

Concept Note
Department of Public Information NGO Youth Representatives
ECOSOC Youth Forum Side Event

Community, Communication and Cooperation: Tackling the ECOSOC Youth Forum

29 January 2018, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room 8

Considering the scaling incidences of violent extremism, incessant and growing poverty, and unprecedented challenges posed by natural disasters, it is abundantly clear that there is a dire need for engagement and participation from the youth. The youth are often attributed with high energy, idealism and the will to tackle some of the world's most pressing issues. In this regard, it is prudent to include the youth as leaders who can contribute towards finding and implementing effective solutions related to Agenda 2030. Therefore, for the youth leaders to achieve socially responsible goals, it is necessary for them to be equipped with the analytical skills to understand the issues at hand, and learn how to overcome them.

This side event seeks to create a space to reflect on the lessons learned through local community practices and how to effectively work together globally. The event will also focus on providing participants with a toolset to assist with developing innovative ideas together, and develop know how to apply in real world.

Furthermore, this side event will provide a platform to facilitate additional networking opportunities for the youth, and to help them navigate through the 2018 ECOSOC Youth Forum with an action-oriented mindset. Through this platform, participants will initiate discussions on identifying problems that can be addressed by youth participation and action. These discussions will center on engendering solution-based thinking skills to help those present to develop holistic approaches to tackle pressing challenges in urban and rural settings.

Session Objectives:

- Acquire the skills to identify relevant information being discussed at ECOSOC Youth Forum that can be used to create a meaningful presence in youth participation
- Create an interactive dialogue where participants can discuss the issues affecting their local communities and to implement lessons learnt at the Forum to provide effective and new solutions
- Generate short and long-term youth-led action plans for dissemination and replication in rural and urban communities

- Propose mechanisms to designate one youth representative to each related SDG discussion table at the side event and follow up with concrete actionable plans and resources after the Forum
- Initiate discussion on putting into place effective follow-up mechanisms for the session outcomes

Organizers: NGO Youth Representatives to the Department of Public Information (DPI)

The United Nations Department of Public Information values the participation and contribution of youth, particularly those working within and leading non-governmental organizations. DPI engages youth mainly through its NGO Youth Representatives Programme, which serves as an advocacy platform to bring together young people ages 18 to 32 working within and/or leading NGOs and youth-led organizations formally associated with the department and focused on UN issues. Additionally, the Department's NGO Youth Representatives Steering Committee advises and supports the DPI on strategies to engage young people on advocacy and outreach activities related to the work of the United Nations.

Format:

Short presentations on effective practices, real-world decision making, and challenges that youth-led organizations are currently facing, followed by guided group discussions on how to apply the solution-based thinking processes on selected SDGs. Virtual reality will also be used to give participants real life experiences of rural and urban settings.

Interactive Segment:

Virtual Reality Representative from (SDG Action Campaign or Youth NGO from the field)

Participation: Open to 2018 ECOSOC Youth Forum participants and NGO Youth Representatives to the UN Department of Public Information (DPI) and their respective partners