Excellency,

Further to our letter dated 13 January 2020, we are pleased to enclose herewith the concept notes for the UN75 Youth Plenary and the ECOSOC Youth Forum to be held on 31 March and 1-2 April 2020 respectively, in the General Assembly Hall, United Nations Headquarters, New York.

Member States have called for an inclusive, forward-looking, youth-driven global dialogue for the commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations. The UN75 Youth Plenary with the theme, “SDG Generation: The Future is Now” will be held on 31 March 2020. The ECOSOC Youth Forum will take place on 1-2 April 2020 under the theme “SDG Generation: Shaping the Decade Ahead”.

As previously conveyed, the UN75 Youth Plenary and the ECOSOC Youth Forum will provide valuable platforms to capture ideas and solutions from young people for the Decade of Action and Delivery for the SDGs. It will also be an opportunity to reinvigorate commitment to the renewal of multilateralism. We look forward to the active participation of young people from your country in the UN75 Youth Plenary and the ECOSOC Youth Forum.

We highly anticipate the participation of high-level representatives of your government in both events. It will be the opportunity to share your national perspectives to an international audience on the role of youth in implementing the sustainable development goals in your country.

Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Patricia Chaves (chavesp@un.org; Mr. Paul Simon (simonp@un.org) and Mr. Vugar Allahverdiyev (allahverdiyev@un.org).

The Office of the President of the General Assembly is working on a social media campaign in the lead-up to the UN75 Youth Plenary and the ECOSOC Youth Forum, to promote the events and further encourage engagement and participation. In the spirit of collective action, we are seeking your participation in the campaign by sharing brief quotes from Ministers responsible for youth affairs, expressing their views on the critical role youth play in shaping the “Future We Want” and how crucial their ideas, solutions and innovations are for the achievement of the SDGs, as we embark on this Decade of Action and Delivery.

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York
These quotes will be accompanied by a portrait photo and will be presented in the form of Social Media cards. These will be shared on the OPGA Twitter account, and further cross-promoted on the UN DESA, ECOSOC, and the Secretary General’s Youth Envoy Twitter accounts to reach a wide audience and demonstrate the global commitment to shaping the UN we need, and to achieving the 2030 Agenda. We would kindly ask for your support in cross-posting them through your platforms as well, as desired.

To participate, kindly provide a portrait photo and prepared quote via email to Anna Fritzsche at fritzsche@un.org by 20 March. Please keep the quotes at a maximum of 1-2 sentences.

While looking forward to your active participation and the participation of young people from your country in the two events, as well as the participation of the Minister responsible for youth affairs from your country in the social media campaign, please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Tijani Muhammad-Bande
President of the 74th Session of the General Assembly

Mona Juul
President of the Economic and Social Council
BACKGROUND

On 14 June 2019, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 73/299 to commemorate in 2020 the 75th anniversary of the establishment of United Nations under the theme "The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism".

The resolution emphasized the need to engage young people in all commemorative activities and decided to convene a youth plenary at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, under the auspices of the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session and the President of the Economic and Social Council, in conjunction with the youth forum of the Council in 2020. The Youth Plenary will be an inclusive, forward-looking, youth-driven global dialogue on the theme of the 75th anniversary of the UN.

In September 2018, the UN Secretary General launched the first ever UN Youth Strategy: Youth2030, which envisions a United Nations that not only works "for" young people but "with" young people. The youth plenary will be an opportune moment to support and amplify youth voices for a peaceful, just, and sustainable world as outlined in the priority area of the UN Youth Strategy.

OBJECTIVES

- To provide a platform for young people to meaningfully engage in UN@75 discussions around the importance of global citizenship and international
cooperation today, the future of multilateralism and young people's role in shaping that future.

- To enhance discussion among young people on what is needed to shape a more responsive United Nations that best supports people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership in the future.
- To enable discussions that will contribute to deliberations with policy makers (Ministers, Government Representatives, UN Leaders) at the GA high-level event on UN@75 in September.
- To identify challenges and propose creative ideas for what is needed to address emerging risks, trends and opportunities for the future of multilateralism.

FORMAT

The Youth Plenary will be a one-day event in which discussions are led and driven by young people. Young people will take the center stage throughout the day as "keynote speakers" and Member States and high-level Government officials as well as UN representatives will participate as "keynote listeners". As such, the Youth Plenary will be held in an innovative and youth-led format and will not include a plenary debate with statements from Member States in accordance with usual practice of the Assembly.

The event will kick off with a ceremonial opening and remarks by the President of the General Assembly, followed by an interactive discussion between young people and the UN Secretary-General regarding current global trends, emerging risks and the opportunities we have as a collective to bridge the gap between the future we need and the present realities and experiences.

This opening discussion will set the stage for a dynamic day with sessions evolving around the five thematic topics inspiring global conversations on UN@75, namely:

- A New Era of Conflict and Violence
- The Climate Crisis - A Race We Can Win
- The Impact of Digital Technologies
- Inequality - Bridging the Divide
- Shifting Demographics

These sessions will be organized in various creative formats such as fireside chats, TED talk style presentations of personal stories and solutions, spoken word, poetry and other forms of creative performances led by young people, and will include key discussants such as the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth and the UN Secretary General's Special Adviser on the Preparations for the Commemoration of the United Nations' 75th Anniversary.

The Youth Plenary will be concluded by a closing ceremony with remarks by the President of ECOSOC, who will highlight linkages between the UN@75 Youth Plenary and the annual two-day ECOSOC Youth Forum taking place on 1-2 April 2020, in which youth participants will have an opportunity to dive deeper into the above thematic areas, reflect on how to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in the coming ten years,
and further the dialogue with high-level Government representatives and other stakeholders
of the youth sector.

PARTICIPATION

Up to 1500 participants including:

- Representatives of youth-led and youth-focused organizations, entities, movements and networks;
- Member States- Ministers, Deputy Ministers in charge of youth development, Permanent Missions in New York;
- Permanent observers of the UN General Assembly;
- UN system, including agencies, funds and programmes;
- Civil Society Organizations; including academia, foundations and private sector.

Participants will reflect the diversity of formal and informal youth organizations and will
include a balanced representation of youth from all regions and groups, such as indigenous
groups and persons with disabilities.

PREPARATION

The Youth Plenary will be convened under the auspices of the President of the General Assembly and the President of Economic and Social Council and will be co-organized by the Office of the Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

OUTCOME

As per the GA Resolution (73/299) youth representatives from the Youth plenary will address the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the UN 75 anniversary on 21 September 2020, sharing a summary and outcome of the discussions. In addition, the outcome of the discussions could be shared during the HLPF on 7-16 July 2020.
SDG Generation: The Future is Now

UN75 Youth Plenary

31 March 2020 at the UN General Assembly

DRAFT PROGRAMME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10:00-10:15</th>
<th>OPENING AND WELCOME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Opening musical performance by young artists</td>
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<td>Welcoming remarks from the President of the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth</td>
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<tr>
<th>10:15-11:00</th>
<th>SETTING THE STAGE</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The future we want, the UN we need: how do we reverse the decline of multilateralism?</td>
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<td>Moderated conversation between the UN Secretary General and young leaders</td>
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<td>Tackling issues such as the climate crisis, inequality, new patterns of violence and the major changes we are seeing in the population dynamics and technology, requires bold solutions, harnessing the know-how from across borders, sectors and generations, and employing all available resources.</td>
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<td>With multilateralism being called to question, extreme nationalism and unilateralism on the rise, and the world becoming increasingly polarized, there is an urgent need to find an answer to the question: what is the best way forward to tackle the emerging issues and trends threatening the people, the planet and our common future? Can the trust of people in institutions, in the UN and the multilateralism be strengthened and what will it take?</td>
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<th>11:00-11:45</th>
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<td>Shifting Demographics: Population Dynamics and Youth Development</td>
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<td>Panel discussion: young professionals, activists, and change-makers will discuss a holistic, long-term and rights-based approach to sustainable development, driven by population dynamics.</td>
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<td>11:45-12:30</td>
<td>SESSION TWO</td>
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<td>12:30-1:00</td>
<td>YOUTH TAKE THE MIC PART 1</td>
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<td>1:00-3:00</td>
<td>LUNCH BREAK</td>
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<td>3:00-3:45</td>
<td>SESSION THREE</td>
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<td>3:45-4:00</td>
<td>LAUNCH OF THE ESSAY COMPETITION ON UN75</td>
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<td>4:00-4:45</td>
<td>SESSION FOUR</td>
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<td>4:45-5:25</td>
<td>YOUTH TAKE THE MIC PART 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:25-5:55</td>
<td>CLOSING SESSION</td>
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Introduction

The political declaration of the SDG Summit, held on 24-25 September 2019, sets out a common vision to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and pledges to make the coming decade one of action and delivery for sustainable development. It also acknowledges that business-as-usual is not an option, and transformative pathways are needed to achieve the SDGs. In the declaration, the world leaders made an unwavering promise to “children and youth of today so that they may achieve their full human potential and carry the torch of sustainable development to future generations”. They also recognized the importance of partnering with youth, on an equal footing, for attaining a successful decade of action.

The 9th Annual Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum thus comes at a critical time, as the world embarks on a decisive decade of the 2030 Agenda through finding systemic solutions for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The ECOSOC Youth Forum has evolved into a key platform where young people, high-level Government representatives and other stakeholders of the youth sector contribute to policy discussions through their positions, ideas, solutions, and innovations for the SDGs. It is organically connected with key UN processes and events under the umbrella framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). Building on the tradition, the 2020 ECOSOC Youth Forum will serve as a platform for multi-stakeholder discussion on how young people’s role can be further amplified and strengthened within the overarching framework of decade of action for the SDGs, and in line with all society approach.

The Forum will also complement year-long activities planned for the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. The UN General Assembly, in resolution A/RES/73/299 adopted on 14 June 2019, called for engaging youth in all activities to mark the UN 75th Anniversary and organizing a youth plenary in conjunction with the 2020 ECOSOC Youth Forum. The Youth Plenary will be convened jointly under the auspices of the
President of the General Assembly and the President of ECOSOC. The outcome of the Youth Plenary will feed into
the ECOSOC Youth Forum as well as the 21 September 2020 high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on
the 75\textsuperscript{th} Anniversary. The focus of the ECOSOC Youth Forum will be guided by the theme of the 2020 HLFP:
"Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable
development ".

**Objectives**

The 2020 ECOSOC Youth Forum will:

- Provide a platform for young people to meaningfully engage in a dialogue with UN Member States and
UN entities on transformative pathways for realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable
development.
- Be guided by the theme of the 2020 HLFP on "Accelerated Action and Transformative Pathways: realizing
the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development" and build on the Youth Plenary's theme
of the United Nations 75\textsuperscript{th} anniversary on "The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our
Collective Commitment to Multilateralism".
- Share ideas and knowledge, skills, and lessons on achieving the rights and well-being of youth by
promoting the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and ensuring the participation of young
people in policy-making and implementation.
- Present ideas and solutions -- and showcase innovative initiatives and individual and collective action by
youth and others -- to advance the SDGs based on national, regional and global experiences.
- Leverage the platform that it provides to further advocate for and advance the UN Youth Strategy, as well
as increase coherence between Youth Forum and UN Youth Strategy.
- Discuss and report on progress for the implementation of the UN Youth Strategy, Youth 2030: Working
with and for Young People, and other issues related to young people including sharing information on
plans for measuring and monitoring its impact at the country, regional and global levels and considering
the role that young people and youth organizations can play in the implementation of the strategy.

**Substantive Scope**

Young people have demonstrated that they are key actors in the economic, social and environmental
development, peacebuilding and humanitarian action in their countries. Youth is increasingly demanding more
just, peaceful, equitable, progressive and sustainable societies. They are a testament of the ability to think outside
the box and to develop innovative solutions for society as a whole. In that context, there is a need to address the
multifaceted challenges faced by young people such as poverty and hunger, for many, as well as access to quality
education, health, decent employment, gender equality, and climate change. Disasters and conflict that threaten
their security to participate in the reconstruction of their countries and that impose barriers to realize their rights,
have become more pressing than ever.

It is essential to effectively engage young people in decision-making on issues that affect their lives and their
future. As we enter a decisive decade for the 2030 Agenda, the participation of young people in generating
solutions and accelerating action around their priority areas will be crucial for achieving progress.

The UN General Assembly has put youth at the center of the celebration of the 75\textsuperscript{th} Anniversary in 2020, by calling
for an "inclusive, forward-looking and global youth-driven dialogue" on "The future we want, the UN we need:
reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism." It is recognized that youth perspectives will be central
to the renewal of multilateralism but also the success of the 2030 Agenda.
The Forum will further deepen the conversation from the Youth Plenary on the future of multilateralism and the role of youth in shaping the UN we need. It will also bring together young people around the theme of the HLPF by addressing the individual and collective actions that need to be taken in the next decade on the following themes that are proposed by the Secretary General for the global conversation:

- Impact of digital technologies and rapid technological change;
- Building and sustaining peace in a new era of conflict and violence;
- Inequality: bridging and rebalancing the economic and social divide;
- Climate crisis, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation: A race we can win; and
- Shifting demographics: Young people on the move

In the regional breakout sessions, youth could be requested to identify bold solutions and transformative actions to accelerate progress for those SDGs that are priorities for their region. They could also consider those transformative “entry points” identified by the Global Sustainable Development Report considered by the 2019 HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly (SDG Summit).

Format

The Forum will include interactive plenary sessions with representatives from youth entities and organizations, Ministers responsible for youth, high-level and other keynote speakers on the emerging priority areas for the decade of action, as well as breakout sessions on the UN75 issue briefs, with a youth focus, and the regional priorities based on the SDG Summit’s Political Declaration. These sessions will be co-led by one to two UN organizations and youth entities. Budget permitting, use will be made of an app to allow all participants to express their views or answer questions during plenary sessions.

Participation

Participation in the ECOSOC Youth Forum is by invitation only and will include representatives from: a) youth-led and youth-focused organizations and entities selected through the United Nations Resident Coordinator Offices as well as the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY); b) regional youth platforms and international youth organizations that are members of the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO); c) representatives of National Youth Councils and Institutes, as well as youth representatives from Civil Society Organizations and other youth leaders and advocates; d) Member States, including official youth delegates, Ministers and other high-level representatives and representatives of regional and other multilateral organizations.

The Forum will reflect the diversity of youth organizations and strive to a balanced representation of youth from all regions.

Preparation of the Youth Forum

The 2020 ECOSOC Youth Forum will be convened by the President of ECOSOC and is co-organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth, in collaboration with the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, in particular, its Working Group on Youth and SDGs, and co-convened by the UN-MGCY and ICMYO. It is encouraged that preparations take place at the regional level prior to the ECOSOC Youth Forum, together with regional youth entities and platforms, to gather as wide a participation of youth-led and youth-focused organizations, as well as government representatives, as possible. The outcomes of these regional consultations should feed into the Youth Forum and subsequently to the other processes.
Social media and virtual participation

Virtual participation will be used to the greatest extent possible. The meeting will also be streamed live on UN WebTV and participants will be able to pose questions via social media through Facebook and Twitter (using #Youth2030). An SDG Media Zone will also be organized so participants at the Forum can engage in side-bar conversations about innovation and interventions aimed at strengthening the involvement of young people in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. It will also provide an opportunity for UN officials and government representatives to interact more directly with a young and diverse audience on a variety of social media platforms.

Outcome

The outcome of the Youth Forum will be a Presidential Statement, capturing key outcomes of the discussions and findings of the Forum, which will be made available to the ECOSOC High Level Segment, the High-level Political Forum in July and relevant meetings of the General Assembly in September 2020. A summary of the proceedings will also be prepared including specific recommendations which will also be shared with decision-makers. Consideration will be given to organize a dedicated space during the 10th edition of the ECOSOC Youth Forum aimed at reporting on the follow up, progress and/or delivery on key outcomes and recommendations from the 2020 ECOSOC Youth Forum, an exercise that shall be conducted annually in order to achieve greater coherence between the annual forums.
9th Economic and Social Council Youth Forum

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

SDG Generation: Shaping the Decade Ahead

1-2 April 2020

1 April 2020

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM OPENING SESSION
(Location: General Assembly Hall)

- Opening remarks by H.E. Mrs. Mona Juul, President of ECOSOC
- Keynote address by a youth representative
- Opening remarks by Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
- Additional Keynote addresses (TBC)

10:30 AM – 1:00 PM PLENARY SESSION
(Location: General Assembly Hall)

Interactive Roundtable on “Decade of Action: Youth as Agents of Change” featuring Ministers, other high-level speakers, and representatives of youth organizations and youth delegates

At the SDG Summit in September 2019, world leaders called for a decade of action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.
Member States reiterated that the 2030 Agenda is their promise to the children and youth of today so that they may achieve their full potential and carry the torch of sustainable development to future generations. These efforts are in line with the UN Youth Strategy, Youth2030 which aims to step up UN system efforts in support of Member States and young people to jointly deliver on the youth agenda. Member States and youth representatives will both address how to accelerate progress on the national and local implementation of the SDGs.

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

(Open mics with the audience)

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**THE UN WE WANT: THEMATIC BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

(Location: TBC)

Parallel sessions will discuss individual and collective actions that can be taken over the next decade to accelerate progress and the delivery of the SDGs in the thematic areas below, building on the conversation at the UN75 Youth Plenary the day before. Each thematic session could therefore be initiated by a presentation of the key takeaways from the Youth Plenary discussion.

- Impact of digital technologies and rapid technological change
- Building and sustaining peace in a new era of conflict and violence
- Inequality: Bridging and rebalancing the economic and social divide
- Climate crisis, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation: A race we can win
- Shifting demographics: Young people on the move

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**PLENARY SESSION: Reporting back on the Global Conversation on the UN We Want**

(Location: General Assembly Hall)

A representative from each breakout session will engage in a dialogue on the main take-aways from the thematic sessions.
Parallel breakout sessions could be focused on the six entry points identified by the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) for accelerating progress across the SDGs. Youth representatives will be encouraged to select 1-2 of the entry points for their regional sessions. Each breakout session could identify scalable solutions that could lead to rapid, transformational change and accelerate achievement of the SDGs during the upcoming Decade for Action. These sessions may build on the outcomes of youth consultations, and other outcomes from youth engagement as part of the regional sustainable development fora hosted by the various UN Regional Commissions.

- Africa
- Europe, North America and other States
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Asia and the Pacific
- Arab States region

A representative from each breakout session will engage in a dialogue on the main takeaways from the regional sessions.

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1 The Global Sustainable Development Report identifies six entry points that offer the most promise for achieving the desired transformations at the necessary scale and speed. The selected entry points are: 1. Human well-being and capabilities; 2. Sustainable and just economies; 3. Food systems and nutrition patterns; 4. Energy decarbonization with universal access; 5. Urban and peri-urban development; and 6. Global environmental commons.
The creative and circular economy is rapidly increasing and can have a transformative impact on societies, economies and the planet, as well as on job creation. Young people are key drivers of the needed change in sustainable production and consumption patterns and in sustainable development more generally. Engaging and supporting youth in the creative and circular economy presents untapped opportunities for more inclusive and sustainable development. What are some of the individual and collective actions that can be taken in this regard to achieve the SDGs? What are some of the policies, partnerships and sources of finance that can support youth participation in the circular and creative economy?

**Moderator:** Mr. Elliott Harris, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations

*(Open mics with the audience)*

**5:30 PM — 6:00 PM CLOSING SESSION: “Youth Action: The Power of Youth to Transform the World by 2030”**

*(Location: General Assembly Hall)*

- Youth voices, vision and actions on the SDG Decade of Action and UN75
- Closing remarks by Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
- Closing remarks by high level officials (TBC)
- Closing remarks by H.E. Mrs. Mona Juul, President of ECOSOC