outcome of the event.

All information on the Youth Dialogue can be found online: [www.un.org/pga/72/youth](http://www.un.org/pga/72/youth)

## **Participation**

As the youth dialogue is an event designed for young people, Member States are encouraged to bring their youth delegates and representatives to the event. Many Member States are also expecting to participate at ministerial-level.

The event provides an opportunity for young people, Member States, representatives of the UN system, civil society, academia, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders to listen to each other and engage in a real dialogue.