

Follow-up to the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Our Common Agenda"

Focused discussion on identifying ways and means of more meaningful engagement of youth in the work of the General Assembly

**Tuesday, 30 August 2022, at 3:00 pm
Economic and Social Council Chamber, UNHQ**

Background

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, in his report entitled "Our Common Agenda" (A/75/982), calls for a renewal of solidarity across generations, particularly with younger generations, and puts forward a number of concrete recommendations to further that objective.

This includes, in paragraph 47 of the report, a proposal recommending that the "Envoy on Youth will prepare recommendations for more meaningful, diverse and effective youth engagement in UN deliberative and decision-making processes for the consideration of the General Assembly, the Security Council and ECOSOC and their respective subsidiary bodies. This will be done in consultation with the world's young people."

At the informal thematic consultations convened by the President of the General Assembly during the months of February and March 2022, "no objections were raised regarding this proposal to explore an enhanced participation of youth in UN process, following recommendations from the SG's Envoy on Youth", as it was reflected in the summaries circulated in the President's letter dated 20 May 2022.

Additionally, according to the summaries, the SG's Envoy on Youth has been invited to provide recommendations on youth engagement in the UN processes for consideration by Member States, and a focused discussion during the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly on identifying ways and means of engagement of youth in the work of the General Assembly convened by the PGA has been announced. The ECOSOC and UNSC have been also invited to facilitate similar discussions in their respective work.

Objectives

The focused discussion will serve as a platform for Member States and relevant partners, in line with resolution 76/6, to share views on youth engagement vis-à-vis the work of the General Assembly.

The meeting on 30 August 2022 will be followed by a series of broad consultations to be conducted by the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth (OSGEY), including with youth organizations and representatives in line with paragraph 47 of "Our Common Agenda" report, to inform the drafting of the recommendations to be put forward for consideration of Members States ahead of the Summit of the Future.

The objectives of the focused discussion are:

- To identify and exchange views on existing mechanisms for youth engagement in the General Assembly, highlighting best practices, opportunities, challenges and potential areas for improvement;
- To propose specific and actionable ways in which the General Assembly could facilitate more meaningful, diverse and effective youth engagement as part of its deliberative and decision-making processes.

Participants are invited to address the following questions during their interventions:

- What are the existing mechanisms for youth engagement in the General Assembly's deliberative and decision-making processes? What works well and where is there room for improvement?
- What specific action could the General Assembly take to facilitate more meaningful, diverse and effective youth engagement?

Format

The event will be held in person and webcast live on UN WebTV in all six official languages of the UN

The meeting will feature opening remarks from the President of the General Assembly followed by a statement from the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth to frame the conversation and a youth representative. The floor will then be open to Member States, Observers of the General Assembly and NGOs representatives in consultative status with ECOSOC. There will be no pre-established list of speakers. Delegation wishing to take the floor will be invited to press the microphone button on a console before them. To allow maximum participation, time limit for interventions will be two (2) minutes.

Provisional Programme:

- 3:00 – 3:02 Opening of the meeting
- 3:02 – 3:07 Remarks by the President of the General Assembly
- 3:07 – 3:12 Remarks by the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth
- 3:12 – 3:17 Remarks by a Youth Representative
- 3:12 – 5:55 Interventions by Member States and Observers of the General Assembly, as well as representatives of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC
- 5:55 – 6:00 Closing remarks by the President of the General Assembly.