



# YOUNG LEADERS

## YOUNG LEADERS FOR THE SDGs

*Call for Applications for the 2025 Cohort*

### About the Initiative

The [Young Leaders for the SDGs](#) initiative recognizes exceptional young people who are leading efforts to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Every two years, 17 young leaders are selected to work with the United Nations and partners to accelerate SDG implementation and engage young people in the areas of sustainable development, human rights, and peace and security.

### Eligibility Criteria

- Age at the time of application: 15-35 years old
- Working-level proficiency in English

### What are we looking for?

- **Leadership:** You have the ability to influence, inspire, and mobilize others toward meaningful action. You demonstrate a strong vision, resilience, and the capacity to bring people together to drive change in your community and beyond.
- **Innovation:** You think outside the box and develop creative, original solutions to pressing challenges. Your approach is fresh, unique, and brings new perspectives in the areas of sustainable development, human rights and/or peace and security.
- **Scalability:** Your work has the potential to grow and benefit others beyond its current reach. Whether through expansion, replication, or inspiration, your impact can extend to new communities and contexts, further advancing the SDGs.
- **Impact:** You can show tangible and measurable outcomes directly resulting from your work. Through data, testimonials, or clear progress, you demonstrate how your efforts are creating real change.
- **Presentation:** You have the ability to inspire and engage others through storytelling. Your passion and communication skills allow you to share your journey in a way that motivates action and fosters collaboration.

For more information, check out the profiles of previous Young Leaders from the [2022 cohort](#), [2020 cohort](#), [2018 cohort](#), and [2016 cohort](#).



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## We Value Diversity

We actively seek applications from young people of all backgrounds, particularly young women and girls, youth with disabilities, indigenous youth, LGBTIQ+ youth, refugees and migrants, and rural youth, among others.

## What to Expect

### Two-Year Term (2025-2027)

- Raise awareness about the SDGs
- Advocate for young people to meaningfully engage with the UN
- Support relevant UN initiatives and campaigns
- Participate in high-level events

### Initiative Benefits

- Global platform to amplify your work
- Access to UN system and partners
- Capacity-building opportunities
- Join a community of changemakers
- Travel opportunities for key events

## Key Responsibilities

As a Young Leader for the SDGs, you are expected to:

- **Actively represent the Young Leaders for the SDGs initiative by engaging in high-profile activities** over the course of the two-year term, including participating in speaking engagements, advocacy campaigns, and other strategic collaborations.
- **Participate virtually and/or in-person at select events**, both at the United Nations and in other global spaces, to amplify youth perspectives on global issues.
- **Serve as a youth advocate** in various speaking engagements recommended by the UN Youth Office, championing youth priorities on international platforms.
- **Create and share compelling content** to highlight your advocacy work and inspire broader engagement.
- **Actively engage with the broader cohort** and the UN Youth Office throughout the full two-year term.
- **Submit biannual progress reports** to reflect on your contributions and impact.
- **Uphold the highest professional and ethical standards**, embodying the values and principles of the United Nations.



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## Approximate Timeline

Phase	Date
Applications Open	March 2025
Submission Deadline	18 April 2025
Review Process	May – June 2025
Final Selection	July – August 2025
Announcement	September 2025

## How to Apply

Complete the [online application form](#) by Friday, 18 April 2025 at 11:59 PM EST.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Is this a paid position?

This is an honorary, non-remunerated recognition. However, travel and accommodation may be covered for specific UN events.

### What is the time commitment?

Young Leaders for the SDGs are selected for two-year terms and are expected to actively engage in advocacy efforts, events and campaigns while continuing their existing studies and/or professional work.

### Do I need to relocate?

No, Young Leaders for the SDGs continue their work from their current location.

### When will I hear back?

Due to the high volume of applications, we are only able to contact shortlisted candidates. If you are shortlisted, you will be notified about the next steps in the selection process. We encourage all applicants to stay connected by [subscribing to our newsletter](#) for updates on future opportunities.

### If I apply to this, can I also apply to similar opportunities?

Of course! We encourage you to explore and apply to any opportunities that align with your interests, profile and goals.