



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Office of the
**Secretary-General's
Envoy on Youth**

**RESTLESS
DEVELOPMENT**
THE YOUTH-LED DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



HM Government



Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka
to the United Nations

PERMANENT MISSION OF DENMARK
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



#Generation2030: Torchbearers for the SDGs

A High Level Event on the Role of Youth in Implementation and Monitoring of the SDGs at the UN Summit to Adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Hosted by:

The Permanent Missions of Denmark, Burkina Faso, Rwanda, and Sri Lanka; the Government of the United Kingdom, the Office of the UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, the United Nations Development Programme, and Restless Development

Sunday, 27th September, 13:30 – 15:00

Japan Society, 333 East 47th Street, New York, NY 10017 (at First Avenue)

BACKGROUND & OPPORTUNITY

2015 is a crucial year for international development. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will come to shape our common future for the next 15 years at least. With half of the world under the age of 30, and young people as a growing demographic majority, it is crucial that this agenda puts **young people at the forefront of change** and development.

In the past few years, young people across the globe have been **contributing to the post-2015 process** through a diverse range of channels from grassroots level campaigning to high-level engagement with international decision-makers. And, as the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon stated in his Post-2015 synthesis report, "young people will be the torch bearers of the next sustainable development agenda".

September 2015 is a milestone in this process as Member States will meet at the highest level during the UN General Assembly and **UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda**. It is essential that this moment is accessible to young people and youth advocates, and that they are part of the framework adopted by their political leaders. **The Summit and High level segment of the UNGA offer a strategic opportunity to highlight the unique skills, energy and ideas of young people and stress their role in implementation and accountability, so that they not only will be positively impacted by it, but they too will feel that they have a stake in ensuring its success.**

Today's youth population, particularly **Generation 2030**, who will become adults during the 15-year span of the SDGs, have the ambition, commitment and vested interest in seeing the success of this transformative development agenda in 2030 and beyond. So far, the Post-2015 process has been unprecedented in terms of **youth involvement and participation** in a global process, and this can now set the standard for the implementation and accountability of the SDGs in the future, in which young people can play a crucial role.

EVENT CONCEPT

The Permanent Missions of Denmark, Burkina Faso, Rwanda, and Sri Lanka; the Government of the United Kingdom, the Office of the UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, the United Nations Development Programme, and Restless Development are organizing a **High Level Event on the Role of Youth during the SDG Summit in September 2015**. A High Level event with young people, Heads of State and other government representatives, along with the incoming President of the General Assembly and heads of UN agencies, **will send out a clear and strong message about the importance of including the views of young people and their crucial role in the implementation and accountability for the SDGs**. In addition to being a high profile and influential moment, the event will also be an opportunity to share concrete ideas on how young people can play an important role in the implementation of the SDGs at the national and global level.

Objectives of the event:

- **Inspire:**
 - **Make the case for the role of young people** in global decision-making, especially in the next phase of the SDG process.
 - Provide a **platform to showcase how young people are already leading development**, how they partner with government and UN entities, and the **crucial role they will play** in the implementation of the SDGs.
- **Activate & Energise:**
 - **Strengthen dialogue on youth-led implementation and accountability** of the SDGs, leading to further collaboration in the first 100 days.
 - Launch an initiative to **gather concrete commitments from development stakeholders & decision-makers** on supporting and involving young people in the implementation of the SDGs.

Restless Development is inviting governments, agencies and organisations to share voluntary commitments to youth development which will unlock young people's leadership and scale it into action for sustainable development. **For more information on the commitments and to submit yours, please see [the guidelines and submission form here](#).**

The event will be **youth-led and interactive, co-moderated by young leaders**. Youth advocates with Restless Development are taking the lead in designing the programme, which will highlight the role young people have played in shaping the SDG agenda, how young people will be crucial to achieving the SDGs, and the role they will play in monitoring and accountability. High level representation from Member States, UN and civil society will **speak in dialogue with youth** throughout the programme, in an **interactive way, with opportunity for questions and responses from governments, agencies and youth**.

The programme will feature High Level speakers and panelists, and inspiring young people from across the globe, including:

- **Opening:**
 - HRH Crown Princess Mary of Denmark
 - H.E. Jeannette Kagame, First Lady of Rwanda
- **MDG to SDG generation:**
 - Youth speakers including Derick Joseph (Kenya), Wilber Kakaire (Uganda) and Arifa Nasim (UK)
- **Spotlight on Youth-led development:**
 - Rocío González, Youth researcher, Mexico
 - Youth Representative of Have You Seen My Rights (TBC)
- **Translation and localisation of the SDGs:**
 - H.E. Michel Kafando, Président de la Transition, Président du Faso (President of Burkina Faso)
 - H.E. Mangala Samaraweera, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka
 - Merybell Reynoso, Youth speaker, Dominican Republic
 - Ronagh Craddock, Youth delegate, United Kingdom
- **Special remarks:** H.E. Mogens Lykkesøft, President of the seventieth session of the UN General Assembly
- **Panel on implementation and accountability:**
 - H.E. Justine Greening, Secretary of State for International Development, UK
 - Helen Clark, Administrator, UNDP
 - Farah Mesmar, Youth Governance & Accountability Task Team, Jordan
 - Nik Hartley, CEO, Restless Development
- **Closing:**
 - Athini Nyatela, youth speaker, South Africa
- **Moderation:**
 - Ahmad Alhendawi, United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
 - Primrose Manyalo, Restless Development, Zimbabwe