



United Nations
Office of the Secretary-General's
Envoy on Youth

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



FOREWORD



As our second year living under the conditions of COVID-19 comes to a close, I remain more convinced than ever of the increasingly urgent need for global solidarity and cooperation. The pandemic has undoubtedly continued to worsen systemic challenges disproportionately facing young people around the world, including the ongoing climate emergency, rising inequalities, disinformation and conflicts, among other critical areas of concern.

Yet, there also remains cause for hope. The silver lining amidst the darkness of these global challenges is that we have a unique opportunity for positive transformational change, and a once in a lifetime chance to recover better together, building a world where no one is left behind.

Moving forward, we must change *how* we live, work, and make decisions — a sentiment at the very heart of the UN Secretary-General's "Our Common Agenda" report launched this September.

"Business as usual" — which prioritizes short-term gains and profit over long-term benefits and well-being of people and the planet — must be abolished.

We need a "new normal" which is forward-looking and future-based. It is our collective responsibility as leaders, activists, citizens, workers and students of today to make this a reality for both today's young people and future generations.

Young people worldwide, in all their diversity, have been calling for this transformational change for years, as they do not have the privilege of waiting for incremental change to happen.

The UN and partners must listen and work with young people in bringing this change to reality. The UN and partners must engage them in a meaningful, diverse and effective manner at all levels in the deliberation and decision-making processes affecting their lives, livelihoods and futures. We must move beyond platitudes towards action, concrete commitments and adequate resourcing.

And we must do it **now**!

To all young people working tirelessly towards the world envisioned in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development — a more sustainable, just, equal and peaceful world for all — I thank you for your continued perseverance and belief that a better world is possible. It is your optimism and commitment to change, that will change the world.

This report summarizes the efforts taken by myself and my team over the course of this year to get us one step closer to realizing that goal, with and for young people everywhere.

I want also to take this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation to all partners and donors of my Office, whose partnership and kind contributions enable us to carry out our essential work.

None of the activities in this report would have been possible without the commitment, passion, drive and expertise of my team, who work extremely hard every day with limited resources to make the UN fit for youth. And thank you to the UN leadership for their trust and support. My deepest gratitude goes out to all of them.



Jayathma Wickramanayake
United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth



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#Youth

INTRODUCTION

The **Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth** serves as a global advocate for the needs and rights of young people and a bridge between the United Nations (UN) and young people worldwide. The Envoy is mandated by the UN Secretary-General to spearhead the implementation of the first-ever UN system-wide [youth strategy, Youth 2030](#), across the UN system, ensuring expanded global, regional and country level action to improve the UN's work with and for young people.

In this way, both the Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth (OSGEY) and Youth2030 share a common vision of a world in which the human rights of every young person are realized; a world that ensures every young person is empowered to achieve their full potential; and a world that recognizes young people's agency, resilience and positive contributions as agents of change.¹

Owing to the impact of COVID-19 during 2021, OSGEY continued to employ new approaches to ensure the delivery of its programmes. While some global events were postponed and deferred to a later date, many were held online, allowing for a broader participation and engagement of youth from all regions of the world. At the same time, in order to better support Member States' COVID-19 response and young people's resilience during these times, OSGEY has identified new initiatives, within the overall scope of its mandate.

OSGEY worked to expand the UN's youth engagement and advocacy efforts across sustainable development, human rights, peace and security, and humanitarian action through the Office's four strategic approaches: participation, advocacy, partnerships and coordination.

The purpose of this annual report is to reflect on OSGEY's main achievements in 2021, assessing how the work of the Office has contributed to the implementation of Youth2030, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Paris Agreement.

¹ UN system wide youth strategy, Youth2030.

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YOUTH2030 SECTARIATE STOCKTAKING

Youth2030, the first ever UN system-wide youth strategy, was launched in 2018 by the UN Secretary-General with the ambitious aim of scaling up global, regional, and national actions with and for youth to fulfil the vision of a world in which the positive contributions of young people are recognized, their rights protected, and their potential fulfilled.

In this context, OSGEY is tasked with spearheading the implementation of and accountability for Youth2030 together with the UN system and young people. OSGEY plays a central role within the Youth2030 governance structure, with the Envoy on Youth chairing the High-Level Steering Committee,² and the Head of the Youth2030 Secretariat leading the Joint Working Group (JWG) from within OSGEY³. Overall system-wide coordination is provided by the Youth2030 Secretariat, which at the end of 2021 comprised six staff, and functions as one of the teams within OSGEY. The Youth2030 achievements outlined below, while reflecting the joint contributions of several UN entities and youth networks, would not have been possible without the high-level political engagement, coordination and fundraising efforts of OSGEY.

Overview of Youth2030 Progress in 2021:

During this third year of implementation of [Youth2030](#), the UN system-wide youth strategy, implementation expanded greatly across the UN system, with 44 UN entities and 130 UN Country Teams (UNCTs) contributing to the strategy. This year saw the launch of the first Youth2030 Progress Report, alongside several other major milestones for the strategy. The year was marked by building blocks for system-wide coordination, performance measurement and accountability were put in place; the Youth2030 baseline for UNCTs was established; a portfolio of tools and knowledge products (including analytics) to support implementation was made available; and the UN system started tackling some complex issues such as internships, youth workforce and the introduction of a system-wide youth marker.

Key Achievements – Highlights:

- **The first progress report:** During the ECOSOC Youth Forum in April 2021, the Envoy on Youth launched the first-ever [Youth2030: Progress Report 2021](#) with its data companion, the [UN Snapshot Series](#). The report provided rich data and insights on UN's work for and with youth across 130 UNCTs and 33 UN entities, and was welcomed by all stakeholders.

² Composed of 15 UN entities represented at the ASG level and 4 youth networks.

³ Composed of technical leads on youth from 17 UN entities and 4 youth networks.

Youth2030: Progress Report 2021 – Highlights:

What worked well:

- The **UN response** to the needs of youth during the **COVID-19 crisis** has been **rapid and robust**.
- Across the UN system, there is **growing momentum on the “Youth and the SDGs” agenda** in priority areas of programming, at all levels.
- The **UN reform process** is **reflected in youth programming** of the “new generation*” of UNCTs – Joint planning, implementation and coordination on youth are evident.

What needs attention:

1. Effective **tracking of results and resources for youth** and **transparency of reporting** on youth in the UN system **needs to be strengthened** at all levels.
2. Two foundational areas of Youth2030 - **internships and youth workforce** – require attention.
3. The UN is delivering well **for youth: work with youth varies** across UN entities and UNCTs; it is robust in some and less so in others.

*The reform aims to reposition the United Nations development system (including the UNCTs, sometimes referred to as the “new generation” of UNCTs) with a stronger, better-defined collective identity and as a trusted, reliable, cohesive, accountable and effective partner with countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Highlights of Actions on Accountability:

- **Translations of the ‘Youth2030 Scorecard for UNCTs’:** In 2021, Spanish and French versions of the [‘Youth2030 Scorecard for UNCTs’](#) – the accountability tool for UNCTs – were made available, in line with the English version of the UNCT Scorecard, that was released in 2020.
- **Youth2030 baseline for UNCTs:** Last year, the Youth2030 Scorecard for UNCTs was institutionalized in the **UN Sustainable Development Group Information Management System** (UNSDG IMS) for annual reporting. The first reporting of the UNCTs in the UNSDG IMS helped establish the **baseline for UNCTs** for Youth2030 implementation and the second reporting in 2021 (November – December 2021) will help us understand the progress and change against the established Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
- **Youth2030 Scorecard for UN Entities:** A similar accountability tool for entities, the **‘Youth2030 Scorecard for UN Entities’ with 18 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** has been advanced and will be the basis for the entities reporting in 2021. To allow

routine reporting on Youth2030 KPIs, a '**Youth2030 Entity Scorecard Reporting System**' (Youth2030 ESRS) is being developed by OSGEY in collaboration with the UN Office of Information, Communication and Technology. **First reporting of the UN entities** against the Scorecard (in the Youth2030 ESRS) will be used to establish the **baseline** for the strategy's implementation in **UN entities**.

- **Youth2030 in QCPR Monitoring Framework 2021-24:** In the year, OSGEY together with several members of the Youth2030 Joint Working Group had the opportunity to integrate Youth2030 indicators into the **Monitoring Framework (2021-24) of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR)** (2020). QCPR is the primary policy instrument of the General Assembly to define **UN** system support to **programme countries** in their development efforts; inclusion of Youth2030 indicators in the QCPR presents a critical opportunity to assess the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, and impact of the entire UN Development System on youth.

Support to UNCTs for Youth2030 Implementation:

A major part of Youth2030 action is at the UNCT level. In 2021, OSGEY, together with the Joint Working Group members, continued to invest in timely technical assistance to the teams on the ground, for planning, implementation and reporting. Several resources and knowledge products were made available on the [Youth2030 one stop shop online portal](#), which is hosted by OSGEY.

- **Youth2030 Implementation Package for UNCTs:** In the year, to support UNCTs to deliver effectively on the youth strategy, the '**Youth2030 Implementation package for UNCTs**' was launched, consisting of an [Action Guide](#), a [toolkit](#), and a compilation of [multi-stakeholder initiatives on youth](#). Co-created by the UN together with young people⁴, and validated in four⁵ of the Fast-Track Countries,⁶ the Implementation Package provides information and resources on the global commitments on youth, across the key areas of action of the UN: **Sustainable development and climate action, Human Rights, Humanitarian Action, Peace and Security and International Law**.

The Action Guide outlines the priority actions to be taken by UNCTs to reach the global commitments. It also builds on the **UNCT baseline** and emphasizes the areas where the UNCTs need to step up action. The Action Guide is complemented by the

⁴ 24 UN entities and several youth organizations and networks.

⁵ Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Ghana, and Sierra Leone.

⁶ Fast Track Countries are envisaged as leaders in the implementation of the strategy, and they are incubation grounds to model joint UN work, test new knowledge products before global roll-out, support cutting-edge research and innovations and foster strategic partnerships for results and resources.

Youth2030 toolkit, a collection of 800+ tools and resources including best practices from around the world.

The UN uses a wide and diverse array of institutional arrangements to address development challenges on youth. Multi-stakeholder initiatives on youth, as the name implies, brings together several partners for impact at scale. The report '**Mapping of multi-stakeholder initiatives on youth**' outlines 78 such initiatives, highlighting youth engagement.

- **Technical assistance to UNCTs for integrating youth in their Cooperation Frameworks:** Design and development of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) in UNCTs presents an important opportunity for strengthening actions 'FOR' and 'WITH' youth in their work. In 2021, OSGEY together with the UN Development Cooperation Office (UN DCO) engaged with 68 UNCTs for internal advocacy and/or technical assistance to UNCTs at strategic moments in the development of their UNSDCFs, work plan development, implementation and/or reporting. Most of the engagements were through virtual platforms and included a range of activities - briefings for Programme Management Teams and Youth Task Forces in UNCTs, briefings for youth focal points in UN entities, review of documents including Common Country Analyses, Cooperation Frameworks, Joint Work Plans and support during the reporting period.
- **Engagement with Fast-Track Countries:** Engagement with 10 Fast-Track Countries,⁷ envisaged as leaders in the implementation of the strategy, was further strengthened in the year. The Envoy on Youth led several discussions with the UNCT leadership – the Resident Coordinators – to identify game changers and best practices for showcase in global fora and through a series of workshops and in knowledge exchange platforms in 2022. As referred to earlier, the Fast-Track Countries were also fertile grounds for testing the Implementation Package before global roll out.
- Lastly, to strengthen the UNCT coordination mechanism for coherent action on youth, a **Youth Focal Point function in Resident Coordinators Offices** has been established in two Fast-Track Countries (Ethiopia and Uzbekistan), with a further 3 Youth Focal Points in the process of being set up (in Bangladesh, Jordan, and Uganda). Funding for and deployment of these posts was facilitated by OSGEY.

⁷ The 10 Fast-Track Countries are Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Ghana, Jordan, Morocco, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and Uzbekistan.

High-level Political Engagement and Advocacy:

- In 2021, The Envoy on Youth provided regular updates on Youth2030 to the Senior Management Group and the Executive Committee, and deliberations on specific issues such as youth workforce and internships across the UN system.
- **Youth2030 briefing to Member States:** To showcase progress and galvanize further support for implementation, OSGEY co-hosted a briefing on Youth2030 to Member States, together with the Permanent Missions of El Salvador, Portugal, Rwanda, Slovakia and Sri Lanka to the UN. The briefing was well received and attended by about 100 participants including representatives from 30 Member States.
- **Youth2030 briefing to youth networks:** To showcase young people's engagement in the youth strategy and promote further interest in their engagement at various levels, OSGEY co-hosted a briefing to youth networks with International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO). The successful event had 150 young people from across the world.
- Over the past year, the #Youth2030 hashtag has been used more than 5,700 times on social media, emphasizing the extent to which the strategy has been increasingly mainstreamed across the UN system and among youth networks globally; this represents an 83.9% increase in usage over 2020. There have been over 263,000 engagements with content using #Youth2030, which likewise represents a 48.9% increase over 2020.

Investing in Data and Evidence for Decision-making:

In the year, OSGEY also invested in making data and evidence available on critical areas of Youth2030.

- **Stocktake on internships**
One of the areas for transformation included in the youth strategy is internships. In the year, a key area of work that OSGEY undertook with the 'Strengthening internships Task Team' is the stocktake on internships in UN entities, in line with the benchmarks recommended by the Joint Inspection Unit⁸ in its report 'Review of internship programmes in the United Nations system'. The main objective of the exercise was to understand the status of internships in the UN entities participating in Youth2030 – what is happening well, what needs improvement – to inform next steps in the system-wide action in this area. The exercise has been completed⁹ and the report will be available in the first quarter of 2022. In addition to the above insights, a compilation of resources including tools, good practices and innovations will be made available.

⁸ JIU/Rep/2018/1: Review of internship programmes in the United Nations system.

⁹ 30 UN entities participated in the stocktake exercise.

- ***Governance and coordination:***

Driving system-wide expansion has been possible due to the strategic guidance by the High-Level Steering Committee (HLSC) and the technical leadership of the Joint Working Group (JWG) and several Task Teams. The Youth2030 Secretariat established within OSGEY ensured system-wide coordination for the effort, targeted outreach for advocacy and seamless support to the HLSC, the JWG and the Task Teams. In the year, the Youth2030 Secretariat convened 39 interagency meetings (1 HLSC, 11 JWG and 27 Task Team meetings) with UN focal points and young people from 5 youth networks. The HLSC and JWG meetings have all been chaired by OSGEY, and several of the Task Teams were also facilitated by members of the Youth2030 Secretariat. As part of the expansion of Youth2030 – from 17 participating UN entities in 2020 to 44 UN entities in 2021 – four Youth2030 briefings for UN entities took place in 2021, engaging more than 130 focal points from over 32 UN entities.

Lastly, systems and processes have been established by OSGEY to facilitate seamless interagency working of the JWG and the Task Teams. The well-organized eWorkspace, hosted by OSGEY and with an up to date and intuitive documentation and retrieval system has been appreciated by several members of the inter-agency team(s).



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**RESULTS BY FIVE
PROGRAMME PRIORITY
AREAS OF YOUTH2030**

The Youth2030's five programme priority areas reflect the three pillars of the UN – peace and security, sustainable development, and human rights – as well as humanitarian action, building on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Through its work, OSGEY has contributed to the advancement of the five programme priority areas of Youth2030, as outlined below.

Priority Area 1:
Engagement, Participation, and Advocacy –
Amplify youth voices for the promotion of
a peaceful, just, and sustainable world

Our Common Agenda

In 2020, governments, civil society, businesses, young people, and the UN came together to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. Marking this important milestone in a time also marked by unprecedented and interconnected global crises, including COVID-19, the climate emergency, systems of inequality and exclusion, and rising conflicts, the [Declaration on the Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations](#) was adopted unanimously. In this declaration, UN Member States requested the UN Secretary-General to “report back with recommendations to advance our common agenda and to respond to current and future challenges”.

Following consultations with the UN system, partners, thought leaders, and young people – including the [Next Generation Fellows](#) – the Secretary-General published the “[Our Common Agenda](#)” report in September 2021.

OSGEY was closely engaged in this process, particularly through the “young thinkers” track championed by the Next Generation Fellows and the UN Foundation (UNF). The Envoy on Youth participated in a series of online consultations led by the Next Generation Fellows as they engaged young people worldwide on the Our Common Agenda process, to gather their thoughts, ideas, solutions, and concerns on current and future challenges. This included, but was not limited to, a dialogue between young people and the UN Deputy Secretary-General, a Big Brainstorm event, and networking breakfasts with UN Member States and youth. The Next Generation Fellow’s work on the “young thinkers” track culminated in the publishing of “[Our Future Agenda](#)” report - young people’s contribution to “Our Common Agenda”.

In aggregate, OSGEY’s engagements via social media in the lead up to and alongside the launch of “Our Common Agenda” reached more than 123,000 young people around the world, garnering nearly 6,200 engagements.

“Our Common Agenda” acknowledges that current and future crises are interconnected and, hence, so must be the solutions – which young people have been calling for, for years. Making recommendations across areas and topics, the need to deepen solidarity with the world’s young people is at the heart of “Our Common Agenda”. The recommendations made aim to fulfil the commitment made by Heads of State in the UN75 Declaration to *“listen and work with young people”* look at young people’s lives, livelihoods, and futures from this intersectional, multisectoral, and crosscutting lens.

Youth-related recommendations include:

- Removing barriers to political participation and measure progress through a “youth in politics” index.
- Establishing a dedicated United Nations Youth Office in the Secretariat.
- A “Transforming Education Summit” in 2022.
- A recovery barometer to track career path and labour market outcomes for youth.
- A high-ambition coalition to promote green jobs and digital-economy job creation.
- The ask for the Envoy on Youth to 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 the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and their respective subsidiary bodies.
- The appointment of a Special Envoy for Future Generations.
- A “Summit of the Future” in 2023.

There are strong links between the “Our Common Agenda” recommendations and the solutions approach they are based on, and Youth2030. Moving forward with “Our Common Agenda” proposals and recommendations, especially the ones focused on young people, should leverage the power of the UN system, partners, and young people mobilized in the implementation of Youth2030. And vice-versa: as we continue to advance on Youth2030, the natural synergies with the recommendations in “Our Common Agenda” should be further explored and strengthened.

[ECOSOC Youth Forum 2021](#)

The [ECOSOC Youth Forum 2021](#) took place virtually for the first time due to COVID-19 on 7 and 8 April. Under the theme of [“A Decade of Action: Building a Resilient Recovery”](#), the ECOSOC Youth Forum focused on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under review at the 2021 High-Level Political Forum, namely SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17.

In 2021, the ECOSOC Youth Forum, co-organized by OSGEY and the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), in collaboration with the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD) and co-convened by the Major Group

for Children and Youth (MGCY) and the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO), also commemorated its 10th anniversary.

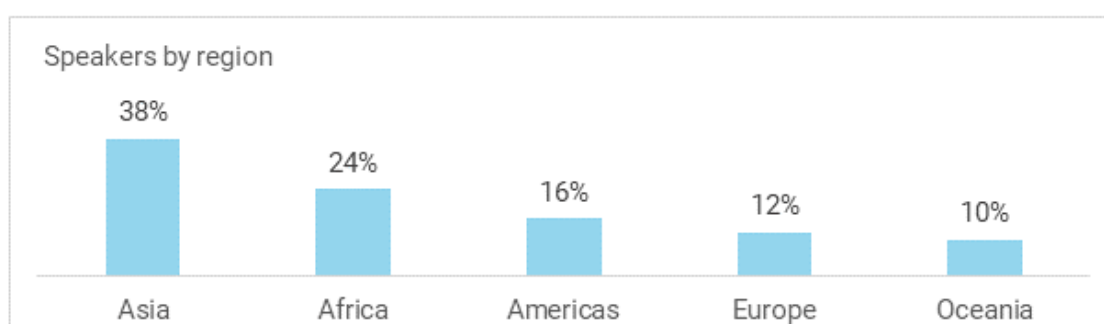
Speaker Insights from ECOSOC Youth Forum 2021

23 speakers in the virtual forum's plenary sessions were from **20** countries/ areas

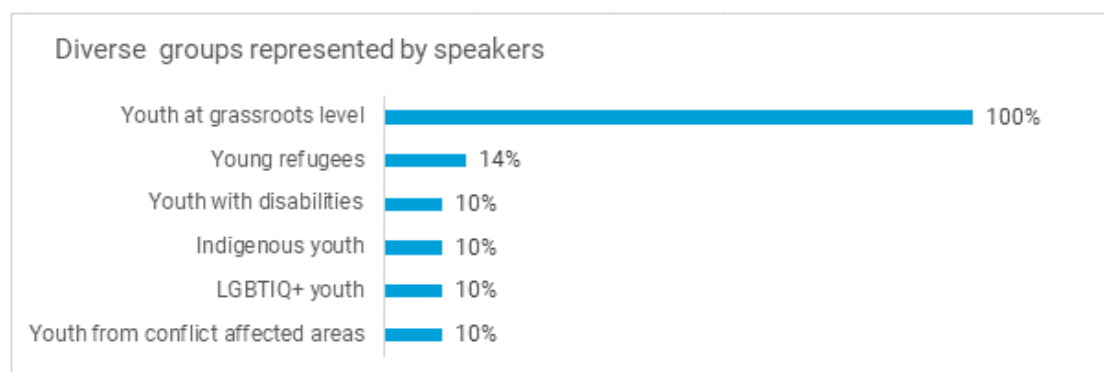
75% speakers engaged were women, **100%** speakers engaged were young people

Asia was the most common region (38%) represented by youth speakers.

Refer to "Speakers by region" chart for details.



"Leaving No One Behind (LNOB)" is a guiding principle of the 2030 Agenda. In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, we must ensure to reach those first who are furthest behind. Young speakers in the ECOSOC Youth Forum belonged to some of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups (Refer to "Diverse groups represented by speakers" chart for details)



100% or all youth speakers were bringing about change at the grassroots level

Countries/ Areas and corresponding geographical regions taken from <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/>

Over 19,000 participants joined the event virtually, with over 10,000 young participants from 193 countries having registered in advance to attend the Youth Forum. These numbers

mean that the ECOSOC Youth Forum 2021 is – to date – the largest and most diverse gathering of young people at the UN.

Moreover, 60 Ministers of Youth or equivalent high-level officials participated in the interactive Ministerial Roundtable. Their interventions were shared alongside ten young activists and five strategic partners. The Youth Forum also counted with the participation of a serving Head of State for the first time, the President of Costa Rica, and over 400 Member State representatives who attended the Youth Forum.

Additionally, the first-ever [Youth2030 Progress report](#) and the [Youth2030 online portal](#) were launched during the first day of the Youth Forum, and over [50 side-events](#) on a variety of issues relevant to youth were organized by a variety of partners ahead of the plenary sessions of the Youth Forum, on 6 April. When considering the UN WebTV, YouTube and Microsoft Teams streams, the Forum achieved a total of nearly 150,000 impressions via digital channels. In the two-month period leading up to the Forum, more than 374,000 people visited the ECOSOC Youth Forum website, with nearly 42,000 visiting the site during the week of the event itself. The Youth2030 microsite achieved more than 3,600 visitors within the first week after going live.

In parallel, the ECOSOC Youth Forum achieved a potential reach of 82.1 million people via social media, amassing 2.1 million impressions, nearly 61,000 total engagements and more than 15,000 shares of content across all channels. During the Forum alone, the #Youth2030 hashtag was used more than 1,800 times and the #YouthLead hashtag was used 7,950 times.

Two weeks ahead of the Forum, OSGEY also launched a digital photo filter campaign via the Cheerity platform (<http://www.unyouthforum.cheerity.com/>). In total, 17,296 people from 180 countries participated in the campaign by adding their photo, achieving a total reach of over 4.1 million on social media. Over 70% of the participants were under the age of 34, with a relatively equal gender split.

More information can be found on the [informal summary of the ECOSOC Youth Forum 2021](#).

To further amplify the work of the 23 young people who spoke at the plenary sessions of the Youth Forum, OSGEY also launched [“Meet 23 Young People Leading Resilient Recovery in the Decade of Action”](#).

76th Session of the UN General Assembly - UNGA 76

The UN High-Level Week 2021 took place as the world continues to grapple with the devastating COVID-19 pandemic as well as the multidimensional challenges that are

particularly felt by young people, from the climate crisis to the rise of unemployment. Decades of development progress are being lost and the promise of a better future for all is at stake. With the right choices, the next two to three years could propel a Decade of Action and transformation not seen in almost a century.

Convened by the UN Secretary-General, this year's [SDG Moment at UNGA 76](#) discussed what is needed to bring solutions to scale to seize it decisively. The session reflected the importance of youth's contribution in delivering the Decade of Action to achieve the SDGs and featured 5 young changemakers from Colombia, Italy, Nigeria, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Switzerland who are working on solutions at the local level. The young changemakers featured have been engaging with their communities directly and implementing the SDGs - from delivering health response at the frontlines, contributing to solving food insecurity, creating jobs for indigenous youth, supporting refugee's livelihood, and providing access to education in conflict areas. The discussion was followed by a fire-chat dialogue featuring two young changemakers, from Moldova and Zambia. In this segment, the young changemakers addressed gaps and opportunities in creating an enabling environment for young solutions makers to thrive, the need for funding and meaningful support, as well as youth's action-oriented recommendations for policymakers and institutions.

Moreover, OSGEY supported the SDG Action Zone 2021 with nominations for young changemakers to participate in the event. The SDG Action Zone is a three-day virtual space on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, which brings together the highest levels of UN leadership, activists, government officials, business leaders, and changemakers to highlight the ecosystem-wide solutions, plans, and investments needed to positively impact people's lives and the future of our planet.

Collectively, OSGEY's various engagements during UNGA76 resulted in a total reach of more than 673,000 across all social media channels.

Young Leaders for the SDGs

The [Young Leaders for the SDGs](#) is a flagship initiative of OSGEY, launched in 2016. It recognizes 17 Young Leaders from around the world who contribute to implementing the 2030 Agenda, fostering resilience of their communities, proposing innovative solutions, driving social progress, and inspiring political change through diverse youth-led initiatives in their communities and sectors in line with the 2030 Agenda.

An open call for applications for the 2020 Class of 17 Young Leaders for the SDGs was made from 2 to 29 February 2020. The class of 2020 Young Leaders have completed one year of their term and submitted their bi-annual progress reports in March and September

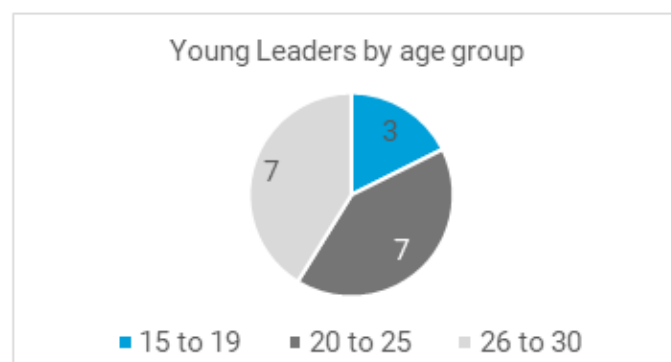
2021. This class continues to receive and participate in engagement opportunities where they serve as keynote speakers, panelists, educators, and judges for international and local events.

Insights from Young Leaders for the SDGs: Class of 2020

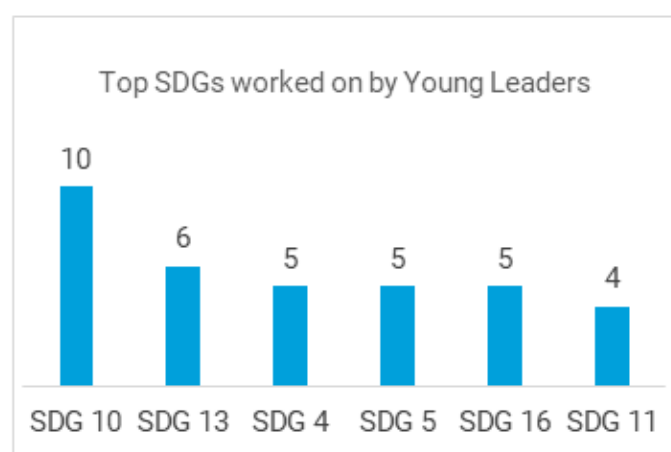
17 young people from **17** countries/ areas were selected as Young Leaders in 2020.



Africa and Asia (5 out of 17 for each) were the most common regions represented by the Young Leaders. Refer to chart "Young Leaders by region" for details.



Refer to chart "Young Leaders by age group" for age disaggregated data.



Out of the 17 SDGs, SDG 10 on Reduced Inequalities was the most common focus area for the Young Leaders, being worked on by 10 of the 17. The top SDGs, each worked on by at least 20% of Young Leaders, are shown in the chart "Top SDGs worked on by Young Leaders"

Countries/ Areas and corresponding geographical region taken from <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/>

Highlights of the progress of the Young Leaders over this past year include Vanessa Nakate serving as the keynote speaker, alongside Greta Thunberg, at the Pre-26th UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP26), AY Young producing and performing the first-ever theme song for an UN Entity: FAO, and Satta Sheriff, who won the Global Goalkeepers award from

the Gates Foundation. Ilayda Eskiataşcioglu was recognized as a “woman trailblazer” at the United Nations by UN Women and the Permanent Mission of Italy to the UN in New York. Jichen Liu’s project Clean Plate has reached over 5 million users and he served as a panelist at the Sustainable Development Forum in China – the highest-level event on sustainable development in the country.

The Young Leaders have reached over 5.5 million people this past year through their work and engagements. They have completed several training sessions through [McKinsey.org](https://www.mckinsey.org) and through UN Entities that focused on leadership development, communications, and professionalism. Throughout 2021, OSGEY has also actively amplified and celebrated the work and achievements of the Young Leaders across social media. In total, this content reached nearly 450,000 people online, culminating in nearly 12,000 engagements.

Most events this past year have been virtual, however it has not stopped the Young Leaders from expanding their reach and using digital platforms creatively to promote the SDGs. Moving forward, we continue to help the Young Leaders leverage the UN to increase their visibility and meet their project goals.

Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change

Building on the momentum of support to youth climate movements, OSGEY supported the UN Secretary-General in the launch of his first-ever on 27 July 2020. The 7-member group is tasked with advising the Secretary-General on his approach to climate action and bringing the priorities and perspectives of young people into UN decision-making on climate change. It serves as a mechanism for the Secretary-General to engage young people in open and transparent dialogue as the UN gears up to accelerate global action and ambition to tackle the climate crisis.

Throughout the first semester of 2021, YAG met the Secretary-General twice and briefed the Member State Advisory Group on Climate Change on youth’s perspectives on the climate crisis. YAG members brought the perspectives of young people into key climate events and meetings, such as the [Sustainable Energy for All \(SE4All\) Youth Summit](#), the [UN Environment Programme \(UNEP\) Youth Assembly](#), the [UN High-level Meeting on Water](#), United States’ President Biden’s [Leaders’ Summit on Climate](#), the [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\) Global Youth Summit](#), the [Capitol Hill Ocean Week](#), the UN Foundation event series - [Say It With Science](#), and a UN Security Council Open Debate.

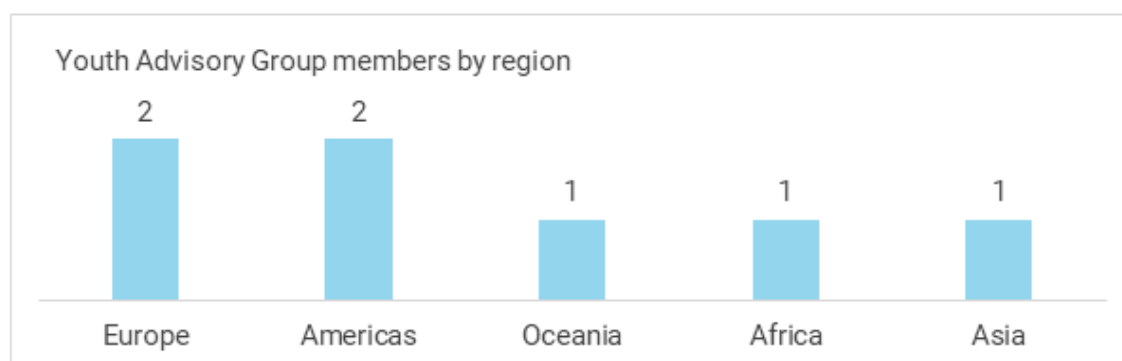
As part of their work plan, YAG organized consultations on various scales to hear the priorities and perspective of youth all over the world. YAG members organized a regional consultation in Western and Eastern Europe, and the Arctic. A YAG member also conducted a thematic Indigenous youth consultation in Brazil.

Meeting with key stakeholders in the climate agenda is also part of YAG's workplan. During the first part of the year, the group held meetings with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) International, Young Leader for the SDGs, Vanessa Nakate, and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

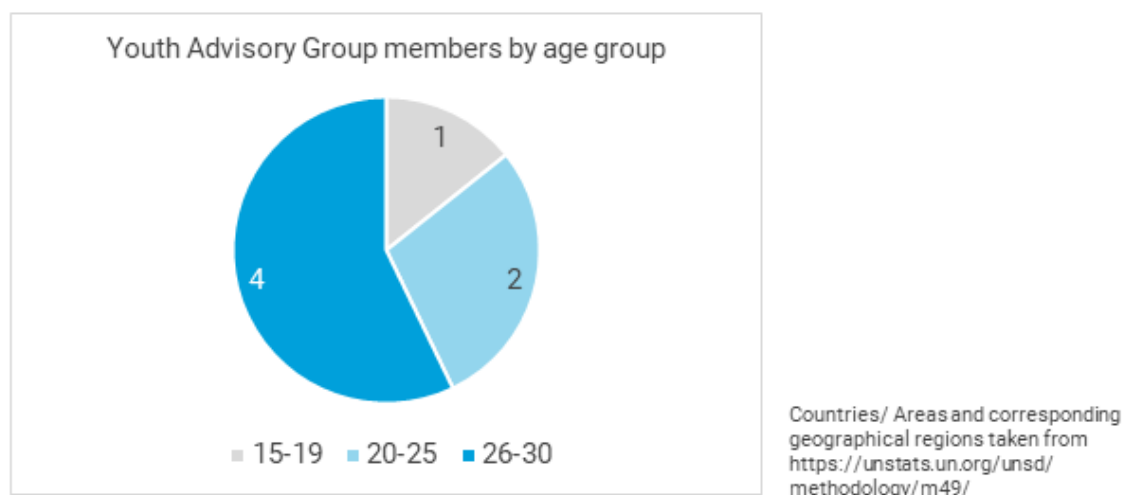
Insights from the Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change

7 young people from **7** countries/ areas are members in the Youth Advisory Group (YAG) on Climate Change.

Americas and Europe were the most common regions represented by YAG members (2 out of 7 for each). Refer to "YAG members by region" chart for details.



Most YAG members were 26 to 30 years old (4 out of 7). Refer to "YAG members by age group" chart for details.



The month of August marked YAG's one-year anniversary. In celebration, YAG members had an Instagram Live in the Envoy on Youth's Instagram account. The official [YAG Twitter account](#) was also launched at that time to celebrate the group's one-year.

The second semester was marked by key milestone events and meetings. Ahead of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), YAG partnered with OSGEY and the Climate Action Team to host a [youth dialogue with the Deputy Secretary-General \(DSG\) on climate](#), as part of the series of dialogues the DSG had with young people. The event was livestreamed on social media and included youth speakers from grassroots organizations, young entrepreneurs, youth from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and indigenous youth. At UNGA, YAG members also joined the [SDG Action Zone](#) – Climate Day, the [SDG Moment](#) and the High-Level Dialogue on Energy. In addition, the group met with many senior level officials, including the UN President of the General Assembly (UNPGA).

After frequent engagement with the Italian Ministry of Transition and Environment and the United Kingdom (UK)'s 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) Youth Engagement Team, YAG members played a central role in the key milestone event, the Youth4Climate, followed by a successful participation at COP 26. .

While in Milan for the Youth4Climate, YAG held meetings with COP 26 President Alok Sharma; Nigel Topping, the UK High-Level Climate Champion; Patricia Espinosa, Executive Director of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); Archie Young, the UK Lead Negotiator; and climate activist and Young Leader for the SDGs, Vanessa Nakate.

During the two weeks of COP, YAG members joined and addressed remarks at high-level events such as: the World Leaders Summit; [British Broadcasting Corporation \(BBC\)'s launch](#) of Sir David Attenborough's documentary; the [COP 26 Dialogues series](#) with the UN Deputy Secretary-General; amongst several others. Members also engaged with diverse media throughout the conference and held an Instagram Live with actress Maisie Williams and an Instagram takeover of singer and actress Camila Cabello's account. Moreover, at COP 26, YAG held its first in-person meeting with the UN Secretary-General. The group also met with the Executive Director of Greenpeace International, Jennifer Morgan, and United States' Special Presidential Envoy, John Kerry.

Additionally, as part of YAG's advocacy to ensure diverse youth voices are heard, the group organized, designed and held their first [side event](#) at COP26. The intergenerational event, entitled "Post COP26 Youth-led Climate Action", brought perspectives from diverse backgrounds worldwide and was highly rated at COP.

Throughout 2021, OSGEY actively shared YAG's work and achievements across social media. In total, this content reached nearly 535,000 across all channels, culminating in more than 19,000 engagements and more than 1,000 shares.

Reach Not Preach

As a follow-up to the UN Youth Climate Summit, OSGEY launched [Reach Not Preach](#) in December 2019, a virtual platform that continues young activists to share their stories, present their initiatives on climate change, and access resources from the UN and its partners. Reach Not Preach also provides a safe digital space for young people to share their unfiltered opinions on the global climate emergency.

In 2021, Reach Not Preach collaborated with the UN Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group (YAG) on Climate Change to amplify the voices of young people on climate action and bring forward youth perspectives ahead of COP26 to emphasize the need for meaningful youth inclusion in this crucial climate processes.

Reach Not Preach uses a youth-led approach where young people are presented with the flexibility and liberty to share their opinion on a platform associated with the UN and Youth2030. This approach attracts young people as they can speak freely and present their frustrations for the lack of response from institutions to their demands in an "unfiltered" and "unapologetic" language which is relatable to them. In 2021, the platform reached its 100th article milestone, featuring youth voices from all over the world and had 8,540 unique online visitors and 12,478 total site traffic. On social media, Reach Not Preach takeovers in 2021 collectively reached nearly 135,000 people, amassing more than 3,300 engagements and 300 shares.

International Youth Day: #YouthLead Innovation Festival

To mark International Youth Day, OSGEY convened the first-ever, all virtual #YouthLead Innovation Festival, welcoming thousands of young people from all across the globe. Over two days, more than 6,000 young people from around the world joined interactive discussions with more than 65 diverse speakers from 42 countries to discuss the importance of innovation and technology to achieve the SDGs and support COVID-19 recovery. The Festival itself reached more than 865,000 people via social media, including more than 20,000 engagements and nearly 1,500 shares.

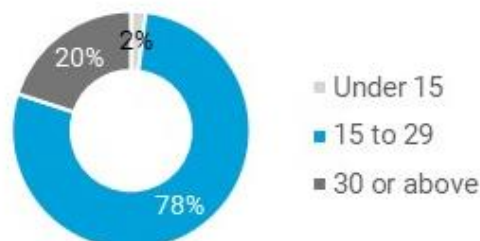
The event brought together young innovators and solution-makers together with United Nations offices, policymakers, and industry leaders for timely conversations on shaping a solutions-oriented future. The thematic sessions provided the opportunity to build partnerships, amplify youth-led solutions, host multistakeholder discussions through six key thematic areas aligned with OSGEY's work on Sustainable Development Goals: (1) health and wellbeing; (2) climate action and biodiversity; (3) economic empowerment and employment; (4) digital technology; (5) food security; and (6) education. The #YouthLead Innovation Festival was made possible through the support and participation of 17 co-organizing partners that shaped the meaningful discussions in respective thematic areas.

Event Insights from #YouthLead Innovation Festival

6000 people registered to attend from **160** countries/ areas

Most registrants (around 80%) were 15 to 29 years old. Refer to "Registrants by age group" chart for details.

Registrants by age group



The event had a total of **66** speakers from **42** countries/ areas

55% speakers engaged were women, **62%** speakers engaged were youth

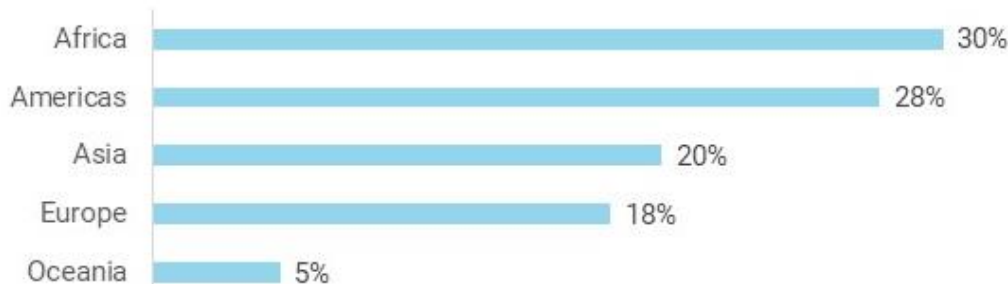
Diverse groups represented

Indigenous youth
Youth with disabilities
LGBTQI+ youth
Young refugees
Youth from conflict affected areas

Meaningfully working with youth is underlined as the foundation of Youth2030. However, recognizing that "youth" is not a homogenous group is paramount. Speakers for the event included young people in all their diversity, especially the most marginalized and vulnerable youth. Refer to "Diverse groups represented" chart for details.

Africa was the most common region (**30%**) represented by youth speakers. Refer to "Regions represented by speakers" chart for details.

Speakers by region



Countries/ Areas and corresponding geographical regions taken from <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/>

Young Leaders for the SDGs, YAG members, and many more young changemakers joined the festival as speakers and moderators of multistakeholder, intergenerational discussions.

In the lead up to the event, the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth launched a social media campaign showcasing #YouthLead solutions for the SDGs, featuring youth-led solutions nominated by UN interagency and relevant partners. In total, the campaign ran over a five-month period, reaching nearly 460,000 people via social media, including more than 15,000 engagements and more than 1,000 shares.

The Festival also marked the first time OSGEY created a dedicated TikTok Takeover campaign, inviting young people to submit their innovative solutions and ideas for a better world for a chance to be featured on the @UNYouthEnvoy TikTok page. In total, 64 videos were submitted, and 14 videos were ultimately posted to OSGEY feeds.

Engagements with the UN Youth Delegates

The Youth Delegate Programme, rooted in the General Assembly [Resolution 72/146](#), entitled "Policies and programmes involving youth" and the World Programme of Action for Youth (A/RES/50/81), is a valuable modality to meaningfully engage young people in the work of the UN, promote sustainable development, multilateralism and the values on which the UN was founded.

Throughout 2021, OSGEY and the Envoy on Youth worked with Youth Delegates at national level and in regional and thematic groups to facilitate access to speaking platforms and to support and strengthen their meaningful engagement and participation in key UN decision-making processes.

On 3 November, for the second year in a row, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth and the Ambassador of the European Union to the UN co-hosted an informal debate in the margins of the UN's Third Committee priorities for all official Youth Delegates of UN Member States. The event took place in the presence of the President of the General Assembly, the Chair of the Third Committee, the Under Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs, and the Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination. The debate was organized and moderated by current Youth Delegates. It comprised two intergenerational discussions focusing on the implementation of the proposals put forward in the Secretary General's Our Common Agenda report, as well as current mechanisms for youth participation within UN intergovernmental fora, including specifically the Youth Delegate Programme. Towards the end of the event, youth delegates presented a joint declaration outlining concrete and actionable recommendations for the UN Youth Delegate Programme and the improvement of youth engagement in general in the work of the UN.

Envoy on Youth's Engagements with Academia and Higher Education Institutions

In 2021, the Envoy on Youth engaged with academia and higher education institutions, with the aim of promoting the work of the UN with and for youth in sustainable development, peace and security, human rights, and humanitarian action, and hearing from students and teachers on their perspectives about the role of youth as agents of change.

These engagements included hosting a [lecture on youth, power, and activism](#) at the Harvard Graduate School of Education on 26 March; attending in July 2021 – together with the 2020-2021 OSGEY Fellows – a session on youth activism as part of the Yale University's Summer School program, held virtually in 2021; participating in an event organized by Kings' Politics of Cambridge University on the importance of youth activism, held on 18 October; the [Hillary Rodham Clinton Global Challenges Summit](#) with Swansea University, on 9 November; and speaking on the topic of youth and sustainable development at the [Global Classroom](#) on 7 December.

The Envoy on Youth, together with colleagues, also drafted the inaugural blog post of the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs's Multilateralism in Action, entitled ["Dear Power, Book a Ride to a More Equitable World for All Generations"](#).

Speaking Engagements of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

In the course of 2021, the Envoy on Youth participated in over 300 events, online and offline. Additionally, the Envoy conveyed pre-recorded video messages to over 100 events and social media campaigns she was unable to participate in live. These speaking engagements served as a pivotal mean to advocate for greater investment in youth empowerment and for the creation of spaces for meaningful youth participation in all programme and foundational areas of Youth2030.

In addition to events and campaigns led by OSGEY, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth participated in engagements organized by its partners, including UN Entities, Member States, academia, civil society, and especially youth focused, and youth led organizations. A central and critical part of the work of OSGEY is to strengthen and build networks and partnerships for the implementation of Youth2030 to ultimately create a world in which the human rights of every young person are realized; that ensures every young person is empowered to achieve their full potential; and that recognizes young people's agency, resilience and their positive contributions as agents of change.

The Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth is honored by every invitation to engage in discussions with and for youth, and the Office tries its best to accommodate all requests. Whenever the Envoy is personally unable to respond positively to an invitation, including with

pre-recorded video messages, the invitation is extended to other young changemakers, including but not limited to the 17 Young Leaders for the SDGs and members of the Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change.

In 2021, with the modality of speaking engagements mainly online due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth continued to engage with youth broadly. This included youth who are not members of youth organizations or networks accustomed to working with the UN. Notwithstanding systemic and structural inequalities related to online engagements, OSGEY made it its top priority to strive to connect with youth in all its diversity, applying an intersectional design to all its areas of work, including online events and campaigns. Although not always successful, the Office worked hard to connect with youth without access to the Internet, youth with disabilities, and disengaged youth, for instance.

Throughout 2021, social media remained a key tool used by OSGEY to meaningfully engage with youth worldwide, especially in the ongoing COVID-19 context. At the end of the year, nearly 530,000 people follow and engage with OSGEY over its social media channels – [Instagram](#), Twitter, [Facebook](#) and [TikTok](#) – including 74,000 followers on Instagram, 163,000 followers on Twitter and 167,000 followers on Facebook. Collectively, these numbers represent an approximately 70,000 growth over 2020. OSGEY also launched a presence on TikTok in January 2021 for the first time. Throughout the year, the office shared 80 videos on the platform, amassing more than 2,200 followers and 5,000 likes. A key communications priority in the coming year will be to continue exploring TikTok as a content sharing platform, with a particular view towards further amplifying the voices of diverse young people to reach new audiences. The TikTok Takeover during the #YouthLead Innovation Festival and the United Nations UN Unveiled Series in collaboration with UN Visitor Services are examples of successful initial collaborations that should be explored further. OSGEY also continues to engage with young people in China via Weibo, supporting the UN's main account, reaching approximately 4.46 million with over 51 thousand shares.

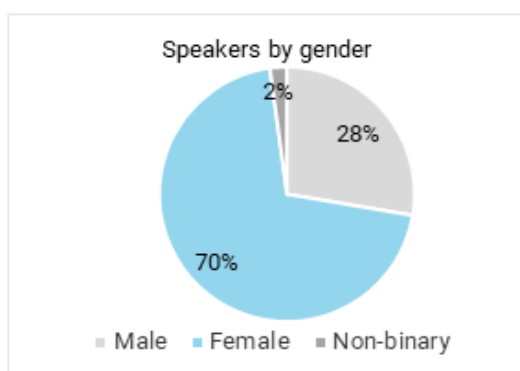
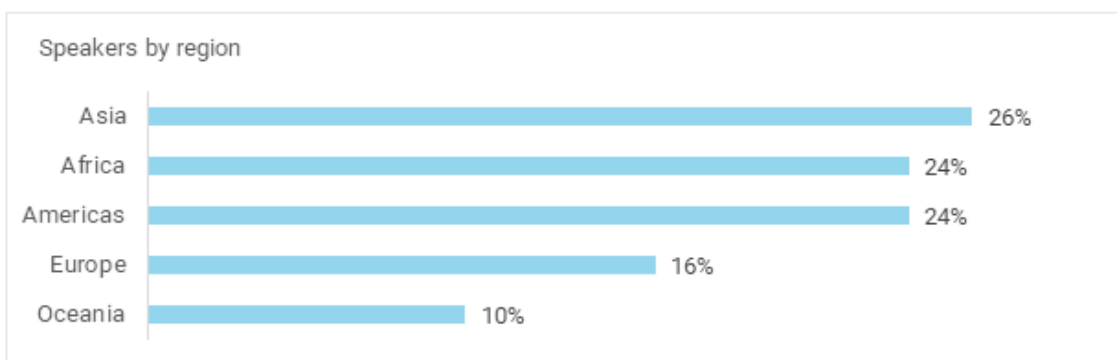
Monthly Youth Dialogues with the Deputy Secretary-General

The Virtual Youth Dialogues with the Deputy Secretary-General (DSG) is an ongoing series of monthly dialogues led by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and co-convened by OSGEY and its partners. The dialogue series serves to connect representatives of the youth population with the Deputy Secretary-General to discuss thematic issues ranging from climate action to innovation, equality, and health. The invited youth speakers are thematic experts and come from diverse backgrounds and regions. They include but are not limited to representatives from grassroots movements, international organizations, civil society, academia, and the private sector.

Insights from the Monthly Youth Dialogues with the Deputy Secretary-General

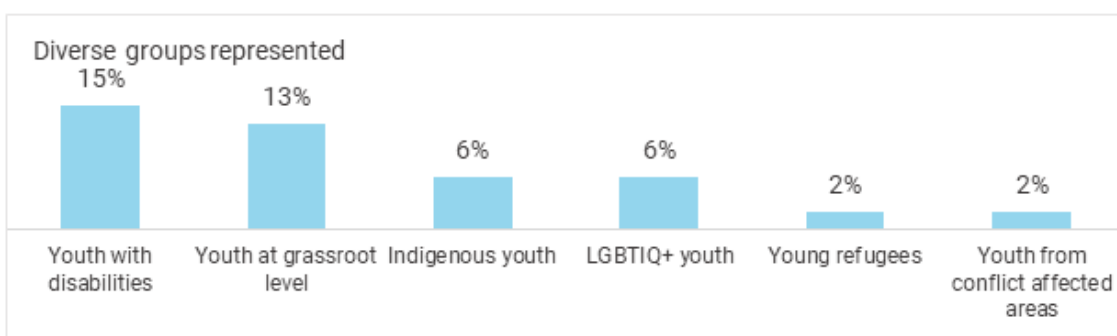
In total, **47** young people from **28** countries/ areas and all **7** official regions participated as youth speakers in this year's dialogues.

Asia (26%) was the most common region represented by youth speakers. Refer to "Speakers by region" chart for details.



Most of the youth speakers identified as **female (70%)**, the second-highest gender identity was male (28%) and then non-binary (2%) respectively. Refer to "Speakers by gender" chart.

Young speakers in the Dialogues belonged to diverse groups. Chart "Diverse groups represented" shows the 7 vulnerable and marginalized groups represented by the speakers.



Countries/ Areas and corresponding geographical regions taken from <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/>

The discussion series this year included nine dialogues covering the topics of: Food Systems, Gender Equality, Climate Change, Innovation, and Inclusion and Accessibility of Young Persons with Disabilities, and more. These events have successfully brought representatives of the youth population closer to UN leadership to share their insights and

recommendations. The Deputy Secretary-General takes these inputs forward and works to implement them into the work of the UN.

In total, 50 young people from 47 countries and all 7 official UN regions participated as youth speakers in this year's dialogues. Asia, Africa, and the Americas were the most common regions represented by youth speakers. Most of the young people identified as female, the second-highest gender identity was male and then non-binary respectively. The following diverse young groups were also represented: Girls and Young Women; Youth at the grassroots level; Youth refugees; Youth with disabilities; Indigenous youth; LGBTIQ+ Youth; and youth from conflict areas.

Priority Area 2:
Informed and Healthy Foundations –
Support young people's greater access to
quality education and health services

World Programme for Human Rights Education

In partnership with Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), OSGEY launched in 2020 the fourth phase of the [World Programme for Human Rights Education](#). The plan of action was adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council on 26 September 2019.¹⁰ Launched in 2004 by the United Nation's General Assembly, the World Programme for Human Rights Education (2005-ongoing) aims to advance the implementation of human rights education programmes in all sectors.

Building on the plans of action for the previous phases, the plan of action for the [fourth phase \(2020-2024\)](#) of the World Programme supports developing a comprehensive human rights education strategy for youth at the national level, to be adapted to national contexts. Such strategy contributes to the realization of the 2030 Agenda, particularly Goal 4 on inclusive and quality education. It is based on the understanding that human rights education empowers young people to recognize and fulfill their role as active citizens, take action and uphold their human rights, and participate accordingly in public affairs and democratic decision-making processes. In other words, human rights education is key to young people's empowerment, development, and engagement towards a peaceful, just, and sustainable world.

¹⁰ Human Rights Council resolution 42/7.

The plan of action, which benefited from the input and review of governmental and non-governmental experts and practitioners, including youth organizations and networks, identifies four components for effective human rights education for youth: 1. Policies and related implementation measures; 2. Teaching and learning processes and tools; 3. Training of educators; and 4. An enabling environment.

In 2021, OSGEY, OHCHR, and UNESCO co-organized a virtual side event of the ECOSOC Youth Forum entitled [“Youth Leading Human Rights Change Through Education: Empowered and Equal”](#). This event, conceptualized as an interactive discussion with and by youth, aimed to engage young people on the topic of human rights education, ahead of the ECOSOC Youth Forum 2021; introduce human rights and human rights education principles to youth; highlight the importance of human rights education for youth and their role, as well as global support to this end; and encourage youth engagement in human rights education, providing relevant guidance. The interactive session was co-hosted by two young human rights and social justice activists, from Georgia and Jamaica, and attended by over 80 young people.

In September, the Envoy on Youth participated in the [“High-level panel discussion on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training: good practices, challenges and the way forward”](#) in the scope of the 48th session of the Human Rights Council. In her intervention, the Envoy on Youth highlighted the fourth phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education for and with youth, as well as young people’s important role as defenders and promoters of human rights and sustainable development. The Envoy on Youth stressed the importance to involve young people as equal partners and not only beneficiaries in education policies, including human rights education. Other speakers included the President of the Human Rights Council, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNESCO’s Assistant Director-General for Education, the Minister for Education, Science and Sport of Slovenia, a young human rights educator from South Africa, and more.

On 10 December, Human Rights Day, the Envoy on Youth provided a pre-recorded video message on youth and human rights education to the kick-off event of “Human Rights Education For and By Youth: A Conversation Series With Young People Around the World”, organized by OHCHR, Amnesty International, and Soka Gakkai International, and sponsored by the Republic of Slovenia. The video message was prepared as a contribution from the Envoy on Youth to the documentary-series being prepared by the above-mentioned partners on human rights education for and by youth, which is being finalized and will be launched in 2022.

High-level Advocacy for the Education Young People Want and Need

In 2021, the Envoy on Youth prioritized high-level advocacy at the global level for the education young people want and need: quality and universal education that is gender transformative, inclusive, and based on climate action and human rights. A central part of the Envoy on Youth's advocacy concerning education and youth is that young people should be involved as equal partners in education policies, and not only beneficiaries. This includes, but is not limited to, the implementation of SDG 4 on quality education.

As part of this work, the Envoy on Youth supported the Global Partnership for Education (GPE)'s replenishing campaign, which aimed to raise 5 billion USD for education. Between April and July, the Envoy on Youth participated in a series of online events, including the [Futures Festival: #RaiseYourHand](#), a youth-led livestream on education financing, which also featured one of the Young Leaders for the SDGs, which took place on 6 May. On 19 May, the Envoy on Youth participated in the [GPE Raise Your Hand: Support Her Education](#), co-organized by GPE, the Malala Fund and the government of Germany. The event saw commitments of over 162 million euros to GPE and the girls' education accelerator and a real political momentum from leaders and youth on education. On 22 June, the Envoy on Youth joined [Raise Your Hand Live!](#) together with Jutta Urpilainen, the European Commissioner for International Partnerships, which culminated in the European Commission's announcement of their pledge to GPE. Finally, on 29 July, the Envoy on Youth participated in the [Global Education Summit: Financing GPE 2021-2025](#), where she spoke about education's impact on sustainability at the online [Ripple Effect stage](#).

Moreover, on 8 June, OSGEY supported the Power Shift event co-lead by the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) and Transform Education, a coalition of young feminist education activists, hosted by UNGEI, together with other partners. The event, conceptualized as an online protest to demand an education that shifts power - one that is gender transformative, rooted in climate action, and that engages young people as partners, was organized in the sidelines of the Group of 7 (G7) and in line with the GPE replenishing campaign. On social media, the total reach was 136,422, total engagements were 2,283, and total shares were 225.

Sustainable Development Goal 4 on Quality Education

In July 2021, the Envoy participated in the Global Education Meeting (GEM), hosted by UNESCO at the outskirts of High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2021, organized with the aim to update and track SDG 4 implementation. In her speech, the Envoy strongly supported involving young people as equal partners in SDG 4 implementation and monitoring and highlighted the 2020 Youth2030 progress report findings on education, stating that the UN is doing a lot for young people but not enough with them regarding education.

During GEM 2021, the new [Global Cooperation Mechanism for education](#) was presented and adopted. Following the Envoy's involvement in GEM 2021 and her leadership on education and youth, the Envoy received a standing invitation to join SDG4-Education2030 High-Level Steering Committee (HLSC) Leadership Group meetings.

Moreover, OSGEY closely supported UNESCO in the establishment of a first-of-its-kind [SDG4Youth Network](#), which aims to serve as a platform for young people and youth organizations to contribute to SDG 4, and ultimately support the 'youth and students' seat at the SDG4-Education2030. The terms of reference for the SDG4Youth network were drafted, with inputs from OSGEY and other partners, including youth-led and youth-serving organizations, and the application process was launched on 22 October. With over 1000 applicants, the network was established, welcoming 100 young people working on education-related matters from all regions of the world. The SDG4Youth Network is led and coordinated by UNESCO. Additionally, OSGEY nominated one of the Young Leaders for the SDGs to participate in the interim SDG4Youth Council, which will be responsible for organizing the process, together with the SDG4Youth Network, to nominate the network's representatives who will attend the SDG4-Education2030 HLSC meetings – at leadership and Sherpas levels.

With the aim of better coordinating OSGEY's partnership with UNESCO's education sector and streamline young people's participation in SDG4 implementation and monitoring, the Envoy met with UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Education in August. The meeting allowed for political and top-level alignment of priorities and set out clear action points for continued collaboration.

Futures of Education Youth Webinars Series

OSGEY partnered with UNESCO in the scope of its Future of Education initiative on a ["Futures of Education Youth Webinar Series"](#). This series aimed to address broad questions around young people's views on the possible and fundamental transformations in how societies, politics, economies and cultures may be organized in the future, and more specifically, how education systems and schooling may look like. Composed of 90-minute online sessions, each dialogue featured a Young Leader for the SDGs and a member of the [International Commission on the Futures of Education](#), as well as other educators, innovators, policymakers, and activist.

Session themes included: ["The Futures of Indigenous Education and Knowledge"](#), ["Technology and the Futures of Education"](#), ["Futures of Education for Persons with Disabilities and Neurodivergent Learners"](#), and ["Youth-led Initiatives and the Futures of Education"](#). These sessions ultimately informed the Futures of Education report entitled [Reimagining Our Futures Together](#), which was launched on 10 November.

Education Session of #YouthLead Innovation Festival

In the scope of #YouthLead Innovation Festival organized to celebrate International Youth Day 2021, OSGEY partnered with UNESCO, UNGEI, and Transform Education on the festival's education session. This session, entitled "Education Youth Want & Need" aimed to create a global convening space to showcase solutions created with and for youth, especially solutions for COVID-19 recovery and achievement of the SDGs, related SDG 4 and education. The session was conceptualized as an inclusive and constructive intergenerational and multistakeholder discussion on the education youth want and need, with a focus on relevant and transformative education, while holding decision-makers accountable for their commitments outlines in global and regional education agendas.

The discussion, which took place on 13 August, started with a young teacher and inclusive education activist from Guyana, nominated by UNGEI. It then highlighted the work of three young innovators, namely representatives of [Street2School](#), a blended online-offline community learning hub that empowers adolescents who are not in school to learn basic foundational and soft skills; [RuraTECH](#), an organization that provides learners and educators with the equipment and necessary training support to advance the progression of Science, Technology and Mathematics in Africa; and [Je Suis Montreal](#), a platform that aims to foster inclusion and human rights education.

The session closed with an intergenerational dialogue moderated by the co-chair of Transform Education, UNESCO's Director for the Division for Peace and Sustainable Development, the Director of UNGEI Secretariat, a GPE Young Leader and Purposeful Advocacy Manager, and the Inclusive Quality Education, Policy and Advocacy Lead of Plan International.

International Education Day

On 25 January, in celebration of International Day of Education held on 24 January, OSGEY, the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI), and the World Organization of the Scouts Movement (WOSM) held the virtual event "[Learning Outside the Box: Education During COVID-19](#)" – a conversation between the Envoy on Youth and young leaders from Brazil, the United Kingdom, and Zambia. The discussion highlighted the importance of gender transformative, inclusive, and universal quality education, as well as amplified the voices and work of three young education activists. The social media communication of the event led to a total reach of 74,525, total engagement of 2,069, and 146 shares.

International Teachers Day

On 5 October, World Teachers Day, OSGEY partnered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) on an [Instagram takeover](#) by a young UNRWA teacher. The takeover aimed to, simultaneously, promote the important work being carried out by UNRWA schools, as well as highlight the pivotal role of teachers by amplifying the work and experience of a young student turned teacher from an UNRWA school. The takeover led to 20,114 impressions, 596 engagements, and 38 shares on Instagram.

High-level Commission on the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 Follow-up

In September 2020, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth accepted the invitation by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to join the [High-Level Commission \(HLC\) on the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 Follow-up](#), which aims at providing guidance and political support to advocate for a meaningful follow-up to the 12 global commitments outlined in the Nairobi Statement on ICPD25. These commitments cover the key issues of sexual and reproductive health and rights, as outlined in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD); the financing of the ICPD agenda; and securing their positioning in the 2030 Agenda and the UN Decade of Action. Established as an independent advisory body, the HLC will submit an annual public report to the Executive Director of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), bringing together high-level representatives from academia, research, civil society, human rights activists, private sector, foundations, parliamentarians, former presidents, ministers and youth leaders from around the world. The HLC will ensure structured monitoring and advocate for voluntary follow-up of the commitments outlined in the Nairobi Statement on ICPD25.

In 2021, OSGEY supported and promoted [the 2nd anniversary of the Nairobi Summit](#) and launch of the first report of the High-Level Commission on ICPD25 Follow-up, [“No Exceptions, No Exclusions: Realizing sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice for all”](#).

Global Partnership Forum on CSE

Co-convened by UNESCO and UNFPA, the [Global Partnership Forum on Comprehensive Sexuality Education \(CSE\)](#) aims to advance research, promote good practice, enhance collaboration, and overcome challenges on the journey towards CSE. It provides a structured platform for intensified collaboration, the sharing of information and good practices, identifying gaps in research, enhancing youth leadership, and informing evidence-based policies and programmes. OSGEY joined the partnership in October 2021.

Health and Wellbeing Session at #YouthLead Innovation Festival

One of the key themes addressed at the #YouthLead Innovation Festival in celebration of the International Youth Day 2021 was young people's health and wellbeing. For the thematic session on this topic, OSGEY partnered with the Global Youth Mobilization and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). This session provided an opportunity to discuss the important role of young people and youth contributions to COVID-19 response and recovery. It also highlighted the impact of the global pandemic on global health, particularly towards young people, and addressed the need to invest in youth and empower young people as equal partners to create solutions for COVID-19 response and recovery in their communities.

The session started with a keynote speech by World Health Organization (WHO)'s Director General, which highlighted the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health and wellbeing. The session also highlighted the positive contribution led by young solutions makers and innovators, from the [Mualim](#) initiative that aims to support physical and psychological wellbeing of young people and address the challenges of bullying; the [Mental Health Hats](#) initiative, which works on youth-led online mental health care service; and the [Youth to Youth initiative](#) that aims to promote youth-led health services and education on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

The session was closed with a multistakeholder dialogue on youth-led COVID-19 response and recovery through engagement in non-formal education programmes, which featured the voices of young people and representatives from the Global Youth Mobilization and UNICEF.

UN Road Safety Agenda

Road traffic crashes are among the leading causes of death globally for young people aged 15 to 19. More than 1000 youth die every single day due to road traffic accidents. Despite the staggering number, young people's rights to safety and wellbeing are often overlooked. OSGEY has been a supporter of the UN Road Safety agenda, particularly in advocating for young people's rights and needs in the space, engaging with youth networks and movements in the road safety space, and supporting the work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), WHO, and Special Envoy for Road Safety.

In 2021, OSGEY supported the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) High-Level Panel for Road Safety advocacy awareness on "[My choice, my way, our lives](#)" campaign, participated in the [intergenerational dialogue](#) between youth leaders and Ministers held in the frame of the UN Global Road Safety Week, and most importantly supported the call by youth movements for meaningful engagement of youth in shaping road safety policies.

More importantly, this year also marks a milestone where young people are officially recognized in the [Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030](#) that was launched in October 2021. The Global Plan specifically highlighted the role of youth in shaping the future transport system, the need to consult youth, and the need for meaningful youth engagement. The Global Plan also strongly contributes achievement of Sustainable Development Goals as well as the Youth2030 Priority Areas on Informed and Healthy Foundations.

Priority Area 3:
Economic Empowerment through Decent Work -
Support young people's greater access to decent work
and productive employment

World Youth Skills Day

World Youth Skills Day (15 July) is an opportunity for young people, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions, and public and private sector stakeholders to acknowledge and celebrate the importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship. Every year, OSGEY co-organizes the global celebration of World Youth Skills Day.

In 2021, this celebration was shaped as a virtual panel discussion on “[Reimagining Youth Skills Post Pandemic](#)”. The event was organized by the Permanent Missions of Portugal and Sri Lanka to the United Nations, together with UNESCO, ILO and OSGEY.

World Youth Skills Day 2021 celebrated the resilience and creativity of youth through the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants took stock of how TVET systems have adapted to the pandemic and recession, thinking of how those systems can participate in the recovery, and imagine priorities they should adopt for the post-COVID-19-world. The first interactive panel discussed skills that are needed today and skills that will be needed in the future, and a second panel reflected on TVET stakeholder partnerships for scaling up youth skills development.

The event included opening remarks by the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, who also read a written statement by the UN Secretary-General and counted with the participation from the President of the 75th General Assembly, the Permanent Representatives of Sri Lanka and Portugal to the UN, the Deputy Director-General for Policy at the ILO, the Director of the Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems at UNESCO, and youth representatives.

A summary of the discussion was published on an online article drafted by UNESCO and entitled [“Resilience and Creativity: Youth’s contributions to the Post-Pandemic”](#).

Moreover, OSGEY partnered with Generation Unlimited on a youth takeover of OSGEY’s Instagram account, in the scope of World Youth Skills Day. Three young people working with Generation Unlimited in three different countries across the globe shared their experience and perspectives on “reimagining youth skills post pandemic”. The takeover accounted for a total reach of 33,137, a total of 905 engagements, and 98 total shares.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership – Generation Unlimited

[Generation Unlimited](#) (GenU) is a global multi-sector partnership to meet the urgent need for expanded education, training and employment opportunities for young people, aged 10 to 24, on an unprecedented scale. Launched at the 73rd United Nations General Assembly, in September 2018, GenU has generated interest from government and leaders from industry and other key sectors committed to cohere efforts around young people for large-scale impact.

Investment in young people through GenU contributes directly to accelerate results for the realization of the 2030 Agenda and is also an effective way to operationalize the vision and priorities of the UN system-wide youth strategy, Youth2030 – in particular, the programmatic pillars 1. youth engagement, participation and advocacy; 2. supporting young people’s greater access to quality education and skills development; and 3. economic empowerment through decent jobs. The Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth is a member of the Global Leadership Council of GenU and OSGEY actively participates in various activities of the partnership.

Notably, in 2021 the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth played a pivotal role in the establishment of a new partnership – [GenU Sahel](#). It is a joint endeavor between GenU and the Secretary General’s United Nations Special Coordinator for the Sahel, in partnership with UNICEF, which will provide 100 million Sahelian young people with skills and access to socio-economic opportunities by 2030, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, the Agenda 2063, and Youth2030. The initiative will also serve to harmonize all youth related activities across the region under the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS).

On 1 November, Africa Youth Day, the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth participated in the launch event of GenU Sahel, together with the Global Director of GenU, the Special Coordinator for the Sahel, and Sahelian youth. In her opening speech, the Envoy stressed the importance of meaningfully engaging young people in the Sahel, especially young women and girls, in all decision-making processes affecting their lives and futures.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership – Decent Jobs for Youth

OSGEY is a member of [Decent Jobs for Youth](#) - a multi-stakeholder alliance, led by ILO, which is committed to creating quality jobs for young people. Decent Jobs for Youth works to improve job prospects for young people and deliver on the 2030 Agenda. In 2020, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth contributed to the 2020 Decent Jobs for Youth impact report with an article on the role of decent jobs for youth in promoting prosperity, participation, and peace. The [2020 Decent Jobs for Youth report](#), which combines findings from 2019 to 2020, was published in 2021.

Moreover, as a member of Decent Jobs for Youth, OSGEY supported ILO with the youth consultations on the 2022 Global Employment Trends for Youth (GET Youth). The GET Youth series is a major publication of the ILO, which most recent labour market information available while also focusing on a key theme in the world of work facing young women and men. The forthcoming 2022 edition of the report will examine five “economies” with particular potential to create productive jobs for young workers: (i) green economy; (ii) blue economy; (iii) digital economy; (iv) creative economy and (v) care economy. Such an analysis is expected to be particularly relevant and topical as the COVID-19 global pandemic has disproportionately affected young workers and countries around the world are looking to foster longer-term investments in strategic sectors to drive inclusive growth and job creation.

To gather young people’s ideas, views and perspectives on specific issues to be covered in the report, ILO, with the support of OSGEY and other partners, launched online consultations with young people. The active engagement of young people from different backgrounds and different experiences around the world in the consultations aim to substantially inform and shape the GET Youth report. Five online sessions focused on the abovementioned “economies” with particular potential to create productive for young workers took place on 28 October.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership – Solutions for Youth Employment

The Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth is a steering committee member of [Solutions for Youth Employment](#) (S4YE), a multi-stakeholder coalition among public sector, private sector, civil society actors, government officials, foundations, think tanks, and young people that aims to provide leadership and resources for catalytic action to increase the number of young people engaged in productive work.

In 2021, OSGEY supported S4YE with its [Youth Advisory Group](#), by nominating young people to participate in this pivotal space. Recognizing the importance of youth voice, S4YE created the S4YE Youth Advisory Group (YAG) in 2019, with support from OSGEY and other S4YE members. It consists of 17 talented and enterprising youth from across the globe. The S4YE YAG provides input on the strategic priorities and deliverables of S4YE and the World Bank.

Based on the success of this initial Advisory Group, S4YE decided to scale up the YAG and include even more young people to ensure they have an active voice in all activities of the coalition. S4YE looked particularly for young people who have led innovative solutions or enterprises, especially in the following areas: green jobs & the circular economy; gig jobs; solutions for youth with disabilities; solutions to strengthen emotional resilience among youth; and innovative solutions in creative sectors.

Economic Empowerment and Employment Session of #YouthLead Innovation Festival

In the scope of #YouthLead Innovation Festival organized to celebrate International Youth Day 2021, OSGEY partnered with Generation Unlimited, Solutions for Youth Employment, and Decent Jobs for Youth on the “Economic Empowerment and Employment” session. This session, entitled “Promoting youth employment and economic empowerment amidst the COVID-19 pandemic” aimed to create a global convening space to showcase solutions created with and for youth, especially solutions for COVID-19 recovery and achievement of the SDGs, related to economic empowerment, employment and entrepreneurship. Conceptualized as an inclusive and constructive intergenerational and multistakeholder discussion on the crosscutting intersection between SDG implementation and COVID-19 response and recovery, innovation, and youth economic empowerment and employment, the session also aimed to provide space and platform to highlight great innovative work that all young people create as solutions makers and debunk the stigmatizing views of young people as “troublemakers”.

The discussion, which took place on 12 August, started with a keynote speech by a young female entrepreneur from Mexico, nominated by Generation Unlimited. It then highlighted the work of three young innovators, namely the founders of [Foodovation Trading as Artisanal Foods Zimbabwe](#), a food manufacturing company that specializes in the value addition of local ingredients to more functional foods and food ingredients; [Wayuuda Foundation](#), an indigenous-led endeavor that aims to strengthen access to education in Wayuu indigenous communities in La Guajira, Colombia, to increase employability and economic empowerment; and [Elpis Solar](#), which through a solar-run hardware package provides key services and opportunities, including water filtration, mobile charging, electricity, and even educational software, to residents of refugee camps.

The session closed with an intergenerational dialogue between the four above-mentioned young people and representatives from Generation Unlimited, Decent Jobs for Youth, Solutions for Youth Employment, and Microsoft Philanthropies. The session was moderated by a young entrepreneur from Senegal, nominated by Generation Unlimited.

Land-Based Jobs for Youth

In December, OSGEY supported the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and Deutsche Welle in organizing the [Land-based Jobs for Youth](#) global webinar. The webinar, which was held on 16 December engaged and motivated young people around the idea of land-based jobs to help them imagine and turn sound and durable land-use business ideas into green and profitable businesses.

Priority Area 4:

Youth and Human Rights –

***Protect and promote the rights of young people
and support their civic and political engagement***

Young People's Political Participation

A key priority area in Youth2030 is the promotion of young people's participation in political and public affairs. OSGEY strives to leverage the capacity of the UN to promote young people's right to participate in public affairs, including in political and civic processes, platforms and institutions at all levels, such as elections, constitution-making processes, political parties, and parliaments. This priority is implemented across OSGEY's work in highlighting the need for youth representation in institutions and formal processes as a prerequisite for affecting policy change on areas like climate change, gender equality, peacebuilding and so forth. Throughout OSGEY and the Envoy on Youth's advocacy towards politicians, policy developers, civil society and youth activists alike, the issue of youth participation is approached from an intersectional human rights lens, with the principle of leaving no one behind at its core, in order to highlight the discriminatory structures that prevent young people in general, but certain groups in particular, from participating in political participation making. Young people have an inalienable right to be represented when laws are adopted, budgets negotiated, and governments held to account and their exclusion from these processes undermines the valuable contributions they bring for the good of all people today and for the good of future generations.

In February, the Envoy on Youth participated in the inaugural [Denver Democracy Summit](#), part of a multi-year Democracy Initiative at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies integrating public engagement, research, and educational activities on issues of democratic governance. The Summit connected a range of citizens' democracy efforts by bringing together leaders and thinkers from politics, business, and civil society with diverse identities and viewpoints from across the political spectrum along with scholars and students from around the world. The Envoy on Youth participated in an inactive debate titled [Democracy in Action: Youth Movements for Social Change](#) alongside notable youth activists, discussing

public protests as a strategy for social change, how and whether to translate energy into legislative change, and how democracies can meet the challenges of the 21st century.

In April, the Envoy on Youth participated in the Global Youth Summit organized by the [Global Youth Mobilization for Generation Disrupted](#), an initiative of the Big Six Youth Organizations and WHO, powered by the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund and UN Foundation. A ground-breaking youth-led movement for change, the Global Youth Mobilization wanted to empower young people to take an active role in the immediate and long-term recovery from the impact of COVID-19 and ensure that the resources, recognition and support necessary to make a meaningful difference. OSGEY supported the organization of the plenary session [Achieving policy change from the inside](#), which the Envoy on Youth moderated and spoke alongside three young women including Safaath Ahmed Zahir from the Maldives, who is a former Young Leader for the SDGs. The Envoy on Youth also participated in the [closing pledging session](#) of the Summit that featured 70 hours of content and more than 200 speakers.

Later in April, the Envoy on Youth provided a [keynote presentation](#) at the [Seventh Inter Parliamentary Union \(IPU\) Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians](#), where she spoke about the importance of enhancing partnerships between parliaments and young people in the context of COVID-19 recovery, and on the same occasion joined the IPU Campaign [I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament](#). The Conference brought together 257 participants, including 128 parliamentarians (57 per cent of whom were women) from 84 countries.

In October, the Envoy on Youth gave an [address](#) at the Opening Ceremony of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's Virtual [Commonwealth Youth Parliament](#) (CYP).

Protection of Young People in Civic Space

In 2021, OSGEY continued strengthening its advocacy on protection of young people in civic space, in line with the priorities in Youth2030, as well as Youth, Peace and Security Resolutions 2250, 2419, and 2535. In May 2021, OSGEY and the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY), together with the Communications Task Force under the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security, launched a campaign to address the shrinking civic space for young people worldwide, debunk policy myths regarding protection and youth, and increase awareness among youth populations on safe participation in civic space. To ensure the success of the campaign, OSGEY also mobilized a wide network of civil society organizations and UN Entities to support the campaign. The campaign ran for six weeks, garnering a reach of nearly 300,000, including more than 9,000 engagements and 900 shares, indicating that there is interest in engaging and learning about this topic. The six-week campaign features [unique and campaign-specific visuals and messages](#) in English,

Arabic, French and Spanish, which continue to be publicly available for anyone who wants to mainstream these messages on their own channels.

The campaign led up to the launch of the [Global Report on Protecting Young People in Civic Space, "If I Disappear."](#) The report, first of its kind, presents testimonies from 500 young people with diverse backgrounds worldwide, on the types of barriers and challenges they face when they exercise their rights and act as peacebuilders, human rights defenders and community mobilizers in civic space. Recommendations and guidance for various stakeholders, including governments, intergovernmental and regional organizations, civil society and young people, are included. The report is currently available in English. The report was launched in June 2021, together with partners, during a [high-level event](#) that featured inspiring youth activists, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the former UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, 2011 Nobel Peace Laureate, the Secretary-General of Amnesty International, the European Union Commissioner for International Partnerships, Norway's Minister of International Development and the Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic. More than 1,600 people watched the event through UN Web TV and on the platform itself. The event and the report garnered a lot of interest from various partners and positive feedback, and young people's concerns on protection issues were raised as the primary theme on the international agenda in front of a large number of people for the first time. Government and political leaders also expressed their support and commitments for supporting young people whose rights and freedoms in civic space are violated.

Moving forward, OSGEY will continue to advocate for the implementation of the recommendations in the report together with partners in the Protection Working Group (PWG). The PWG was established under the Global Coalition on Youth Peace and Security in November 2019, and it is co-chaired by OSGEY together with Search For Common Ground. Through monthly meetings, the PWG aims to coordinate the efforts on protecting young people, from a YPS-lens and more broadly, among the UN system, civil society organizations and youth organizations. Currently, the PWG consists of 80 members and experts from the UN, civil society, and youth-led and youth-focused organizations. The PWG's specific aim is to globally coordinate efforts on strengthening the protection of young people active in civic spaces, who are exposed to violence and harassment due to their activism. Many individual entities within the Protection Working Group have already implemented and mainstreamed the findings of the report into their own work and continued developing initiatives to keep up the momentum on this important topic.

OSGEY and Search For Common Ground organized approximately 25 Protection Working Group meetings since November 2019, developed a two-year strategy to guide the work of the group, increased the membership to approximately 80 organizations and agencies, while continuing to increase its database of emergency funds for urgent assistance and relocation support of youth activists. Moving forward, the group will also focus on regional and country

level advocacy and implementation of the report findings, to ensure that young people and relevant stakeholders on grassroots level are aware of and can benefit from this research project.

The Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth has consistently mainstreamed the importance of protecting and supporting young people in civic space in numerous events and advocacy initiatives and will continue to promote the much-needed leadership on this issue.

Mainstreaming of Youth into Existing Human Rights Mechanisms

In 2021, OSGEY collaborated with OHCHR on several groundbreaking initiatives, that promoted meaningful inclusion of youth into existing human rights mechanisms and helped them benefit from these existing resources.

OHCHR was a quintessential partner for the first-ever Global Report on Protecting Youth in Civic Space, and served as expert advisors before, during and after the research project was finalized. The High Commissioner for Human Rights wrote the foreword for the Report and provided opening remarks at the launch of the Report, where she reminded the international community of the commitments made by the UN Secretary-General in his [Call to Action for Human Rights](#), where he called the UN system to pay more attention to the rights of young people and future generations, and pledged the UN's support to Member States for developing protection mechanisms for human rights defenders, particularly youth, women, and girls. She emphasized that a fairer, equal and just world will only be possible with the safe and meaningful participation of young people worldwide.

OSGEY has also collaborated with OHCHR's Reprisals Unit, in order to ensure that young people engaging with OSGEY for the purpose of events and other advocacy initiatives are safe while doing so. For the first time, OSGEY and OHCHR collaborated to develop individual risk analysis assessments together with young people, as well as context-specific and individually tailored protection protocols, to ensure that all precautionary measures were taken to prevent reprisals for youth's engagement with the UN. OSGEY will continue this practice in the future, as it has proven to be particularly effective in ensuring young people's safe participation.

In April 2021, OHCHR organized an [Intersessional Seminar on Youth and Human Rights](#), as per the recommendation from the Human Rights Council resolution 41/13 on youth and human rights (due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in October 2020 the Human Rights Council adopted decision 45/113 to postpone the seminar to 2021). The Seminar, first of its kind, aimed to highlight discrimination and challenges that youth in all their diversity face in the realization of their rights, explore how youth are mainstreamed across different human rights mechanisms and identify possible actions for the consideration of Member States to

improve the rights of youth. The Envoy on Youth provided opening remarks and called the Human Rights Council to consider not only possible methods of improving, but institutionalizing the participation of youth in its work in a permanent, structured and meaningful way. More specifically, the Envoy on Youth suggested that this could take various forms such as an Annual Forum, mandated by the Council (which was also recommended by the Human Rights Council report in 2018), with a clear follow-up plan and strong accountability mechanisms for the implementation of findings and recommendations put forward by youth. The Envoy on Youth hopes that these recommendations will be considered and implemented in the near future and welcomes similar initiatives such as the Intersessional Seminar to foster this implementation. The Envoy's remarks, as well as outcomes of other discussions, can be found [here](#).

OSGEY has also engaged with OHCHR in developing several smaller advocacy initiatives and collaboration opportunities throughout 2021. Such as providing input to various guidance papers, recommending diverse youth-led and youth-focused organizations for consultations with Special Procedures, as well as facilitating the amplification of youth activists on OHCHR's channels, most notably through the latest OHCHR Human Rights Champions blog series (for more information, see [here](#)).

Working Group on Hate Speech

The Working Group on Hate Speech, comprised of different UN Entities, UNCTs, peace operations and political missions, is tasked with implementing the [Secretary-General's Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech](#). In 2021, OSGEY has continued to attend the meetings and support the Working Group on Hate Speech, in order to ensure that young people are systematically included into the actions of the group. OSGEY has developed its internal Action Plan on implementing the official UN Guidance on Hate Speech, in line with its internal mandate, to continue building synergies with the group, by focusing on the three key commitments of the Strategy on hate speech:

1. Engaging with new and traditional media;
2. Engaging in advocacy;
3. Leveraging partnerships.

Moreover, OSGEY has contributed to knowledge products developed by the Working Group, including the Guidance for Gender-Based Hate Speech, to ensure that young women and girls are mainstreamed into the report.

On 26 October, the Envoy on Youth participated in the [Global Conference on Addressing Hate Speech Through Education](#), convened by the Secretary-General and co-organized by UNESCO and the United Nations Office on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect (OSAPG). In her address, the Envoy on Youth highlighted and emphasized the

critical role young people play in countering hate speech, fighting disinformation, and promoting values of peace, sustainable development, and human rights. OSGEY looks forward to continuing the collaboration with the leading social media platforms to advocate for better protection of young people online, while also promoting useful tools and distributing information for digital self-protection from hate speech and tracking personal digital footprint.

Racial Justice Initiatives

Promoting racial justice inside the UN system, as well as externally, is particularly important for the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. In 2021, OSGEY staff has contributed to several of the Task Forces of the larger UN Working Groups on Addressing Racism, by providing feedback on knowledge documents, participating in discussions and weekly meetings, and developing recommendations for improving responses to racial injustice issues at the UN. The office also actively contributed to amplifying the UN #FightRacism campaign across all social media channels. OSGEY looks forward to implementing these recommendations in 2022.

OSGEY has also supported civil society organizations in organizing discussions on this important topic in collaboration with a diverse group of young people. Most notably, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth participated in two roundtable discussions by [Equitas – International Center for Human Rights Education](#), where she discussed together with young people how youth are taking leadership and using their power to promote racial justice and reinforce inclusive, safe and connected communities. Through this session, young people were provided with access to dialogue opportunities with decision makers, they increased their capacity to articulate priorities and requests, and a space was created for sharing strategies that foster youth leadership in racial justice and measure for accountability. The Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth also stressed the importance of human rights education as a tool for promoting racial justice and encouraged everyone present to connect with international communities and initiatives to strengthen their initiatives locally, particularly through the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

Ahead of Human Rights Day and the Summit for Democracy, OSGEY supported the virtual dialogue on “[Advancing Racial Justice Through Sports Diplomacy](#)” hosted by the United States Department of State, the United States Permanent Mission to the United Nations, RISE, and Laureaus. The conversation provided an opportunity to discuss the realities of systemic racism in sports the intersectional challenges faced by women, LGBTQI+ persons, and persons with disabilities, and the ways athletes can use their platform to speak up on racial injustice.

Working Group on the Call to Action for Human Rights

In his [Call to Action for Human Rights](#), the Secretary-General commits to developing an agenda for protection for the UN system, underpinned by a common understanding of protection's centrality, based on full respect of human rights law, international humanitarian law, and refugee law. OSGEY is a member of the Working Group on the Call to Action for Human Rights, structured under the following seven thematic pillars: 1. Sustainable Development; 2. Times of Crisis; 3. Gender Equality; 4. Civic Space; 5. Climate Justice; 6. Collective Action; and 7. New Frontiers. OSGEY actively participates in four of the seven thematic pillars.

As part of the Task Team on the UN Guidance Note on the Protection and Promotion of Civic Space, led by OHCHR, as well as the Task Team that promotes the implementation of the Secretary-General's Agenda for Protection, OSGEY continues to support the groups by contributing to knowledge products and regularly attending meetings, to ensure that young people are systematically mainstreamed into the activities of these groups.

OSGEY also participates in the Working Group on the Rights of Future Generations and Climate Justice. This year, the Working Group led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), launched STEP UP, a joint commitment by Heads of United Nations Entities as a response to Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights to promote the right of children, youth and future generations to a healthy environment and their meaningful participation in decision-making at all levels, in relation to climate action and climate justice. Additionally, along with the members of Working Group, OSGEY also supported and signed the [joint statement of United Nations entities on the right to healthy environment](#). The joint statement was presented in the 46th session of Human Rights Council by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on behalf of 15 UN Entities. Following up to the joint statement delivery, the UN Human Rights Council then [adopted a resolution on the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment during](#) its 48th regular session. The resolution is the first formal recognition of this right at the global level.

In addition to this, OSGEY also takes part in the Working Group for New Frontiers and Digital Technology, which aims to develop UN system-wide internal human rights due diligence guide for the use of digital technologies. The internal guidance developed by the Working Group will serve as a model for other organizations and for Member States and is currently in its development process. In February 2021, the Working Group also launched the [Human Rights Digital Hub](#), an initiative the OSGEY supported in creating, that aims to be a one-stop-digital-shop for resources on human rights in the digital age. The Digital Hub, hosted under OHCHR, was presented to Member States briefing in the 46th session of Human Rights Council.

Collaborations with the UN Special Procedures

In 2021, the Envoy on Youth continued her collaboration with the UN Special Rapporteurs, which began in 2020 with the first ever [Joint Statement](#) between the Envoy on Youth and Special Rapporteurs in response to violent escalations during youth-led protests around the world.

Following up on this initiative, the Envoy on Youth had bilateral meetings with the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association and the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Freedom of Opinion and Expression, to discuss potential opportunities for collaboration that would ensure more systematic youth inclusion into UN's Special Procedures. At OSGEY's invitation, the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association provided remarks during one of the sessions at the ECOSOC Youth Forum, where he noted the importance of promoting transparent and inclusive consultation with diverse youth groups, in the process of achieving the SDGs. Moreover, he noted the importance of engaging with Governments to account for lack of meaningful inclusion of vulnerable youth groups in their consultations, and/or violating young people's right to peaceful assembly and of association. The Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth participated in the launch of the report on [Exercise of the Right to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association as Essential for Advancing Climate Justice\(A/76/222\)](#). The report documented the experiences of climate activists, particularly youth climate activists, when exercising their civil rights and freedoms, and presented a way forward for providing better support to these young people. OSGEY has also collaborated with the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders on protection and support of young human rights defenders, by providing information to young people about this mandate and directing youth cases to the mandate, when appropriate. The Envoy on Youth also welcomes excellent collaboration with the Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, who has provided support before and during the implementation of the first-ever Queer Youth Dialogues, which will be covered in detail below.

Moving forward, OSGEY will continue to provide the important connections between young people in civic space and the UN Special Rapporteurs when needed and continues to raise awareness about the mechanisms that are available to young people in need of support.

Envoy on Youth's Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Envoy on Youth, in coordination with the Resident Coordinator's Office and the UNCT, visited Bosnia and Herzegovina in November 2021 to promote the role of young agents of change for trust-building and reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Western Balkans region. The visit also highlighted the UNCT's programmes in support of youth and social cohesion.

This mission was in line with the approved Executive Committee High-Level Engagement Strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The visit emphasized the implementation of Youth2030, which provides a framework for the UN system work with and for youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The UNCT discussed with the Envoy the progress made so far based on the first reporting through the Youth2030 UNCT Scorecard and explored opportunities for strengthening UNCTs efforts on youth alongside other international partners present in the country, including but not limited to the European Union and the Council of Europe.

The Envoy met with national counterparts, government representatives, and young people with an aim to contribute to the joint efforts of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the UNCT in catalyzing youth development within the framework of the 2030 Agenda by sharing and exploring ways to further mobilize support for the empowerment of young people of Bosnia and Herzegovina and recognize their invaluable contribution as agents of change for trust-building and reconciliation.

International Human Rights Day

The [“Our Common Agenda”](#) report that was recently launched by the UN Secretary-General highlights the need to consider the possibility of updating application of human rights frameworks to address frontier issues and prevent harms in the digital spaces. Young people are known as digital natives and online activism is one of the key modalities that young people have been utilizing to stand up for the future that we all deserve. However, the civic space is filled with severe difficulties for young people to navigate: on the one hand, the intensified and multi-dimensional crises are calling on more young people to join movements for change; on the other, the violence and mental health issues that often accompany such engagements, especially for youth from marginalized groups, risk [reducing young people’s desire and ability to take action](#). It is on this background that OSGEY decided to host an interactive discussion, to commemorate International Human Rights Day in partnership with UN Global Pulse, OHCHR and the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Technology. This event set out to facilitate a timely conversation for young people, led by young people and technology experts, to rethink our approaches for activism. This discussion aimed to equip young people with useful, applicable information about engaging in strategic online activism to address global crises, in a safe and meaningful way.

Four inspiring speakers from Colombia, Malaysia, Nigeria and Palestine participated in a panel discussion moderated by Ms. Yu Ping Chan, the leader of Digital Collaboration at the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Technology. The first-ever hip-hop band led by young Roma women provided a closing musical performance, as well as video remarks where they shared why they use art and technology to advocate for gender equality and the equality of Roma minorities. Based on the outcomes of the discussion and the speakers’

recommendations, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth will publish a blog post, which will be translated to Arabic, French and Spanish, to call on stakeholders to provide young people with the necessary financial, social and political support to promote human rights through technology, innovation and art in their communities.

The Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth welcomes this multi-stakeholder collaboration and looks forward to continuing conversations on the timely topic of young people's efforts to innovate the human rights agenda worldwide.

Insights from Interactive Online Discussion to Mark International Human Rights Day

300 people from **77** countries/ areas registered to attend the online event

5 people from **5** countries/ areas spoke at the online event

4 out of **5** of the speakers were **young people** & **3** out of **5** speakers were **women**

Countries/ Areas and corresponding geographical regions taken from <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/>

Human Rights of LGBTIQ+ Youth

Young lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer (LGBTIQ+) people, are among the most vulnerable and marginalized in many societies, experiencing discrimination that negatively impacts all aspects of their lives. Due to societies' heteronormative and cisgender expectations, LGBTIQ+ youth experience abuse at home and elsewhere; offensive stereotyping and widespread discrimination, including in educational and health care settings; and lack adequate legal protection to combat denial of basic human rights. In addition, they are largely excluded from participating in decision-making processes that affect their lives. Concerted advocacy efforts are also challenged by a loosely organized youth civil society, suffering from a lack of resources and capacity. Despite this, LGBTIQ+ Youth bravely organize, engage, and activate across geopolitical divides with the shared ambition of improving protection, recognition, and support for global LGBTIQ+ movements. Recognizing the pertinent need to find ways to protect and meaningfully include young LGBTIQ+ advocates, who are disproportionately affected by the pandemic, OSGEY has increased the work on LGBTIQ+ youth rights in 2021, approaching the 'new normal' arising from global responses to COVID-19 as an opportunity to do better and answer the repeated calls from LGBTIQ+ youth around the world, who demand fundamental and sustainable change, leaving no one behind.

- ***Event on LGBTIQ+ Youth Rights on the sidelines of the Intersessional Seminar on Youth and Human Rights***

In relation to the Intersessional Seminar on Youth and Human Rights, mandated by resolution 41/13 and convened by the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights on 12 April 2021, OSGEY supported a virtual side event on LGBTIQ+ Youth Human Rights: the role of UN Human Rights mechanisms. In the spirit of youth-leadership the event was organized by the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) World, African Queer Youth Initiative, Youth Voices Count and the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer & Intersex Youth and Student Organisation (IGLYO), and co-sponsored by OSGEY, UNFPA, OHCHR and the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations in Geneva. Seeking connection, inspiration and ambition to move forward, paving the way for a more meaningful inclusion and participation of young LGBTIQ+ people in the UN space, the event provided a platform for young people to share about the obstacles they face and have overcome in their advocacy efforts, especially within and in relation to the Geneva-based human rights mechanisms.

- ***The Queer Youth Dialogues***

In 2021, OSGEY in partnership with the UN Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (IE SOGI), ILGA World and the Global Queer Youth Network ([GOYN](#)) initiated a new initiative, known as the [Queer Youth Dialogues](#), aiming to achieve a stronger and more powerful LGBTIQ+ youth civil society, able to realize legislative, cultural and behavioral change that advances their rights and freedom.

The Queer Youth Dialogues constitute a year-long initiative with the aim of building a stronger global youth movement for LGBTIQ+ human rights, with more resources, support and power and was launched on the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) on 17 May 2021.

The Dialogues bring together key actors, including young LGBTIQ+ people, activists, and civil society organizations alongside UN Entities and Member States. In support of Youth2030, the initiative seeks to enhance and promote the human rights of LGBTIQ+ youth and strengthen structures for their meaningful participation. For that, four high-level intergenerational dialogues led by OSGEY took place between July and December, focusing on different and intersecting themes, such as [meaningful participation at the UN](#); [Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights](#); [intersections between the LGBTIQ+, Peacebuilding and Climate Justice youth movements](#); [the participation of young LGBTIQ+ people in formal politics](#). The dialogues have featured 18 young LGBTIQ+ speakers from all continents, who have engaged with senior leadership and colleagues from UN Habitat, UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women, UNESCO, and the Peacebuilding Support Office of the United Nations Department of

Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (PBSO/DPPA). In the spirit of maintaining a truly collaborative and intersectional focus, the Dialogues have furthermore benefited from the support of key civil society partners such as SheDecides, CHOICE for Youth, the Secretary General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change, the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security and the Global Equality Caucus. The sessions have featured a live audience of over two hundred people and have all been simultaneously translated into French and Spanish, including communication access real-time translation (CART) to increase accessibility for more diverse youth audiences. Furthermore, the sessions have all been recorded and shared via email lists and in closed chat groups to reach a wider audience.

Thus far, the Queer Youth Dialogues have reached nearly 272,000 people via the collective social media channels of the organizing partners, including nearly 8,000 engagements and more than 500 shares. Several additional communications activations are planned together with partners for the remaining duration of the Dialogues in early 2022.

Looking ahead, the initiative will still hold another four high-level political sessions in the first semester of 2022, including a hybrid event on IDAHOBIT, marking the end of the initiative and the launch of an outcome report.

An additional objective of the Queer Youth Dialogues includes the establishment of a global infrastructure supporting young LGBTIQ+ activists and youth-led networks. This has been happening through the work of the [Global Queer Youth Network](#), established in the Spring of 2021 with the support of ILGA World's Youth Steering Committee. The Global Queer Youth Network is a global initiative which aims to create, facilitate, and maintain a global network of member organisations whose mandate is to further the rights, protections, and societal acceptance of LGBTIQ+ Young People. The Global Queer Youth Network strengthens partnerships through resource development, facilitation of global communication on the status of LGBTIQ+ youth rights, and the implementation of programming that raises the capacity of LGBTIQ+ youth organisations and activists. All activities and interventions of the Global Queer Youth Network bring queer youth issues to the forefront.

In 2021 OSGEY has supported the Global Queer Youth Network with a [series of events](#) such as a [Creative Celebration session](#), [virtual trainings on fundraising](#), a panel discussion on the [Outright Summit](#), called "*The Road to Equality is not Straight: Meaningful Action for LGBTIQ+ Youth*" and a [capacity building series on Digital Security](#) developed and facilitated in collaboration with industry experts.

[Participation in the Copenhagen 2021 Global Pride Human Rights Conference](#)

In May, the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth embarked on her first mission of the year to participate in the [Copenhagen 2021 Human Rights Forum](#) happening in conjunction with the

[World Pride and EuroGames](#). The mission provided an opportunity to engage in discussion with Government representatives, youth delegates, LGBTIQ+ youth activists, networks and organizations from all over the world to discuss strategies for amplifying the voices of young queer activists, highlighting their challenges and facilitating their meaningful participation in decision making processes. The Envoy on Youth spoke at the [opening](#) of the Human Rights Conference hosted by the UN City along with the Danish Minister of Development Cooperation, the Crown Princess of Denmark, the Executive Director of UNFPA, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UNDP Assistant Administrator and the Independent Expert of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. Amongst her many engagements of the mission, the Envoy on Youth furthermore provided a keynote speech at the Human Rights Conference on youth LGBTIQ+ rights and participated in a panel discussion with all the Ministers for Gender Equality from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland, which evolved around the well-being of LGBTIQ+ youth particularly in health and educational settings.

Free & Equal Campaign

To focus on the ways young lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) people are changing the world for the better and leading us all into a fearless future where all young people are safe, loved and empowered to thrive, OSGEY partnered with UN Free & Equal to launch the Fearless Future: LGBTIQ+ #YouthLead campaign. The campaign launched ahead of the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (17 May) and ran until International Youth Day (12 August), with an interim milestone to mark the Stonewall Anniversary (28 June) which is celebrated and coincides with Pride month in many countries.

The campaign was built on a foundational understanding that young LGBTIQ+ people, including youth who are questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity or are perceived as LGBTIQ+, are more likely to experience family rejection, homelessness, poor physical and mental health outcomes, cyber bullying, bullying, and other forms of violence – based on their age as well as their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics. Young LGBTIQ+ people, particularly transgender youth, are also at higher risk of suicide compared to their peers. Intersex children are often subjected to medically unnecessary operations causing them lifelong pain and trauma. For young LGBTIQ+ people who also face discrimination based on their race, ethnicity, age, gender, disabilities, religion or other characteristics, the situation is even more precarious.

With this context in mind, the campaign called on parents, family, teachers and young people to support LGBTIQ+ youth's work to change the world into a safer and more inclusive and welcoming place. It also called on governments and decision-makers to address the root causes of discrimination, violence and exclusion against LGBTIQ+ youth through adequate laws and policies.

The campaign featured more than 30 total unique assets (including two custom videos and a series of GIFs), which were all translated into Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish and Portuguese. In aggregate, the campaign achieved a total engagement level of 4.25 million, amassing over 7.75 million videos views and an additional 13.4 million media views across all social media channels.

The campaign also culminated in the launch of a dedicated microsite (www.unfe.org/youthlead) featuring specific actions for allies and Government stakeholders to take in support of LGBTIQ+ youth around the world.

Youth & Disability Inclusion

Accessibility is a precondition for the full realization of the rights and inclusion of young persons with disabilities, one of the most marginalized youth groups. Supporting and promoting an inclusive environment and processes is intrinsic to enable meaningful participation of young people in all their diversity. Yet, youth programs seldom address issues of young persons with disabilities, much less include them into activities. Mainstreaming the rights of young persons with disabilities within ambit of the Youth2030 is the first step towards access, representation and influence of youth with disabilities in decision making processes at the UN and beyond.

OSGEY is striving to make a disability inclusive and youth inclusive plan for achieving the 2030 Agenda, which is also central to the UN mandate of leaving no one behind. This work is backstopped by the UN Secretary-General system policy, action plan and accountability framework to strengthen system-wide accessibility and mainstreaming of the rights of persons with disabilities, the [United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy \(UNDIS\)](#).

Mainstreaming disability and youth inclusion would involve inclusion of young persons with disabilities in all aspects of OSGEY programming. Including, but not limited to, making all virtual meetings and events accessible to young persons with disabilities. As meetings and events continue to take place in virtual spaces as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, OSGEY strives to embed accessibility at the planning and conception stages.

In that regard, OSGEY invested in the accessibility of its 2021 online events, including but not limited to providing international sign language interpretation and CART to the ECOSOC Youth Forum 2021 and the #YouthLead Innovation Festival, marking International Youth Day 2021.

Furthermore, working with the disability portfolio in an intersectional manner remains a priority. As such, young people with disabilities have been included and featured as speakers

in events on various topics in 2021, one example being the official launch of the Guidelines for Working with and for Young People in Humanitarian and Protracted Crises.

OSGEY also facilitated the participation of young people in the 14th Conference of State Parties (COSP) to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in June 2021 and co-organized a High-level side event "[Towards Meaningful Inclusion: Participation of Young Persons with Disabilities From Commitment to Call to Action and Compliance](#)", in which the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth provided opening remarks. On this occasion a [Call to Action](#) was launched, building on the outcomes of a global youth consultation in 2020 organized by the OSGEY, supported by the Permanent Mission of Finland to the UN and in collaboration with OHCHR, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), WHO. The Call to Action outlines concrete actions within four priority areas: establishing inclusive platforms within the UN system; addressing gaps in engagement of young people with disabilities in the broader youth rights and disability agenda; recognizing the intersectionality and leadership of the most marginalized young persons with disabilities; and involving young people with disabilities as equal partners to realize systemic change.

In October 2021, OSGEY and UNFPA co-convened a youth dialogue with the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, focused on young persons with disabilities. The conversation was centered around the rights of young persons with disabilities and featured six youth speakers from the Global Network of Young Persons with Disabilities, co-founded by OSGEY in 2020, who spoke on issues such as discrimination, inequality, and recognition. Both the Chief of the Gender and Human Rights Branch of UNFPA, Nafissatou Diop, and the Under Secretary-General on Policy, Ana Maria Menendez, participated in this discussion alongside the Deputy Secretary-General. A total of 30 members of the Global Network for Young Persons with Disabilities joined the closed event in the audience. This important conversation served as an opportunity for young persons with disabilities to share their views and ideas on how the UN can better work for and with young persons with disabilities moving forward.

Indigenous Youth

With the aim of leaving no youth behind, OSGEY prioritizes amplifying the voices, work, and solutions of young people across the globe, with a special focus on young persons from marginalized and vulnerable communities. With that in mind, OSGEY spotlighted indigenous youth across sustainable development, peace and security, human rights, and humanitarian action. This included, but was not limited to, indigenous youth participating in events organized by the Office throughout 2021.

For example, three indigenous young people spoke at the plenary sessions of the ECOSOC 2021 and were later spotlighted on OSGEY'S website and social media. Another example,

was the session on [indigenous youth, education, and knowledge](#) organized in the scope of the Futures of Education webinars with and for youth, together with UNESCO.

To mark World Indigenous Day 2021, on 9 August, OSGEY partnered with the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus and the Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change to highlight the work of indigenous youth who are leading the way in fighting for a more sustainable future for all and implementing the SDGs in their communities. The article entitled "[Meet 13 Young Indigenous Rights Activists](#)" was also shared across OSGEY's social media channels.

During the [#YouthLead Innovation Festival](#), the festival presented an opportunity for young people to showcase innovative youth-led solutions for the achievement of the SDGs and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. It brought young innovators and solutions makers together with UN offices, policymakers, and industry leaders. Indigenous youth, coming from diverse parts of the world, presented solutions, and engaged in multistakeholder dialogues at the Food Security, Climate, and Employment and Economic Empowerment sessions.

Priority Area 5:

Peace and Resilience Building –

Support young people as catalysts for

Peace and Security & Humanitarian Action

Youth Peace and Security

UN Security Council Resolutions [2250](#), [2419](#), and [2535](#) on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) all refer to the mandate of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth while providing a normative foundation for OSGEY's work on Youth, Peace, and Security. The most recently adopted resolution on Youth, Peace and Security (2535) also encourages OSGEY "to *promote coordination and coherence of youth, peace and security activities across the UN-system while tracking implementation of this resolution as well as resolutions 2250 and 2419.*"^[1]

OSGEY implements the YPS-agenda through various advocacy initiatives while coordinating and partnering with the UN-system, its Member States and Civil Society Organizations including youth-led and youth-serving organizations.

- ***Strengthening Coordination and Advocacy on the YPS Agenda***

In 2021, OSGEY has continued to develop a more holistic approach to youth, peace, and security efforts by building on synergies between the YPS agenda and cross cutting issues such as climate, human rights, and sustainable development. A key priority for OSGEY has been working closely with UNFPA and PBSO in strengthening the coordination and advocacy efforts on the YPS agenda across the UN-system. A specific focus has been on mobilizing the resources and coordinating the development of four knowledge products in partnership with UN, civil society organizations, and youth partners.

These knowledge products have included:

- i. the [first global report on protecting young people in civic spaces](#) (please see priority area 4 human rights for more information);
- ii. a mapping study on the UN Peacekeeping Operations engagement on the YPS agenda;
- iii. a guide for Member States on operationalizing the YPS agenda at country-level;
- iv. a 5-year Strategy on Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes.

- ***Mapping study on the UN Peacekeeping Operations engagement on the YPS Agenda***

In 2021, OSGEY in partnership with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPO) rolled out the first ever mapping study aiming to collect information of the UN Peacekeeping Operations (PKOs) efforts to engage with young people and implement the YPS agenda. The study also aims to map PKOs efforts on the protection of young people within their activities.

The study was conducted by an independent researcher who interviewed staff members from 10 PKOs as well as several young people. In addition, evidence base for the study was collected through a survey that was shared with DPO and PKO staff members with a response rate close to 130. The study provides overall recommendations on how to further enhance the implementation of the YPS agenda in partnership with young people and is aimed to be finalized in 2022.

- ***Key outputs for the Global Conference on Youth Inclusive Peace Processes***

In preparation for the upcoming global high-level conference on Youth Inclusive Peace Processes, OSGEY has coordinated the development of the two key outputs through a participatory process engaging stakeholders from youth organizations, civil society organizations, Member States, regional bodies, and the UN system.

These outputs to be launched at the high-level conference on youth inclusive peace processes include:

- 1.1. A high-level joint statement between the co-hosting countries: State of Qatar, and Governments of Finland and Colombia to advance country-level operationalization of the YPS agenda based on specific contexts;

1.2. Launch of a Guide in support of country-level operationalization of the YPS agenda;

2. A five-year strategy on strengthening youth-inclusive peace processes building on recommendations from the *We Are Here* Policy Paper, including the pilot projects undertaken in countries to create youth mediation networks.

Output 1.1 - Joint Statement to advance country-level operationalization of the YPS agenda based on specific contexts

The three co-sponsoring countries will share a joint statement to reinforce their commitment to the important and positive contribution of youth in efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, as enshrined in UN Security Council Resolutions 2250 (2015), 2419 (2019), 2535 (2020) on Youth, Peace, and Security.

Output 1.2 - Implementing the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda at country-level: *A guide for public officials*

This guide is designed to facilitate young people's meaningful contribution to peace and security at country-level, providing insights and practical tools to support government actions and shifts in public policy to make this possible. It is developed for public officials working at various levels of government in management and coordination roles, who are responsible for, or interested in, implementing the YPS agenda at the country level. The guide is organized into six chapters where each chapter addresses the key elements mentioned in paragraph 14 of UN Security Council Resolution 2535.

The guide was developed through a participatory process, including a review of existing documentation, mapping of 245 practices, and multi-stakeholder consultations engaging a total of 35 Member States, 4 regional organizations, 7 UN entities, and 49 civil society organizations of which 40 are youth-led. The document will be accompanied by an online overview of examples of implementation efforts of the YPS agenda across diverse contexts. The project was coordinated by OSGEY in partnership with the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA), UNFPA, UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs – Peacebuilding Support Office (DPPA/PBSO), the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY) and Search for Common Ground. The guide has been informed by the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace, and Security, and reflects inputs from its members.

Output 2 – Operationalizing a five-year strategy for youth-inclusive peace processes

This document presents a strategic action plan to move from youth-inclusive norms towards youth-inclusive practices in designing and implementing peace processes. The strategy is intended to promote a holistic, long-term, gender-responsive, intergenerational, and integrated strategy that legitimizes and realizes the meaningful participation of youth in peace processes, and strengthens the mechanisms, tools, and partnerships to create a

conducive environment to do so. It is built on four interdependent streams, which are: institutionalization and policy, capacity strengthening, knowledge solutions, and collaborative partnerships.

This document was produced through the support and guidance of multiple expert consultations that focused on the changing landscape of conflict and reimagining peace processes over the next five years. Over 90 consultations were completed with mediation experts, young leaders, youth organizations, regional and multilateral mediation support units, UN Special Envoys, and gender experts. The strategy was coordinated by a core team: OSGEY, Search for Common Ground, and the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs' Mediation Support Unit and guided by a Steering Group, consisting of 37 members representing mediation support units, multilateral actors, civil society and youth organisations.

- ***High-Level Global Conference on Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes***

To celebrate and acknowledge the powerful role that young people play in building and sustaining peace, the Global Conference builds on the progress made since the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security in 2015 and on the International Symposium on Youth Participation in Peace Processes, held in Helsinki, Finland, in 2019. The Global Conference was initially planned for 2020 but deferred to be hosted virtually in January 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It sets out to become a turning point for the Youth, Peace, and Security agenda by generating political commitments at the global, regional, and national levels and strengthening buy-in for the stronger enabling and sustainable environment for youth-inclusive peace processes. The Global Conference also aims to report progress at the country-level, where young people have been constructively contributing to formal and informal peace processes.

As a next step to the International Symposium on Youth Participation in Peace Processes, the Global Conference aims to showcase progress on implementing the key recommendations of the Global Policy Paper [WE ARE HERE: An Integrated Approach to Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes](#). The policy paper WE ARE HERE was developed in conjunction with the various partners present at the International Symposium. Building on these continuing efforts by young people who strive to influence peace processes in their respective countries, the Global Conference also aims to strengthen political will and commitment towards including youth in all peace processes.

The programme will be structured across the following five themes, namely:

- **Youth, Peace & Security in today's world** - The world has changed rapidly since the adoption of UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security nearly six years ago. How can we tap into the transformational potential of the YPS agenda to address

contemporary challenges relating to climate-driven conflict, the COVID-19 pandemic, increased global push-back against the rights of women and girls and digital technologies, including the gendered implications of these challenges?

- **Moving beyond words** - How far have we come in translating the three YPS resolutions into reality, including for young women? Action-oriented discussions will center on country-level operationalization, regional cooperation, and resourcing of the YPS agenda from gender-sensitive perspectives.
- **Inclusive peace processes** - As a next step to the 2019 International Symposium on Youth Participation in Peace Processes, sessions under this theme aim to showcase progress on implementing the key recommendations of the Global Policy Paper 'WE ARE HERE: An Integrated Approach to Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes'. The inclusion of young women who face distinct challenges based on their gender will be discussed.
- **Inter-generational trust** - With global youth protests and an erosion of trust in institutions, there is a strong need to have a constructive conversation about youth at the interface of state-society relations. This theme will explore how we can build cross-generational solidarity and a new social contract, as called for in "Our Common Agenda" by the UN Secretary-General. Specific attention will be given to the security dimensions of the YPS agenda, as well as the gendered implications of young people's political and civic engagement.
- **Youth in their diversity** - There are unique dimensions to being young that often lead to distinct challenges, needs and opportunities based on gender identity, sexual orientation, race, religion, ethnicity, different abilities, socio-economic position among other factors. Additionally, opportunities provided by the YPS agenda in creating more equal societies by opening avenues for the participation of marginalized youth, including LGBTIQ+ youth, young refugees and IDPs, and youth with disabilities will be discussed specifically under this theme.

The Global Conference aims to bring together over 500 actors ranging from member state representatives to civil society, UN, and youth participants. It will be co-hosted by the State of Qatar, the Governments Finland and Colombia, and co-organized by OSGEY, and Search for Common Ground, in partnership with the DPPA, UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, Education Above All, and UNOY.

- ***Preparatory Meeting for the High-Level Global Conference on Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes***

On 1 and 2 December, the Government of Colombia hosted a Technical-level Preparatory Meeting in preparation for the upcoming Global Conference on Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes together with State of Qatar and Finland, and co-organized with civil society organizations and UN partners. The meeting was held virtually to gather technical-level experts from fifty Member States to jointly prepare for the High-Level Global Conference. Guest speakers from civil society, in particular young peacebuilders from Afghanistan, Nigeria and Yemen, and from Member States and UN Entities provided inputs to the sessions. Drafts of the key outputs of the Doha conference were also presented for validation.

- ***Strengthening synergies between YPS and cross cutting issues***

To strengthen the synergies between Youth, Peace and Security and Climate, OSGEY partnered with the International Peace Institute (IPI) in 2020 to develop a road map aiming to strengthen these interlinkages. In 2021, OSGEY continued to support IPI with rolling out the roadmap, actions included collaborating on organizing a peer-to-peer workshop for young people from the YPS and Climate communities to connect, as well as supporting IPI with the development of the first ever [policy brief](#) on the synergies between YPS and Climate. The policy brief was published at a high-level launch event in April. OSGEY also continued to support youth briefers who were invited to the UN Security Council's briefings such as the open debate on climate hosted by UK in February.

To further build the synergies between disarmament and sustainable development, OSGEY in partnership with Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) organized a workshop for young people. The aim was to bring together the 20-youth from OSGEY's Young Leaders on SDGs programme and young peacebuilders from the United Network of Young Peacebuilders. The workshop was followed up with a joint article published in iSeek, which is an online resource for UN staff. Moreover, to continue building the collaboration between UNODA and OSGEY, the Envoy on Youth participated in the "What If Speterra" event organized by UNODA. The event aimed to shed light on "What if more resources were spent on peace and less on arms".

- ***Campaigns and advocacy initiatives on Youth, Peace, and Security***

In 2021, OSGEY's advocacy efforts on the YPS agenda included providing support to two campaigns, various advocacy initiatives such as high-level events, and 17 video messages. To celebrate the 1st anniversary of the UN Security Council resolution 2535 on Youth, Peace and Security, OSGEY supported the roll out of an advocacy campaign #Acton2535. The aim of the campaign was to raise awareness and advocate for key commitments on implementing the resolution 2535 where especially UN leaders, and Member States representatives as well as young people were challenged to post pictures of themselves

describing concrete commitments on further operationalizing the YPS agenda. The campaign ran during the July month of 2021.

In addition, OSGEY supported the Department of Peacekeeping Operations with advocating for the International Peacekeeping Day campaign which focused on YPS and young peacekeepers. The campaign ran during the month of May, during which time OSGEY actively amplified across all social media channels.

- ***International Year of Peace and Trust***

The United Nations declared 2021 the International Year of Peace and Trust (IYPT) to reaffirm the UN's role to settle disputes peacefully (as marked by the [United Nations General Assembly Resolution 73/338](#))

To join the UN-system in its advocacy for the International Year of Peace and Trust, the Envoy on Youth participated in several events organized by UN's Member States such as the Youth Forum on Peace and Trust celebrating the International Year of Peace and Trust hosted by the Minister of Sport and Youth Policy of Turkmenistan, and the high-level event on the culture of peace hosted by the Government of Bangladesh during the General Assembly in September 2021. In addition, this message was continuously carried throughout the Envoy's country missions, most notably the recent one in Bosnia and Herzegovina in support of UN's High-level engagement strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- ***International Day of Peace***

To mark the International Day of Peace on 28 September, a video message was shared by the Secretary-Generals Envoy on Youth. The message aimed to inspire young people to think about what peace means to them and what concrete actions they are taking to build a more sustainable and peaceful world.

In addition, to spread the messaging of youth inclusive peacebuilding, OSGEY and the UN System Staff College co-drafted an article in partnership with young peace builders. The article titled "[the Centrality of Youth Inclusive Peace Processes](#)" was published by the UN Chronicle on the International Day on Peace and translated to all 6 UN languages.

- ***6th Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda***

Virtual Panel Discussion and International Launch of Finland's first National Action Plan on UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security

To celebrate the 6th anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth joined a virtual high-level event organized by the Government of

Finland. The [event](#) which took place on 8 December was livestreamed on UN Web TV and focused on the launch of the world's first action plan on Youth, Peace and Security. The Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth delivered the opening remarks which emphasized on the need for a strategic multistakeholder partnerships across all actors (including youth, member states, UN, and civil society) for the sustainable and systematic implementation of the YPS agenda.

A virtual panel discussion between Finland's Minister for Foreign Affairs, youth representatives from Nigeria, the Philippines, and Finland, was held to mark the anniversary and international launch. During the interactive discussion led by Search for Common Ground, representatives were able to reflect on experiences gained in the process and learn more from other countries engaged in similar initiatives. Participants included Member States, UN entities, and civil society organizations working on the YPS agenda. Among its outcomes, the event aimed to feed ideas on upcoming processes such as the High-Level Global Conference on Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes in January 2022.

Transformative Peace Education and Human Rights in a Fragile World: Together Towards 2022 and 2023

To raise awareness on peace education and human rights, OSGEY was represented at an event organized by the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Rondine Cittadella della Pace. The event held on 10 December aimed to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and focused on the theme education for peace and the protection of human rights. The event also launched the global campaign, Leaders for Peace, which aimed to appeal to all Member States to make concrete and lasting commitments into action.

- ***OSGEY participation in coordination Interagency networks on Youth, Peace and Security***

UN YPS Focal Point Network

OSGEY has been represented at the quarterly meetings of the UN YPS focal points network since the meetings started in 2021. At the quarterly meetings OSGEY has provided updates and presentations of key projects that the office has been leading and coordinating on during the past year such as the upcoming global conference on youth inclusive peace processes and its two key outputs, and the first ever global report on protecting young people in civic space launched in June 2021.

Core Group on Preventing Terrorism and Violent Extremism and the Working Group on Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV)

OSGEY joined the Core Group on Terrorism and Violent Extremism and the Working Group on CRSV in 2021. The working group aims to identify opportunities, and needs, for collaboration in addressing the nexus of terrorism/violent extremism and CRSV. In line with this, the role of OSGEY is to support with mainstreaming the youth lens into the Prevention of CRSV Framework which the working group is currently developing. OSGEY's efforts have particularly focused on integrating youth engagement in direct and indirect prevention strategies to prevent CRSV while building on findings and recommendations from the first [Global Report on Protecting Young People in Civic Space](#). In addition, OSGEY has attended monthly meetings of the core group.

Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security

OSGEY continues to be represented in the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security (GCYPS), and has been represented in its monthly meetings in 2021. In addition, since 2019, OSGEY has together with Search for Common Ground co-chaired the Protection Working Group under the GCYPS which has enabled a safe space for young people, civil society organizations and the UN to strengthen the protection of young people. The group has also provided a platform to build capacity on the protection issue and share information on country level efforts on protecting young people. OSGEY has played a key role to coordinate and facilitate the work of the group by organizing monthly meetings and lead initiatives regarding the protection of young people such as developing the first report on protecting young people in civic space (Please see Priority Area 4: Human Rights for more details).

Briefing the Peacebuilding Commission

The Envoy on Youth briefed the Peacebuilding Commission for the second time in February 2021 on the importance of engaging young people in peacebuilding while providing the PBC concrete recommendations.

Humanitarian Action

Some 408 million youth ages 15-29 or 23 per cent of the world youth population live in settings affected by armed conflict and organized violence – with conflicts now driving over 80 per cent of humanitarian needs. This is the largest population of young people the world has ever seen, wherein the support of their transition through humanitarian crises will have a lasting impact not only in disaster recovery but in the future of humanity.

OSGEY's approach to the humanitarian pillar of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth mandate is aligned with the fifth priority area of Youth2030 (Peace and Resilience Building – Support young people as catalysts for Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action), and shaped in its methodology by the [Compact on Young People in Humanitarian Action](#). The Compact, a concrete outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, works with and for young people within five action areas: 1. Service Delivery; 2. Participation; 3. Capacity and Local Action; 4. Resources; and 5. Data and Knowledge. Since its inception, more than 60 humanitarian partners including Governments, UN Entities, international and local civil society organizations, and major youth organizations and networks have joined the initiative.

The Compact, as the only coordination body of its kind, has proven to be a functioning platform for operationalizing the global ambitions in transforming humanitarian and development cooperation through advancing meaningful youth engagement at all levels, touching the lives of many young people caught up in the crosswinds of conflict and disaster. As such, the modality has been used as a good practice for coordinated implementation of Youth2030. Since its inception, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth has played a key part in the strategic leadership, day-to-day operations of the Compact and related global advocacy efforts.

- ***Launch of the Guidelines for Working With and For Young People in Humanitarian Emergencies and Protracted Crises***

The [Guidelines for Programming With and For Young People in Humanitarian Action and Protracted Crises](#) - officially endorsed by the Interagency Standing Committee (IASC) in November 2020 – were officially launched at a [high-level event in February 2021](#).

The aim of the 3-yearlong effort that led to the final guidelines and was spearheaded by UNICEF and the Norwegian Refugee Council on behalf of the Compact has been to develop a “go-to guide” for working with and for young people in humanitarian settings and protracted crises. These guidelines are about ensuring that young people are at the heart of humanitarian action and play a key role in the design, implementation and monitoring of programmes. The guidelines address a gap in humanitarian tools that tend to overlook young people, a specific but broad demographic with interlinked needs across multiple sectors. The voices of young people affected by conflicts and natural hazards are a cornerstone of the guidelines with over 500 crisis-affected young people who have contributed to their development and field focus. Generally, the finalization and endorsement of the Guidelines is considered a milestone for the humanitarian youth community.

The interactive high-level launch of the Guidelines was hosted by the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth and featured, among others, Government representatives from Denmark,

Germany, Jordan and the Netherlands, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, UNICEF Executive Director, High Commissioner for Refugees, UNFPA Deputy Secretary General, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Secretary-General of the Norwegian Refugee Council, Secretary General of ActionAid and inspiring youth advocates from around the world. The launch event was action-oriented in its format and scope and a range of specific commitments were made by all participants, including OSGEY. The Envoy on Youth pledged staff support to support Compact coordination and rollout of the Guidelines in select pilot countries, including the mobilization of support within humanitarian clusters and UN country teams, as a direct contribution to the implementation of Youth2030.

As follow up the Guidelines launch, OSGEY has supported a series of events and advocacy moments throughout the year to increase interagency knowledge and ownership as well as investments in youth-led humanitarian action. To name a few, in April the Compact organized a technical session on young people and emergencies with an outset in the Guidelines as part of the [2021 Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks](#) (HNPW), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)'s flagship event. The Envoy on Youth provided the opening remarks and the OSGEY humanitarian focal point facilitated one of the breakout sessions. In May, the Envoy on Youth also provided a keynote address for the [World Humanitarian Forum](#) and its youth council, on the topic of multigenerational partnerships to build back better.

In November, a [Training Package](#) was launched to support the rollout and training efforts for the IASC Guidelines on Working with and for Young People in Humanitarian and Protracted Crises. It includes a Facilitator's Guide, 7 Session Presentation Templates, and an Orientation Presentation Template which can be tailored to the needs and context in which the training is delivered and adaptable for in-person or remote (online/offline) training. The package was developed under the leadership of UNICEF, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and UNFPA, with the support of members of the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action.

- ***Young Refugees & Migrants***

2021 was an important year for refugee youth inclusion as the first mid-term [High Level Officials Meeting \(HLOM\)](#) of the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) was convened virtually in December. The aim of the HLOM is to contribute to building a long-term framework for engagement of States and other actors in refugee situations, as set out in the [Global Compact on Refugees](#) (GCR).

It is broadly recognized that agency, leadership, and engagement of the most marginalized youth groups, such as young refugees, is getting increased priority and the voices of youth are increasingly visible force of global change. The efforts of the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action, as well as the development and launch of the IASC Guidelines on

Working with and for Young People have further accelerated these trends, while providing a platform and tools for meaningful youth participation.

To ensure proper and meaningful youth inclusion in the GCR and GRF processes, throughout 2021 OSGEY participated in a working group under the Compact for Youth in Humanitarian Action, led by the Danish Refugee Council and UNHCR, [organizing a series of regional youth dialogues and facilitating youth-led platforms to bring recommendations and statements to the HLOM discussions](#). The Envoy on Youth spoke at the launch in connection with the International Youth Day in August and participated in the official Satellite Event to the HLOM in December, which took stock of the youth related pledges from the GRF in 2019, discussed how multi-stakeholder efforts can enhance future opportunities for young people and presented the recommendations from the regional youth dialogues.

As in previous years and building on her high-level mission to Palestine in 2019, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth continues her advocacy to promote the rights and need of Palestine refugee youth, as well as their meaningful engagement at the UN. As such, in 2021, OSGEY supported the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) student parliamentarian to address the Ministerial Plenary of the ECOSOC Youth Forum. Each year UNRWA elects [school parliaments](#) as part of the Human Rights, Conflict Resolution and Tolerance programme. School parliaments organize human rights related activities, help resolve conflicts between students, organize field trips, invite guest speakers, and represent students when speaking to school administration.

Furthermore, on the occasion of World Skills Day, OSGEY worked with the UNRWA New York Office to organize the event [Voices From Palestine Refugee Youth – Challenges, Aspirations and Opportunities](#). The event was attended by 60 people, primarily representing the Permanent Missions to the UN in New York. The Event was moderated by the Envoy on Youth and brought together Palestine refugee youth currently studying or who previously studied in UNRWA schools and Vocational Training Centres (VTCs). Throughout the discussion the Palestine refugees elaborated on the role UNRWA education played in their lives and discussed challenges faced as Palestine refugee youth, including the COVID-19 pandemic as well as their future aspirations. Finally, and as previously mentioned under Priority Area 2, on World Teachers Day OSGEY co-organized a takeover in which a young Palestine refugee and teacher took over the Envoy on Youth's Instagram profile.



4



FOUNDATIONAL AREAS OF YOUTH2030

The Youth2030's five programme priority areas reflect the three pillars of the UN – peace and security, sustainable development, and human rights – as well as humanitarian action, building on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Through its work, OSGEY has contributed to the advancement of the five programme priority areas of Youth2030, as outlined below.

Priority Area 1:
Engagement, Participation, and Advocacy –
Amplify youth voices for the promotion of
a peaceful, just, and sustainable world

Our Common Agenda

In 2020, governments, civil society, businesses, young people, and the UN came together to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. Marking this important milestone in a time also marked by unprecedented and interconnected global crises, including COVID-19, the climate emergency, systems of inequality and exclusion, and rising conflicts, the [Declaration on the Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations](#) was adopted unanimously. In this declaration, UN Member States requested the UN Secretary-General to “report back with recommendations to advance our common agenda and to respond to current and future challenges”.

Following consultations with the UN system, partners, thought leaders, and young people – including the [Next Generation Fellows](#) – the Secretary-General published the “[Our Common Agenda](#)” report in September 2021.

OSGEY was closely engaged in this process, particularly through the “young thinkers” track championed by the Next Generation Fellows and the UN Foundation (UNF). The Envoy on Youth participated in a series of online consultations led by the Next Generation Fellows as they engaged young people worldwide on the Our Common Agenda process, to gather their thoughts, ideas, solutions, and concerns on current and future challenges. This included, but was not limited to, a dialogue between young people and the UN Deputy Secretary-General, a Big Brainstorm event, and networking breakfasts with UN Member States and youth. The Next Generation Fellow’s work on the “young thinkers” track culminated in the publishing of “[Our Future Agenda](#)” report - young people’s contribution to “Our Common Agenda”.

In aggregate, OSGEY’s engagements via social media in the lead up to and alongside the launch of “Our Common Agenda” reached more than 123,000 young people around the world, garnering nearly 6,200 engagements.

“Our Common Agenda” acknowledges that current and future crises are interconnected and, hence, so must be the solutions – which young people have been calling for, for years. Making recommendations across areas and topics, the need to deepen solidarity with the world’s young people is at the heart of “Our Common Agenda”. The recommendations made aim to fulfil the commitment made by Heads of State in the UN75 Declaration to *“listen and work with young people”* look at young people’s lives, livelihoods, and futures from this intersectional, multisectoral, and crosscutting lens.

Youth-related recommendations include:

- Removing barriers to political participation and measure progress through a “youth in politics” index.
- Establishing a dedicated United Nations Youth Office in the Secretariat.
- A “Transforming Education Summit” in 2022.
- A recovery barometer to track career path and labour market outcomes for youth.
- A high-ambition coalition to promote green jobs and digital-economy job creation.
- The ask for the Envoy on Youth to 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 the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and their respective subsidiary bodies.
- The appointment of a Special Envoy for Future Generations.
- A “Summit of the Future” in 2023.

There are strong links between the “Our Common Agenda” recommendations and the solutions approach they are based on, and Youth2030. Moving forward with “Our Common Agenda” proposals and recommendations, especially the ones focused on young people, should leverage the power of the UN system, partners, and young people mobilized in the implementation of Youth2030. And vice-versa: as we continue to advance on Youth2030, the natural synergies with the recommendations in “Our Common Agenda” should be further explored and strengthened.

[ECOSOC Youth Forum 2021](#)

The [ECOSOC Youth Forum 2021](#) took place virtually for the first time due to COVID-19 on 7 and 8 April. Under the theme of [“A Decade of Action: Building a Resilient Recovery”](#), the ECOSOC Youth Forum focused on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under review at the 2021 High-Level Political Forum, namely SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17.

In 2021, the ECOSOC Youth Forum, co-organized by OSGEY and the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), in collaboration with the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD) and co-convened by the Major Group

for Children and Youth (MGCY) and the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO), also commemorated its 10th anniversary.

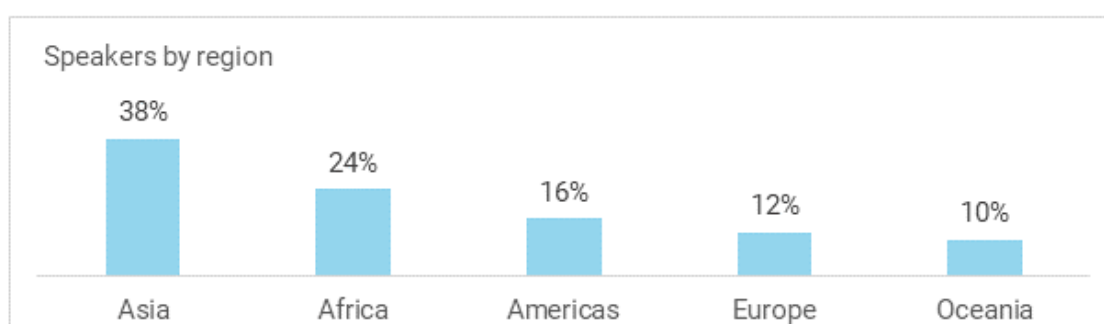
Speaker Insights from ECOSOC Youth Forum 2021

23 speakers in the virtual forum's plenary sessions were from **20** countries/ areas

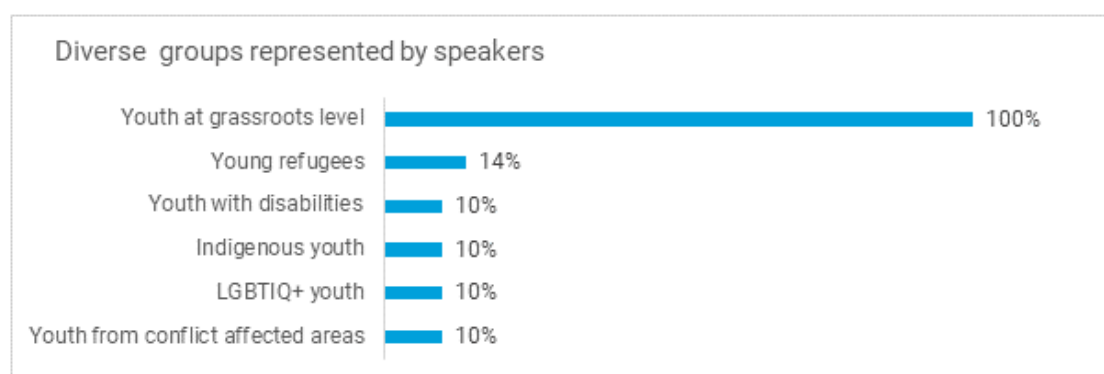
75% speakers engaged were women, **100%** speakers engaged were young people

Asia was the most common region (38%) represented by youth speakers.

Refer to "Speakers by region" chart for details.



"Leaving No One Behind (LNOB)" is a guiding principle of the 2030 Agenda. In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, we must ensure to reach those first who are furthest behind. Young speakers in the ECOSOC Youth Forum belonged to some of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups (Refer to "Diverse groups represented by speakers" chart for details)



100% or all youth speakers were bringing about change at the grassroots level

Countries/ Areas and corresponding geographical regions taken from <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/>

Over 19,000 participants joined the event virtually, with over 10,000 young participants from 193 countries having registered in advance to attend the Youth Forum. These numbers

mean that the ECOSOC Youth Forum 2021 is – to date – the largest and most diverse gathering of young people at the UN.

Moreover, 60 Ministers of Youth or equivalent high-level officials participated in the interactive Ministerial Roundtable. Their interventions were shared alongside ten young activists and five strategic partners. The Youth Forum also counted with the participation of a serving Head of State for the first time, the President of Costa Rica, and over 400 Member State representatives who attended the Youth Forum.

Additionally, the first-ever [Youth2030 Progress report](#) and the [Youth2030 online portal](#) were launched during the first day of the Youth Forum, and over [50 side-events](#) on a variety of issues relevant to youth were organized by a variety of partners ahead of the plenary sessions of the Youth Forum, on 6 April. When considering the UN WebTV, YouTube and Microsoft Teams streams, the Forum achieved a total of nearly 150,000 impressions via digital channels. In the two-month period leading up to the Forum, more than 374,000 people visited the ECOSOC Youth Forum website, with nearly 42,000 visiting the site during the week of the event itself. The Youth2030 microsite achieved more than 3,600 visitors within the first week after going live.

In parallel, the ECOSOC Youth Forum achieved a potential reach of 82.1 million people via social media, amassing 2.1 million impressions, nearly 61,000 total engagements and more than 15,000 shares of content across all channels. During the Forum alone, the #Youth2030 hashtag was used more than 1,800 times and the #YouthLead hashtag was used 7,950 times.

Two weeks ahead of the Forum, OSGEY also launched a digital photo filter campaign via the Cheerity platform (<http://www.unyouthforum.cheerity.com/>). In total, 17,296 people from 180 countries participated in the campaign by adding their photo, achieving a total reach of over 4.1 million on social media. Over 70% of the participants were under the age of 34, with a relatively equal gender split.

More information can be found on the [informal summary of the ECOSOC Youth Forum 2021](#).

To further amplify the work of the 23 young people who spoke at the plenary sessions of the Youth Forum, OSGEY also launched [“Meet 23 Young People Leading Resilient Recovery in the Decade of Action”](#).

76th Session of the UN General Assembly - UNGA 76

The UN High-Level Week 2021 took place as the world continues to grapple with the devastating COVID-19 pandemic as well as the multidimensional challenges that are

particularly felt by young people, from the climate crisis to the rise of unemployment. Decades of development progress are being lost and the promise of a better future for all is at stake. With the right choices, the next two to three years could propel a Decade of Action and transformation not seen in almost a century.

Convened by the UN Secretary-General, this year's [SDG Moment at UNGA 76](#) discussed what is needed to bring solutions to scale to seize it decisively. The session reflected the importance of youth's contribution in delivering the Decade of Action to achieve the SDGs and featured 5 young changemakers from Colombia, Italy, Nigeria, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Switzerland who are working on solutions at the local level. The young changemakers featured have been engaging with their communities directly and implementing the SDGs - from delivering health response at the frontlines, contributing to solving food insecurity, creating jobs for indigenous youth, supporting refugee's livelihood, and providing access to education in conflict areas. The discussion was followed by a fire-chat dialogue featuring two young changemakers, from Moldova and Zambia. In this segment, the young changemakers addressed gaps and opportunities in creating an enabling environment for young solutions makers to thrive, the need for funding and meaningful support, as well as youth's action-oriented recommendations for policymakers and institutions.

Moreover, OSGEY supported the SDG Action Zone 2021 with nominations for young changemakers to participate in the event. The SDG Action Zone is a three-day virtual space on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, which brings together the highest levels of UN leadership, activists, government officials, business leaders, and changemakers to highlight the ecosystem-wide solutions, plans, and investments needed to positively impact people's lives and the future of our planet.

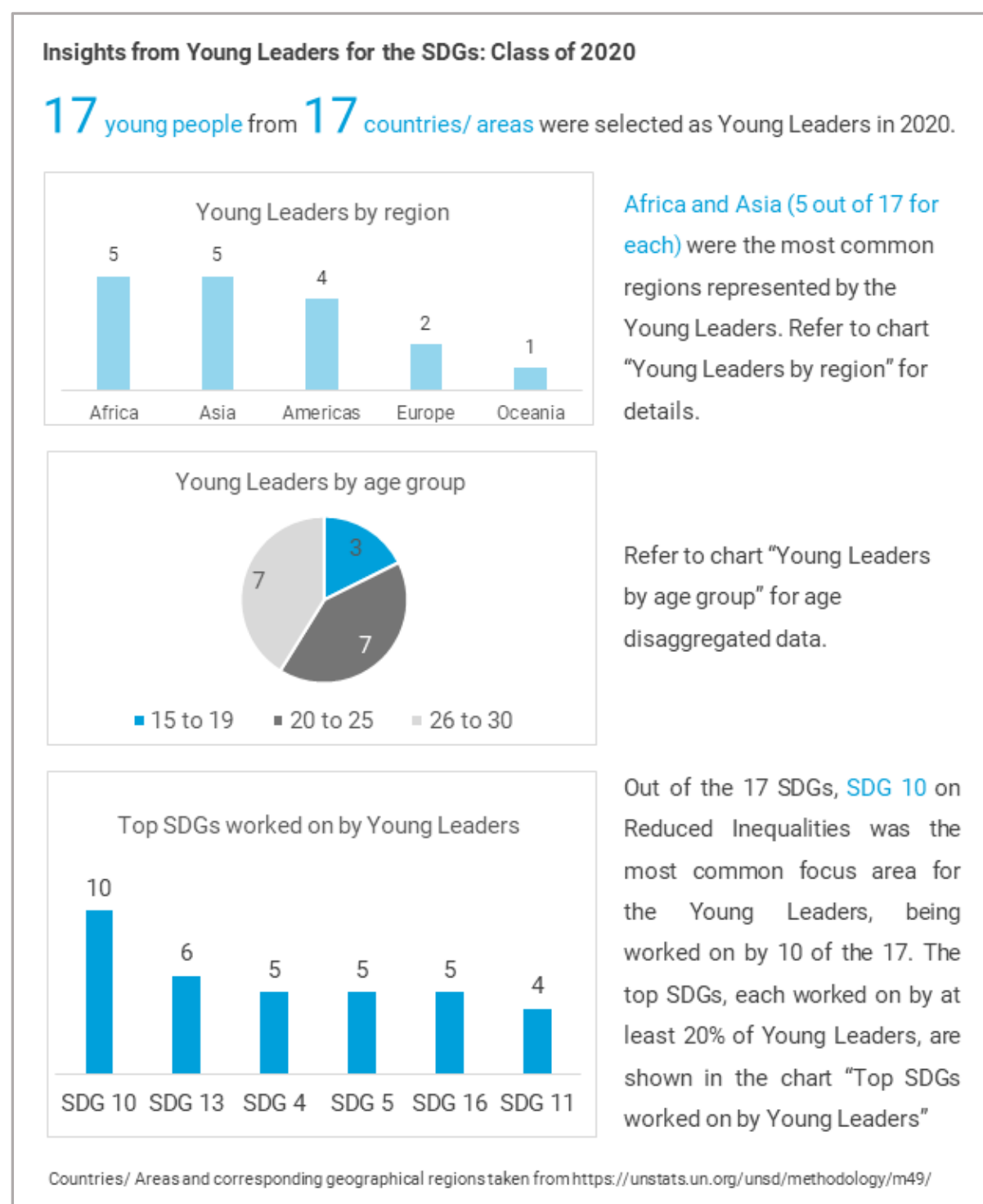
Collectively, OSGEY's various engagements during UNGA76 resulted in a total reach of more than 673,000 across all social media channels.

Young Leaders for the SDGs

The [Young Leaders for the SDGs](#) is a flagship initiative of OSGEY, launched in 2016. It recognizes 17 Young Leaders from around the world who contribute to implementing the 2030 Agenda, fostering resilience of their communities, proposing innovative solutions, driving social progress, and inspiring political change through diverse youth-led initiatives in their communities and sectors in line with the 2030 Agenda.

An open call for applications for the 2020 Class of 17 Young Leaders for the SDGs was made from 2 to 29 February 2020. The class of 2020 Young Leaders have completed one year of their term and submitted their bi-annual progress reports in March and September

2021. This class continues to receive and participate in engagement opportunities where they serve as keynote speakers, panelists, educators, and judges for international and local events.



Highlights of the progress of the Young Leaders over this past year include Vanessa Nakate serving as the keynote speaker, alongside Greta Thunberg, at the Pre-26th UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP26), AY Young producing and performing the first-ever theme song for an UN Entity: FAO, and Satta Sheriff, who won the Global Goalkeepers award from

the Gates Foundation. Ilayda Eskiatascioglu was recognized as a “woman trailblazer” at the United Nations by UN Women and the Permanent Mission of Italy to the UN in New York. Jichen Liu’s project Clean Plate has reached over 5 million users and he served as a panelist at the Sustainable Development Forum in China – the highest-level event on sustainable development in the country.

The Young Leaders have reached over 5.5 million people this past year through their work and engagements. They have completed several training sessions through [McKinsey.org](https://www.mckinsey.org) and through UN Entities that focused on leadership development, communications, and professionalism. Throughout 2021, OSGEY has also actively amplified and celebrated the work and achievements of the Young Leaders across social media. In total, this content reached nearly 450,000 people online, culminating in nearly 12,000 engagements.

Most events this past year have been virtual, however it has not stopped the Young Leaders from expanding their reach and using digital platforms creatively to promote the SDGs. Moving forward, we continue to help the Young Leaders leverage the UN to increase their visibility and meet their project goals.

Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change

Building on the momentum of support to youth climate movements, OSGEY supported the UN Secretary-General in the launch of his first-ever on 27 July 2020. The 7-member group is tasked with advising the Secretary-General on his approach to climate action and bringing the priorities and perspectives of young people into UN decision-making on climate change. It serves as a mechanism for the Secretary-General to engage young people in open and transparent dialogue as the UN gears up to accelerate global action and ambition to tackle the climate crisis.

Throughout the first semester of 2021, YAG met the Secretary-General twice and briefed the Member State Advisory Group on Climate Change on youth’s perspectives on the climate crisis. YAG members brought the perspectives of young people into key climate events and meetings, such as the [Sustainable Energy for All \(SE4All\) Youth Summit](#), the [UN Environment Programme \(UNEP\) Youth Assembly](#), the [UN High-level Meeting on Water](#), United States’ President Biden’s [Leaders’ Summit on Climate](#), the [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\) Global Youth Summit](#), the [Capitol Hill Ocean Week](#), the UN Foundation event series - [Say It With Science](#), and a UN Security Council Open Debate.

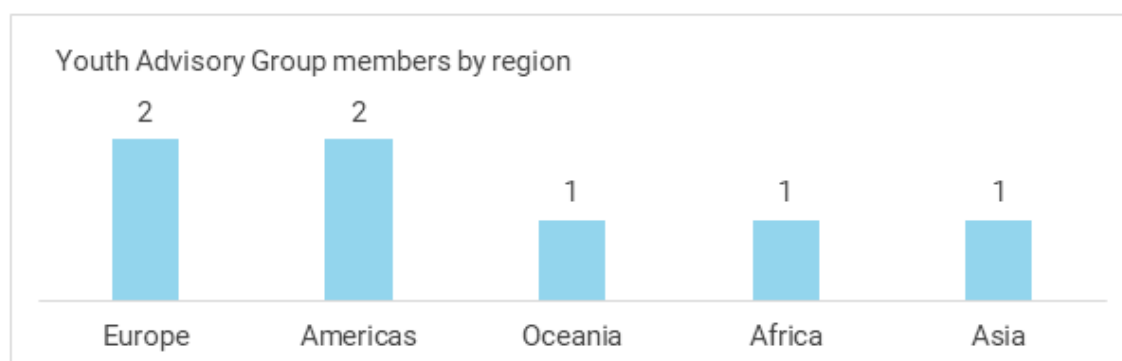
As part of their work plan, YAG organized consultations on various scales to hear the priorities and perspective of youth all over the world. YAG members organized a regional consultation in Western and Eastern Europe, and the Arctic. A YAG member also conducted a thematic Indigenous youth consultation in Brazil.

Meeting with key stakeholders in the climate agenda is also part of YAG's workplan. During the first part of the year, the group held meetings with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) International, Young Leader for the SDGs, Vanessa Nakate, and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

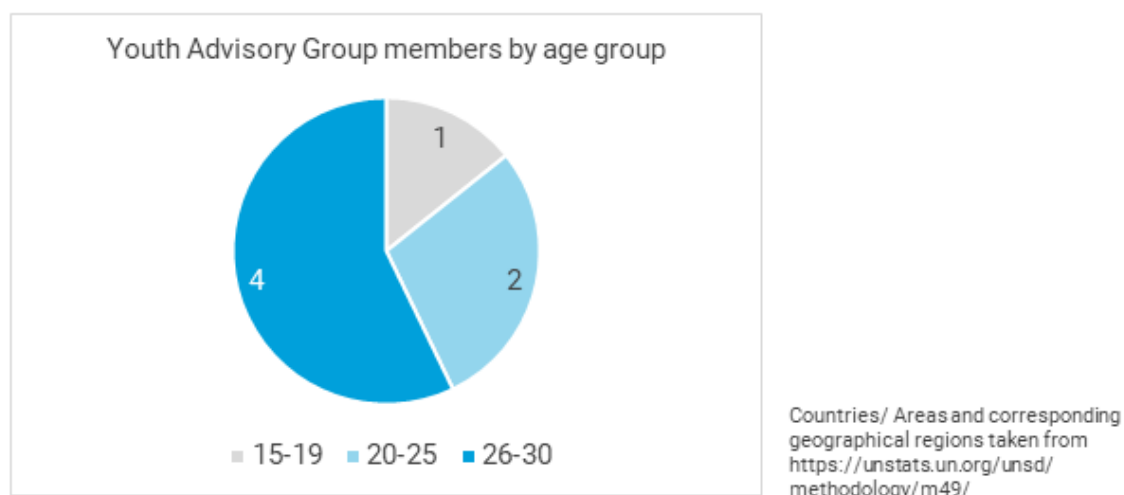
Insights from the Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change

7 young people from **7** countries/ areas are members in the Youth Advisory Group (YAG) on Climate Change.

Americas and Europe were the most common regions represented by YAG members (2 out of 7 for each). Refer to "YAG members by region" chart for details.



Most YAG members were 26 to 30 years old (4 out of 7). Refer to "YAG members by age group" chart for details.



The month of August marked YAG's one-year anniversary. In celebration, YAG members had an Instagram Live in the Envoy on Youth's Instagram account. The official [YAG Twitter account](#) was also launched at that time to celebrate the group's one-year.

The second semester was marked by key milestone events and meetings. Ahead of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), YAG partnered with OSGEY and the Climate Action Team to host a [youth dialogue with the Deputy Secretary-General \(DSG\) on climate](#), as part of the series of dialogues the DSG had with young people. The event was livestreamed on social media and included youth speakers from grassroots organizations, young entrepreneurs, youth from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and indigenous youth. At UNGA, YAG members also joined the [SDG Action Zone](#) – Climate Day, the [SDG Moment](#) and the High-Level Dialogue on Energy. In addition, the group met with many senior level officials, including the UN President of the General Assembly (UNPGA).

After frequent engagement with the Italian Ministry of Transition and Environment and the United Kingdom (UK)'s 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) Youth Engagement Team, YAG members played a central role in the key milestone event, the Youth4Climate, followed by a successful participation at COP 26. .

While in Milan for the Youth4Climate, YAG held meetings with COP 26 President Alok Sharma; Nigel Topping, the UK High-Level Climate Champion; Patricia Espinosa, Executive Director of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); Archie Young, the UK Lead Negotiator; and climate activist and Young Leader for the SDGs, Vanessa Nakate.

During the two weeks of COP, YAG members joined and addressed remarks at high-level events such as: the World Leaders Summit; [British Broadcasting Corporation \(BBC\)'s launch](#) of Sir David Attenborough's documentary; the [COP 26 Dialogues series](#) with the UN Deputy Secretary-General; amongst several others. Members also engaged with diverse media throughout the conference and held an Instagram Live with actress Maisie Williams and an Instagram takeover of singer and actress Camila Cabello's account. Moreover, at COP 26, YAG held its first in-person meeting with the UN Secretary-General. The group also met with the Executive Director of Greenpeace International, Jennifer Morgan, and United States' Special Presidential Envoy, John Kerry.

Additionally, as part of YAG's advocacy to ensure diverse youth voices are heard, the group organized, designed and held their first [side event](#) at COP26. The intergenerational event, entitled "Post COP26 Youth-led Climate Action", brought perspectives from diverse backgrounds worldwide and was highly rated at COP.

Throughout 2021, OSGEY actively shared YAG's work and achievements across social media. In total, this content reached nearly 535,000 across all channels, culminating in more than 19,000 engagements and more than 1,000 shares.

Reach Not Preach

As a follow-up to the UN Youth Climate Summit, OSGEY launched [Reach Not Preach](#) in December 2019, a virtual platform that continues young activists to share their stories, present their initiatives on climate change, and access resources from the UN and its partners. Reach Not Preach also provides a safe digital space for young people to share their unfiltered opinions on the global climate emergency.

In 2021, Reach Not Preach collaborated with the UN Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group (YAG) on Climate Change to amplify the voices of young people on climate action and bring forward youth perspectives ahead of COP26 to emphasize the need for meaningful youth inclusion in this crucial climate processes.

Reach Not Preach uses a youth-led approach where young people are presented with the flexibility and liberty to share their opinion on a platform associated with the UN and Youth2030. This approach attracts young people as they can speak freely and present their frustrations for the lack of response from institutions to their demands in an "unfiltered" and "unapologetic" language which is relatable to them. In 2021, the platform reached its 100th article milestone, featuring youth voices from all over the world and had 8,540 unique online visitors and 12,478 total site traffic. On social media, Reach Not Preach takeovers in 2021 collectively reached nearly 135,000 people, amassing more than 3,300 engagements and 300 shares.

International Youth Day: #YouthLead Innovation Festival

To mark International Youth Day, OSGEY convened the first-ever, all virtual #YouthLead Innovation Festival, welcoming thousands of young people from all across the globe. Over two days, more than 6,000 young people from around the world joined interactive discussions with more than 65 diverse speakers from 42 countries to discuss the importance of innovation and technology to achieve the SDGs and support COVID-19 recovery. The Festival itself reached more than 865,000 people via social media, including more than 20,000 engagements and nearly 1,500 shares.

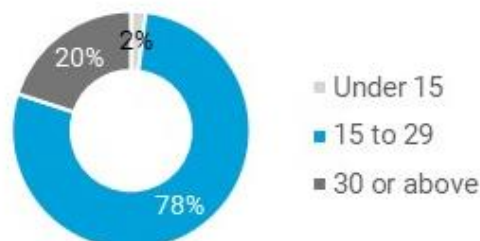
The event brought together young innovators and solution-makers together with United Nations offices, policymakers, and industry leaders for timely conversations on shaping a solutions-oriented future. The thematic sessions provided the opportunity to build partnerships, amplify youth-led solutions, host multistakeholder discussions through six key thematic areas aligned with OSGEY's work on Sustainable Development Goals: (1) health and wellbeing; (2) climate action and biodiversity; (3) economic empowerment and employment; (4) digital technology; (5) food security; and (6) education. The #YouthLead Innovation Festival was made possible through the support and participation of 17 co-organizing partners that shaped the meaningful discussions in respective thematic areas.

Event Insights from #YouthLead Innovation Festival

6000 people registered to attended from **160** countries/ areas

Most registrants (around 80%) were 15 to 29 years old. Refer to "Registrants by age group" chart for details.

Registrants by age group



The event had a total of **66** speakers from **42** countries/ areas

55% speakers engaged were women, **62%** speakers engaged were youth

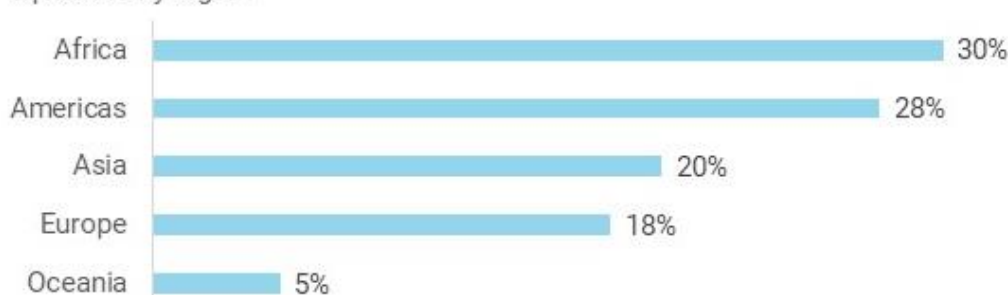
Diverse groups represented

Indigenous youth
Youth with disabilities
LGBTQI+ youth
Young refugees
Youth from conflict affected areas

Meaningfully working with youth is underlined as the foundation of Youth2030. However, recognizing that "youth" is not a homogenous group is paramount. Speakers for the event included young people in all their diversity, especially the most marginalized and vulnerable youth. Refer to "Diverse groups represented" chart for details.

Africa was the most common region (**30%**) represented by youth speakers. Refer to "Regions represented by speakers" chart for details.

Speakers by region



Countries/ Areas and corresponding geographical regions taken from <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/>

Young Leaders for the SDGs, YAG members, and many more young changemakers joined the festival as speakers and moderators of multistakeholder, intergenerational discussions.

In the lead up to the event, the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth launched a social media campaign showcasing #YouthLead solutions for the SDGs, featuring youth-led solutions nominated by UN interagency and relevant partners. In total, the campaign ran over a five-month period, reaching nearly 460,000 people via social media, including more than 15,000 engagements and more than 1,000 shares.

The Festival also marked the first time OSGEY created a dedicated TikTok Takeover campaign, inviting young people to submit their innovative solutions and ideas for a better world for a chance to be featured on the @UNYouthEnvoy TikTok page. In total, 64 videos were submitted, and 14 videos were ultimately posted to OSGEY feeds.

Engagements with the UN Youth Delegates

The Youth Delegate Programme, rooted in the General Assembly [Resolution 72/146](#), entitled "Policies and programmes involving youth" and the World Programme of Action for Youth (A/RES/50/81), is a valuable modality to meaningfully engage young people in the work of the UN, promote sustainable development, multilateralism and the values on which the UN was founded.

Throughout 2021, OSGEY and the Envoy on Youth worked with Youth Delegates at national level and in regional and thematic groups to facilitate access to speaking platforms and to support and strengthen their meaningful engagement and participation in key UN decision-making processes.

On 3 November, for the second year in a row, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth and the Ambassador of the European Union to the UN co-hosted an informal debate in the margins of the UN's Third Committee priorities for all official Youth Delegates of UN Member States. The event took place in the presence of the President of the General Assembly, the Chair of the Third Committee, the Under Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs, and the Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination. The debate was organized and moderated by current Youth Delegates. It comprised two intergenerational discussions focusing on the implementation of the proposals put forward in the Secretary General's Our Common Agenda report, as well as current mechanisms for youth participation within UN intergovernmental fora, including specifically the Youth Delegate Programme. Towards the end of the event, youth delegates presented a joint declaration outlining concrete and actionable recommendations for the UN Youth Delegate Programme and the improvement of youth engagement in general in the work of the UN.

Envoy on Youth's Engagements with Academia and Higher Education Institutions

In 2021, the Envoy on Youth engaged with academia and higher education institutions, with the aim of promoting the work of the UN with and for youth in sustainable development, peace and security, human rights, and humanitarian action, and hearing from students and teachers on their perspectives about the role of youth as agents of change.

These engagements included hosting a [lecture on youth, power, and activism](#) at the Harvard Graduate School of Education on 26 March; attending in July 2021 – together with the 2020-2021 OSGEY Fellows – a session on youth activism as part of the Yale University's Summer School program, held virtually in 2021; participating in an event organized by Kings' Politics of Cambridge University on the importance of youth activism, held on 18 October; the [Hillary Rodham Clinton Global Challenges Summit](#) with Swansea University, on 9 November; and speaking on the topic of youth and sustainable development at the [Global Classroom](#) on 7 December.

The Envoy on Youth, together with colleagues, also drafted the inaugural blog post of the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs's Multilateralism in Action, entitled ["Dear Power, Book a Ride to a More Equitable World for All Generations"](#).

Speaking Engagements of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

In the course of 2021, the Envoy on Youth participated in over 300 events, online and offline. Additionally, the Envoy conveyed pre-recorded video messages to over 100 events and social media campaigns she was unable to participate in live. These speaking engagements served as a pivotal mean to advocate for greater investment in youth empowerment and for the creation of spaces for meaningful youth participation in all programme and foundational areas of Youth2030.

In addition to events and campaigns led by OSGEY, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth participated in engagements organized by its partners, including UN Entities, Member States, academia, civil society, and especially youth focused, and youth led organizations. A central and critical part of the work of OSGEY is to strengthen and build networks and partnerships for the implementation of Youth2030 to ultimately create a world in which the human rights of every young person are realized; that ensures every young person is empowered to achieve their full potential; and that recognizes young people's agency, resilience and their positive contributions as agents of change.

The Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth is honored by every invitation to engage in discussions with and for youth, and the Office tries its best to accommodate all requests. Whenever the Envoy is personally unable to respond positively to an invitation, including with

pre-recorded video messages, the invitation is extended to other young changemakers, including but not limited to the 17 Young Leaders for the SDGs and members of the Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change.

In 2021, with the modality of speaking engagements mainly online due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth continued to engage with youth broadly. This included youth who are not members of youth organizations or networks accustomed to working with the UN. Notwithstanding systemic and structural inequalities related to online engagements, OSGEY made it its top priority to strive to connect with youth in all its diversity, applying an intersectional design to all its areas of work, including online events and campaigns. Although not always successful, the Office worked hard to connect with youth without access to the Internet, youth with disabilities, and disengaged youth, for instance.

Throughout 2021, social media remained a key tool used by OSGEY to meaningfully engage with youth worldwide, especially in the ongoing COVID-19 context. At the end of the year, nearly 530,000 people follow and engage with OSGEY over its social media channels – [Instagram](#), Twitter, [Facebook](#) and [TikTok](#) – including 74,000 followers on Instagram, 163,000 followers on Twitter and 167,000 followers on Facebook. Collectively, these numbers represent an approximately 70,000 growth over 2020. OSGEY also launched a presence on TikTok in January 2021 for the first time. Throughout the year, the office shared 80 videos on the platform, amassing more than 2,200 followers and 5,000 likes. A key communications priority in the coming year will be to continue exploring TikTok as a content sharing platform, with a particular view towards further amplifying the voices of diverse young people to reach new audiences. The TikTok Takeover during the #YouthLead Innovation Festival and the United Nations UN Unveiled Series in collaboration with UN Visitor Services are examples of successful initial collaborations that should be explored further. OSGEY also continues to engage with young people in China via Weibo, supporting the UN's main account, reaching approximately 4.46 million with over 51 thousand shares.

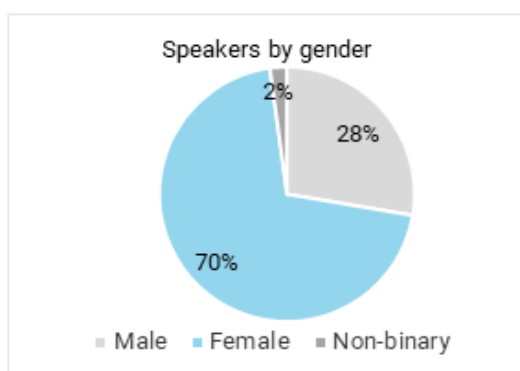
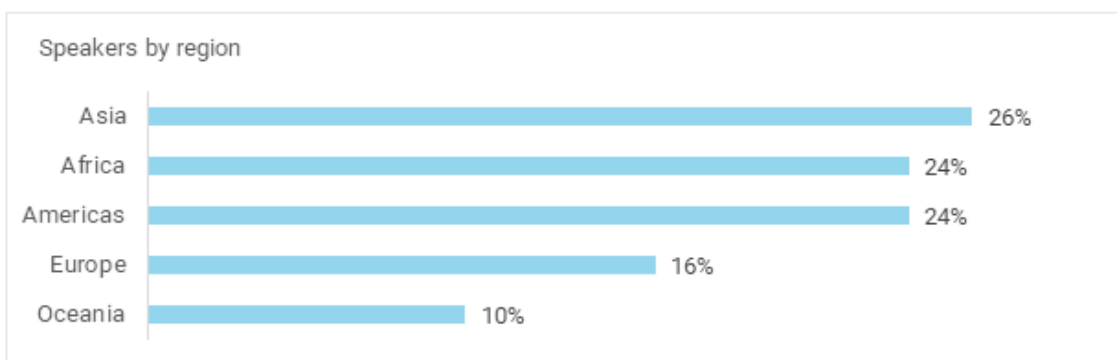
Monthly Youth Dialogues with the Deputy Secretary-General

The Virtual Youth Dialogues with the Deputy Secretary-General (DSG) is an ongoing series of monthly dialogues led by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and co-convened by OSGEY and its partners. The dialogue series serves to connect representatives of the youth population with the Deputy Secretary-General to discuss thematic issues ranging from climate action to innovation, equality, and health. The invited youth speakers are thematic experts and come from diverse backgrounds and regions. They include but are not limited to representatives from grassroots movements, international organizations, civil society, academia, and the private sector.

Insights from the Monthly Youth Dialogues with the Deputy Secretary-General

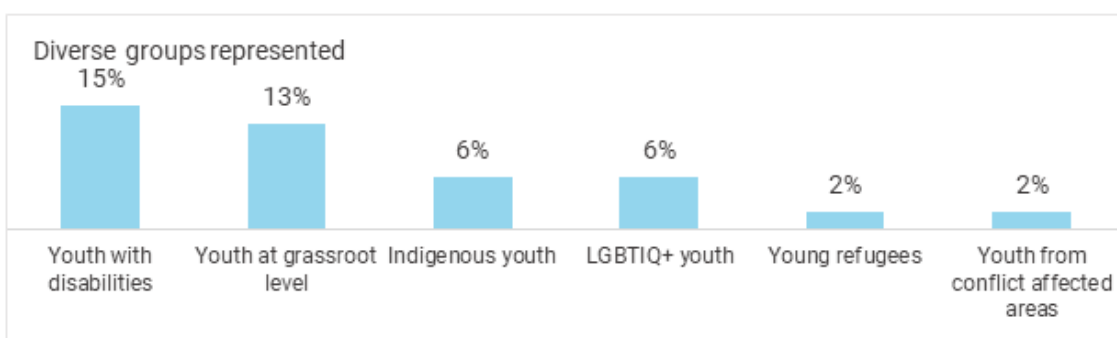
In total, **47** young people from **28** countries/ areas and all **7** official regions participated as youth speakers in this year's dialogues.

Asia (26%) was the most common region represented by youth speakers. Refer to "Speakers by region" chart for details.



Most of the youth speakers identified as **female (70%)**, the second-highest gender identity was male (28%) and then non-binary (2%) respectively. Refer to "Speakers by gender" chart.

Young speakers in the Dialogues belonged to diverse groups. Chart "Diverse groups represented" shows the 7 vulnerable and marginalized groups represented by the speakers.



Countries/ Areas and corresponding geographical regions taken from <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/>

The discussion series this year included nine dialogues covering the topics of: Food Systems, Gender Equality, Climate Change, Innovation, and Inclusion and Accessibility of Young Persons with Disabilities, and more. These events have successfully brought representatives of the youth population closer to UN leadership to share their insights and

recommendations. The Deputy Secretary-General takes these inputs forward and works to implement them into the work of the UN.

In total, 50 young people from 47 countries and all 7 official UN regions participated as youth speakers in this year's dialogues. Asia, Africa, and the Americas were the most common regions represented by youth speakers. Most of the young people identified as female, the second-highest gender identity was male and then non-binary respectively. The following diverse young groups were also represented: Girls and Young Women; Youth at the grassroots level; Youth refugees; Youth with disabilities; Indigenous youth; LGBTIQ+ Youth; and youth from conflict areas.

Priority Area 2:
Informed and Healthy Foundations –
Support young people's greater access to
quality education and health services

World Programme for Human Rights Education

In partnership with Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), OSGEY launched in 2020 the fourth phase of the [World Programme for Human Rights Education](#). The plan of action was adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council on 26 September 2019.¹⁰ Launched in 2004 by the United Nation's General Assembly, the World Programme for Human Rights Education (2005-ongoing) aims to advance the implementation of human rights education programmes in all sectors.

Building on the plans of action for the previous phases, the plan of action for the [fourth phase \(2020-2024\)](#) of the World Programme supports developing a comprehensive human rights education strategy for youth at the national level, to be adapted to national contexts. Such strategy contributes to the realization of the 2030 Agenda, particularly Goal 4 on inclusive and quality education. It is based on the understanding that human rights education empowers young people to recognize and fulfill their role as active citizens, take action and uphold their human rights, and participate accordingly in public affairs and democratic decision-making processes. In other words, human rights education is key to young people's empowerment, development, and engagement towards a peaceful, just, and sustainable world.

¹⁰ Human Rights Council resolution 42/7.

The plan of action, which benefited from the input and review of governmental and non-governmental experts and practitioners, including youth organizations and networks, identifies four components for effective human rights education for youth: 1. Policies and related implementation measures; 2. Teaching and learning processes and tools; 3. Training of educators; and 4. An enabling environment.

In 2021, OSGEY, OHCHR, and UNESCO co-organized a virtual side event of the ECOSOC Youth Forum entitled [“Youth Leading Human Rights Change Through Education: Empowered and Equal”](#). This event, conceptualized as an interactive discussion with and by youth, aimed to engage young people on the topic of human rights education, ahead of the ECOSOC Youth Forum 2021; introduce human rights and human rights education principles to youth; highlight the importance of human rights education for youth and their role, as well as global support to this end; and encourage youth engagement in human rights education, providing relevant guidance. The interactive session was co-hosted by two young human rights and social justice activists, from Georgia and Jamaica, and attended by over 80 young people.

In September, the Envoy on Youth participated in the [“High-level panel discussion on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training: good practices, challenges and the way forward”](#) in the scope of the 48th session of the Human Rights Council. In her intervention, the Envoy on Youth highlighted the fourth phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education for and with youth, as well as young people’s important role as defenders and promoters of human rights and sustainable development. The Envoy on Youth stressed the importance to involve young people as equal partners and not only beneficiaries in education policies, including human rights education. Other speakers included the President of the Human Rights Council, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNESCO’s Assistant Director-General for Education, the Minister for Education, Science and Sport of Slovenia, a young human rights educator from South Africa, and more.

On 10 December, Human Rights Day, the Envoy on Youth provided a pre-recorded video message on youth and human rights education to the kick-off event of “Human Rights Education For and By Youth: A Conversation Series With Young People Around the World”, organized by OHCHR, Amnesty International, and Soka Gakkai International, and sponsored by the Republic of Slovenia. The video message was prepared as a contribution from the Envoy on Youth to the documentary-series being prepared by the above-mentioned partners on human rights education for and by youth, which is being finalized and will be launched in 2022.

High-level Advocacy for the Education Young People Want and Need

In 2021, the Envoy on Youth prioritized high-level advocacy at the global level for the education young people want and need: quality and universal education that is gender transformative, inclusive, and based on climate action and human rights. A central part of the Envoy on Youth's advocacy concerning education and youth is that young people should be involved as equal partners in education policies, and not only beneficiaries. This includes, but is not limited to, the implementation of SDG 4 on quality education.

As part of this work, the Envoy on Youth supported the Global Partnership for Education (GPE)'s replenishing campaign, which aimed to raise 5 billion USD for education. Between April and July, the Envoy on Youth participated in a series of online events, including the [Futures Festival: #RaiseYourHand](#), a youth-led livestream on education financing, which also featured one of the Young Leaders for the SDGs, which took place on 6 May. On 19 May, the Envoy on Youth participated in the [GPE Raise Your Hand: Support Her Education](#), co-organized by GPE, the Malala Fund and the government of Germany. The event saw commitments of over 162 million euros to GPE and the girls' education accelerator and a real political momentum from leaders and youth on education. On 22 June, the Envoy on Youth joined [Raise Your Hand Live!](#) together with Jutta Urpilainen, the European Commissioner for International Partnerships, which culminated in the European Commission's announcement of their pledge to GPE. Finally, on 29 July, the Envoy on Youth participated in the [Global Education Summit: Financing GPE 2021-2025](#), where she spoke about education's impact on sustainability at the online [Ripple Effect stage](#).

Moreover, on 8 June, OSGEY supported the Power Shift event co-lead by the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) and Transform Education, a coalition of young feminist education activists, hosted by UNGEI, together with other partners. The event, conceptualized as an online protest to demand an education that shifts power - one that is gender transformative, rooted in climate action, and that engages young people as partners, was organized in the sidelines of the Group of 7 (G7) and in line with the GPE replenishing campaign. On social media, the total reach was 136,422, total engagements were 2,283, and total shares were 225.

Sustainable Development Goal 4 on Quality Education

In July 2021, the Envoy participated in the Global Education Meeting (GEM), hosted by UNESCO at the outskirts of High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2021, organized with the aim to update and track SDG 4 implementation. In her speech, the Envoy strongly supported involving young people as equal partners in SDG 4 implementation and monitoring and highlighted the 2020 Youth2030 progress report findings on education, stating that the UN is doing a lot for young people but not enough with them regarding education.

During GEM 2021, the new [Global Cooperation Mechanism for education](#) was presented and adopted. Following the Envoy's involvement in GEM 2021 and her leadership on education and youth, the Envoy received a standing invitation to join SDG4-Education2030 High-Level Steering Committee (HLSC) Leadership Group meetings.

Moreover, OSGEY closely supported UNESCO in the establishment of a first-of-its-kind [SDG4Youth Network](#), which aims to serve as a platform for young people and youth organizations to contribute to SDG 4, and ultimately support the 'youth and students' seat at the SDG4-Education2030. The terms of reference for the SDG4Youth network were drafted, with inputs from OSGEY and other partners, including youth-led and youth-serving organizations, and the application process was launched on 22 October. With over 1000 applicants, the network was established, welcoming 100 young people working on education-related matters from all regions of the world. The SDG4Youth Network is led and coordinated by UNESCO. Additionally, OSGEY nominated one of the Young Leaders for the SDGs to participate in the interim SDG4Youth Council, which will be responsible for organizing the process, together with the SDG4Youth Network, to nominate the network's representatives who will attend the SDG4-Education2030 HLSC meetings – at leadership and Sherpas levels.

With the aim of better coordinating OSGEY's partnership with UNESCO's education sector and streamline young people's participation in SDG4 implementation and monitoring, the Envoy met with UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Education in August. The meeting allowed for political and top-level alignment of priorities and set out clear action points for continued collaboration.

Futures of Education Youth Webinars Series

OSGEY partnered with UNESCO in the scope of its Future of Education initiative on a ["Futures of Education Youth Webinar Series"](#). This series aimed to address broad questions around young people's views on the possible and fundamental transformations in how societies, politics, economies and cultures may be organized in the future, and more specifically, how education systems and schooling may look like. Composed of 90-minute online sessions, each dialogue featured a Young Leader for the SDGs and a member of the [International Commission on the Futures of Education](#), as well as other educators, innovators, policymakers, and activist.

Session themes included: ["The Futures of Indigenous Education and Knowledge"](#), ["Technology and the Futures of Education"](#), ["Futures of Education for Persons with Disabilities and Neurodivergent Learners"](#), and ["Youth-led Initiatives and the Futures of Education"](#). These sessions ultimately informed the Futures of Education report entitled [Reimagining Our Futures Together](#), which was launched on 10 November.

Education Session of #YouthLead Innovation Festival

In the scope of #YouthLead Innovation Festival organized to celebrate International Youth Day 2021, OSGEY partnered with UNESCO, UNGEI, and Transform Education on the festival's education session. This session, entitled "Education Youth Want & Need" aimed to create a global convening space to showcase solutions created with and for youth, especially solutions for COVID-19 recovery and achievement of the SDGs, related SDG 4 and education. The session was conceptualized as an inclusive and constructive intergenerational and multistakeholder discussion on the education youth want and need, with a focus on relevant and transformative education, while holding decision-makers accountable for their commitments outlines in global and regional education agendas.

The discussion, which took place on 13 August, started with a young teacher and inclusive education activist from Guyana, nominated by UNGEI. It then highlighted the work of three young innovators, namely representatives of [Street2School](#), a blended online-offline community learning hub that empowers adolescents who are not in school to learn basic foundational and soft skills; [RuraTECH](#), an organization that provides learners and educators with the equipment and necessary training support to advance the progression of Science, Technology and Mathematics in Africa; and [Je Suis Montreal](#), a platform that aims to foster inclusion and human rights education.

The session closed with an intergenerational dialogue moderated by the co-chair of Transform Education, UNESCO's Director for the Division for Peace and Sustainable Development, the Director of UNGEI Secretariat, a GPE Young Leader and Purposeful Advocacy Manager, and the Inclusive Quality Education, Policy and Advocacy Lead of Plan International.

International Education Day

On 25 January, in celebration of International Day of Education held on 24 January, OSGEY, the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI), and the World Organization of the Scouts Movement (WOSM) held the virtual event "[Learning Outside the Box: Education During COVID-19](#)" – a conversation between the Envoy on Youth and young leaders from Brazil, the United Kingdom, and Zambia. The discussion highlighted the importance of gender transformative, inclusive, and universal quality education, as well as amplified the voices and work of three young education activists. The social media communication of the event led to a total reach of 74,525, total engagement of 2,069, and 146 shares.

International Teachers Day

On 5 October, World Teachers Day, OSGEY partnered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) on an [Instagram takeover](#) by a young UNRWA teacher. The takeover aimed to, simultaneously, promote the important work being carried out by UNRWA schools, as well as highlight the pivotal role of teachers by amplifying the work and experience of a young student turned teacher from an UNRWA school. The takeover led to 20,114 impressions, 596 engagements, and 38 shares on Instagram.

High-level Commission on the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 Follow-up

In September 2020, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth accepted the invitation by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to join the [High-Level Commission \(HLC\) on the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 Follow-up](#), which aims at providing guidance and political support to advocate for a meaningful follow-up to the 12 global commitments outlined in the Nairobi Statement on ICPD25. These commitments cover the key issues of sexual and reproductive health and rights, as outlined in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD); the financing of the ICPD agenda; and securing their positioning in the 2030 Agenda and the UN Decade of Action. Established as an independent advisory body, the HLC will submit an annual public report to the Executive Director of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), bringing together high-level representatives from academia, research, civil society, human rights activists, private sector, foundations, parliamentarians, former presidents, ministers and youth leaders from around the world. The HLC will ensure structured monitoring and advocate for voluntary follow-up of the commitments outlined in the Nairobi Statement on ICPD25.

In 2021, OSGEY supported and promoted [the 2nd anniversary of the Nairobi Summit](#) and launch of the first report of the High-Level Commission on ICPD25 Follow-up, [“No Exceptions, No Exclusions: Realizing sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice for all”](#).

Global Partnership Forum on CSE

Co-convened by UNESCO and UNFPA, the [Global Partnership Forum on Comprehensive Sexuality Education \(CSE\)](#) aims to advance research, promote good practice, enhance collaboration, and overcome challenges on the journey towards CSE. It provides a structured platform for intensified collaboration, the sharing of information and good practices, identifying gaps in research, enhancing youth leadership, and informing evidence-based policies and programmes. OSGEY joined the partnership in October 2021.

Health and Wellbeing Session at #YouthLead Innovation Festival

One of the key themes addressed at the #YouthLead Innovation Festival in celebration of the International Youth Day 2021 was young people's health and wellbeing. For the thematic session on this topic, OSGEY partnered with the Global Youth Mobilization and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). This session provided an opportunity to discuss the important role of young people and youth contributions to COVID-19 response and recovery. It also highlighted the impact of the global pandemic on global health, particularly towards young people, and addressed the need to invest in youth and empower young people as equal partners to create solutions for COVID-19 response and recovery in their communities.

The session started with a keynote speech by World Health Organization (WHO)'s Director General, which highlighted the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health and wellbeing. The session also highlighted the positive contribution led by young solutions makers and innovators, from the [Mualim](#) initiative that aims to support physical and psychological wellbeing of young people and address the challenges of bullying; the [Mental Health Hats](#) initiative, which works on youth-led online mental health care service; and the [Youth to Youth initiative](#) that aims to promote youth-led health services and education on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

The session was closed with a multistakeholder dialogue on youth-led COVID-19 response and recovery through engagement in non-formal education programmes, which featured the voices of young people and representatives from the Global Youth Mobilization and UNICEF.

UN Road Safety Agenda

Road traffic crashes are among the leading causes of death globally for young people aged 15 to 19. More than 1000 youth die every single day due to road traffic accidents. Despite the staggering number, young people's rights to safety and wellbeing are often overlooked. OSGEY has been a supporter of the UN Road Safety agenda, particularly in advocating for young people's rights and needs in the space, engaging with youth networks and movements in the road safety space, and supporting the work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), WHO, and Special Envoy for Road Safety.

In 2021, OSGEY supported the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) High-Level Panel for Road Safety advocacy awareness on "[My choice, my way, our lives](#)" campaign, participated in the [intergenerational dialogue](#) between youth leaders and Ministers held in the frame of the UN Global Road Safety Week, and most importantly supported the call by youth movements for meaningful engagement of youth in shaping road safety policies.

More importantly, this year also marks a milestone where young people are officially recognized in the [Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030](#) that was launched in October 2021. The Global Plan specifically highlighted the role of youth in shaping the future transport system, the need to consult youth, and the need for meaningful youth engagement. The Global Plan also strongly contributes achievement of Sustainable Development Goals as well as the Youth2030 Priority Areas on Informed and Healthy Foundations.

Priority Area 3:
Economic Empowerment through Decent Work -
Support young people's greater access to decent work
and productive employment

World Youth Skills Day

World Youth Skills Day (15 July) is an opportunity for young people, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions, and public and private sector stakeholders to acknowledge and celebrate the importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship. Every year, OSGEY co-organizes the global celebration of World Youth Skills Day.

In 2021, this celebration was shaped as a virtual panel discussion on “[Reimagining Youth Skills Post Pandemic](#)”. The event was organized by the Permanent Missions of Portugal and Sri Lanka to the United Nations, together with UNESCO, ILO and OSGEY.

World Youth Skills Day 2021 celebrated the resilience and creativity of youth through the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants took stock of how TVET systems have adapted to the pandemic and recession, thinking of how those systems can participate in the recovery, and imagine priorities they should adopt for the post-COVID-19-world. The first interactive panel discussed skills that are needed today and skills that will be needed in the future, and a second panel reflected on TVET stakeholder partnerships for scaling up youth skills development.

The event included opening remarks by the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, who also read a written statement by the UN Secretary-General and counted with the participation from the President of the 75th General Assembly, the Permanent Representatives of Sri Lanka and Portugal to the UN, the Deputy Director-General for Policy at the ILO, the Director of the Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems at UNESCO, and youth representatives.

A summary of the discussion was published on an online article drafted by UNESCO and entitled [“Resilience and Creativity: Youth’s contributions to the Post-Pandemic”](#).

Moreover, OSGEY partnered with Generation Unlimited on a youth takeover of OSGEY’s Instagram account, in the scope of World Youth Skills Day. Three young people working with Generation Unlimited in three different countries across the globe shared their experience and perspectives on “reimagining youth skills post pandemic”. The takeover accounted for a total reach of 33,137, a total of 905 engagements, and 98 total shares.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership – Generation Unlimited

[Generation Unlimited](#) (GenU) is a global multi-sector partnership to meet the urgent need for expanded education, training and employment opportunities for young people, aged 10 to 24, on an unprecedented scale. Launched at the 73rd United Nations General Assembly, in September 2018, GenU has generated interest from government and leaders from industry and other key sectors committed to cohere efforts around young people for large-scale impact.

Investment in young people through GenU contributes directly to accelerate results for the realization of the 2030 Agenda and is also an effective way to operationalize the vision and priorities of the UN system-wide youth strategy, Youth2030 – in particular, the programmatic pillars 1. youth engagement, participation and advocacy; 2. supporting young people’s greater access to quality education and skills development; and 3. economic empowerment through decent jobs. The Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth is a member of the Global Leadership Council of GenU and OSGEY actively participates in various activities of the partnership.

Notably, in 2021 the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth played a pivotal role in the establishment of a new partnership – [GenU Sahel](#). It is a joint endeavor between GenU and the Secretary General’s United Nations Special Coordinator for the Sahel, in partnership with UNICEF, which will provide 100 million Sahelian young people with skills and access to socio-economic opportunities by 2030, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, the Agenda 2063, and Youth2030. The initiative will also serve to harmonize all youth related activities across the region under the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS).

On 1 November, Africa Youth Day, the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth participated in the launch event of GenU Sahel, together with the Global Director of GenU, the Special Coordinator for the Sahel, and Sahelian youth. In her opening speech, the Envoy stressed the importance of meaningfully engaging young people in the Sahel, especially young women and girls, in all decision-making processes affecting their lives and futures.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership – Decent Jobs for Youth

OSGEY is a member of [Decent Jobs for Youth](#) - a multi-stakeholder alliance, led by ILO, which is committed to creating quality jobs for young people. Decent Jobs for Youth works to improve job prospects for young people and deliver on the 2030 Agenda. In 2020, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth contributed to the 2020 Decent Jobs for Youth impact report with an article on the role of decent jobs for youth in promoting prosperity, participation, and peace. The [2020 Decent Jobs for Youth report](#), which combines findings from 2019 to 2020, was published in 2021.

Moreover, as a member of Decent Jobs for Youth, OSGEY supported ILO with the youth consultations on the 2022 Global Employment Trends for Youth (GET Youth). The GET Youth series is a major publication of the ILO, which most recent labour market information available while also focusing on a key theme in the world of work facing young women and men. The forthcoming 2022 edition of the report will examine five “economies” with particular potential to create productive jobs for young workers: (i) green economy; (ii) blue economy; (iii) digital economy; (iv) creative economy and (v) care economy. Such an analysis is expected to be particularly relevant and topical as the COVID-19 global pandemic has disproportionately affected young workers and countries around the world are looking to foster longer-term investments in strategic sectors to drive inclusive growth and job creation.

To gather young people’s ideas, views and perspectives on specific issues to be covered in the report, ILO, with the support of OSGEY and other partners, launched online consultations with young people. The active engagement of young people from different backgrounds and different experiences around the world in the consultations aim to substantially inform and shape the GET Youth report. Five online sessions focused on the abovementioned “economies” with particular potential to create productive for young workers took place on 28 October.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership – Solutions for Youth Employment

The Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth is a steering committee member of [Solutions for Youth Employment](#) (S4YE), a multi-stakeholder coalition among public sector, private sector, civil society actors, government officials, foundations, think tanks, and young people that aims to provide leadership and resources for catalytic action to increase the number of young people engaged in productive work.

In 2021, OSGEY supported S4YE with its [Youth Advisory Group](#), by nominating young people to participate in this pivotal space. Recognizing the importance of youth voice, S4YE created the S4YE Youth Advisory Group (YAG) in 2019, with support from OSGEY and other S4YE members. It consists of 17 talented and enterprising youth from across the globe. The S4YE YAG provides input on the strategic priorities and deliverables of S4YE and the World Bank.

Based on the success of this initial Advisory Group, S4YE decided to scale up the YAG and include even more young people to ensure they have an active voice in all activities of the coalition. S4YE looked particularly for young people who have led innovative solutions or enterprises, especially in the following areas: green jobs & the circular economy; gig jobs; solutions for youth with disabilities; solutions to strengthen emotional resilience among youth; and innovative solutions in creative sectors.

Economic Empowerment and Employment Session of #YouthLead Innovation Festival

In the scope of #YouthLead Innovation Festival organized to celebrate International Youth Day 2021, OSGEY partnered with Generation Unlimited, Solutions for Youth Employment, and Decent Jobs for Youth on the “Economic Empowerment and Employment” session. This session, entitled “Promoting youth employment and economic empowerment amidst the COVID-19 pandemic” aimed to create a global convening space to showcase solutions created with and for youth, especially solutions for COVID-19 recovery and achievement of the SDGs, related to economic empowerment, employment and entrepreneurship. Conceptualized as an inclusive and constructive intergenerational and multistakeholder discussion on the crosscutting intersection between SDG implementation and COVID-19 response and recovery, innovation, and youth economic empowerment and employment, the session also aimed to provide space and platform to highlight great innovative work that all young people create as solutions makers and debunk the stigmatizing views of young people as “troublemakers”.

The discussion, which took place on 12 August, started with a keynote speech by a young female entrepreneur from Mexico, nominated by Generation Unlimited. It then highlighted the work of three young innovators, namely the founders of [Foodovation Trading as Artisanal Foods Zimbabwe](#), a food manufacturing company that specializes in the value addition of local ingredients to more functional foods and food ingredients; [Wayuuda Foundation](#), an indigenous-led endeavor that aims to strengthen access to education in Wayuu indigenous communities in La Guajira, Colombia, to increase employability and economic empowerment; and [Elpis Solar](#), which through a solar-run hardware package provides key services and opportunities, including water filtration, mobile charging, electricity, and even educational software, to residents of refugee camps.

The session closed with an intergenerational dialogue between the four above-mentioned young people and representatives from Generation Unlimited, Decent Jobs for Youth, Solutions for Youth Employment, and Microsoft Philanthropies. The session was moderated by a young entrepreneur from Senegal, nominated by Generation Unlimited.

Land-Based Jobs for Youth

In December, OSGEY supported the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and Deutsche Welle in organizing the [Land-based Jobs for Youth](#) global webinar. The webinar, which was held on 16 December engaged and motivated young people around the idea of land-based jobs to help them imagine and turn sound and durable land-use business ideas into green and profitable businesses.

Priority Area 4: Youth and Human Rights – Protect and promote the rights of young people and support their civic and political engagement

Young People's Political Participation

A key priority area in Youth2030 is the promotion of young people's participation in political and public affairs. OSGEY strives to leverage the capacity of the UN to promote young people's right to participate in public affairs, including in political and civic processes, platforms and institutions at all levels, such as elections, constitution-making processes, political parties, and parliaments. This priority is implemented across OSGEY's work in highlighting the need for youth representation in institutions and formal processes as a prerequisite for affecting policy change on areas like climate change, gender equality, peacebuilding and so forth. Throughout OSGEY and the Envoy on Youth's advocacy towards politicians, policy developers, civil society and youth activists alike, the issue of youth participation is approached from an intersectional human rights lens, with the principle of leaving no one behind at its core, in order to highlight the discriminatory structures that prevent young people in general, but certain groups in particular, from participating in political participation making. Young people have an inalienable right to be represented when laws are adopted, budgets negotiated, and governments held to account and their exclusion from these processes undermines the valuable contributions they bring for the good of all people today and for the good of future generations.

In February, the Envoy on Youth participated in the inaugural [Denver Democracy Summit](#), part of a multi-year Democracy Initiative at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies integrating public engagement, research, and educational activities on issues of democratic governance. The Summit connected a range of citizens' democracy efforts by bringing together leaders and thinkers from politics, business, and civil society with diverse identities and viewpoints from across the political spectrum along with scholars and students from around the world. The Envoy on Youth participated in an inactive debate titled [Democracy in Action: Youth Movements for Social Change](#) alongside notable youth activists, discussing

public protests as a strategy for social change, how and whether to translate energy into legislative change, and how democracies can meet the challenges of the 21st century.

In April, the Envoy on Youth participated in the Global Youth Summit organized by the [Global Youth Mobilization for Generation Disrupted](#), an initiative of the Big Six Youth Organizations and WHO, powered by the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund and UN Foundation. A ground-breaking youth-led movement for change, the Global Youth Mobilization wanted to empower young people to take an active role in the immediate and long-term recovery from the impact of COVID-19 and ensure that the resources, recognition and support necessary to make a meaningful difference. OSGEY supported the organization of the plenary session [Achieving policy change from the inside](#), which the Envoy on Youth moderated and spoke alongside three young women including Safaath Ahmed Zahir from the Maldives, who is a former Young Leader for the SDGs. The Envoy on Youth also participated in the [closing pledging session](#) of the Summit that featured 70 hours of content and more than 200 speakers.

Later in April, the Envoy on Youth provided a [keynote presentation](#) at the [Seventh Inter Parliamentary Union \(IPU\) Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians](#), where she spoke about the importance of enhancing partnerships between parliaments and young people in the context of COVID-19 recovery, and on the same occasion joined the IPU Campaign [I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament](#). The Conference brought together 257 participants, including 128 parliamentarians (57 per cent of whom were women) from 84 countries.

In October, the Envoy on Youth gave an [address](#) at the Opening Ceremony of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's Virtual [Commonwealth Youth Parliament](#) (CYP).

Protection of Young People in Civic Space

In 2021, OSGEY continued strengthening its advocacy on protection of young people in civic space, in line with the priorities in Youth2030, as well as Youth, Peace and Security Resolutions 2250, 2419, and 2535. In May 2021, OSGEY and the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY), together with the Communications Task Force under the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security, launched a campaign to address the shrinking civic space for young people worldwide, debunk policy myths regarding protection and youth, and increase awareness among youth populations on safe participation in civic space. To ensure the success of the campaign, OSGEY also mobilized a wide network of civil society organizations and UN Entities to support the campaign. The campaign ran for six weeks, garnering a reach of nearly 300,000, including more than 9,000 engagements and 900 shares, indicating that there is interest in engaging and learning about this topic. The six-week campaign features [unique and campaign-specific visuals and messages](#) in English,

Arabic, French and Spanish, which continue to be publicly available for anyone who wants to mainstream these messages on their own channels.

The campaign led up to the launch of the [Global Report on Protecting Young People in Civic Space, "If I Disappear."](#) The report, first of its kind, presents testimonies from 500 young people with diverse backgrounds worldwide, on the types of barriers and challenges they face when they exercise their rights and act as peacebuilders, human rights defenders and community mobilizers in civic space. Recommendations and guidance for various stakeholders, including governments, intergovernmental and regional organizations, civil society and young people, are included. The report is currently available in English.

The report was launched in June 2021, together with partners, during a [high-level event](#) that featured inspiring youth activists, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the former UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, 2011 Nobel Peace Laureate, the Secretary-General of Amnesty International, the European Union Commissioner for International Partnerships, Norway's Minister of International Development and the Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic. More than 1,600 people watched the event through UN Web TV and on the platform itself. The event and the report garnered a lot of interest from various partners and positive feedback, and young people's concerns on protection issues were raised as the primary theme on the international agenda in front of a large number of people for the first time. Government and political leaders also expressed their support and commitments for supporting young people whose rights and freedoms in civic space are violated.

Moving forward, OSGEY will continue to advocate for the implementation of the recommendations in the report together with partners in the Protection Working Group (PWG). The PWG was established under the Global Coalition on Youth Peace and Security in November 2019, and it is co-chaired by OSGEY together with Search For Common Ground. Through monthly meetings, the PWG aims to coordinate the efforts on protecting young people, from a YPS-lens and more broadly, among the UN system, civil society organizations and youth organizations. Currently, the PWG consists of 80 members and experts from the UN, civil society, and youth-led and youth-focused organizations. The PWG's specific aim is to globally coordinate efforts on strengthening the protection of young people active in civic spaces, who are exposed to violence and harassment due to their activism. Many individual entities within the Protection Working Group have already implemented and mainstreamed the findings of the report into their own work and continued developing initiatives to keep up the momentum on this important topic.

OSGEY and Search For Common Ground organized approximately 25 Protection Working Group meetings since November 2019, developed a two-year strategy to guide the work of the group, increased the membership to approximately 80 organizations and agencies, while continuing to increase its database of emergency funds for urgent assistance and relocation support of youth activists. Moving forward, the group will also focus on regional and country

level advocacy and implementation of the report findings, to ensure that young people and relevant stakeholders on grassroots level are aware of and can benefit from this research project.

The Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth has consistently mainstreamed the importance of protecting and supporting young people in civic space in numerous events and advocacy initiatives and will continue to promote the much-needed leadership on this issue.

Mainstreaming of Youth into Existing Human Rights Mechanisms

In 2021, OSGEY collaborated with OHCHR on several groundbreaking initiatives, that promoted meaningful inclusion of youth into existing human rights mechanisms and helped them benefit from these existing resources.

OHCHR was a quintessential partner for the first-ever Global Report on Protecting Youth in Civic Space, and served as expert advisors before, during and after the research project was finalized. The High Commissioner for Human Rights wrote the foreword for the Report and provided opening remarks at the launch of the Report, where she reminded the international community of the commitments made by the UN Secretary-General in his [Call to Action for Human Rights](#), where he called the UN system to pay more attention to the rights of young people and future generations, and pledged the UN's support to Member States for developing protection mechanisms for human rights defenders, particularly youth, women, and girls. She emphasized that a fairer, equal and just world will only be possible with the safe and meaningful participation of young people worldwide.

OSGEY has also collaborated with OHCHR's Reprisals Unit, in order to ensure that young people engaging with OSGEY for the purpose of events and other advocacy initiatives are safe while doing so. For the first time, OSGEY and OHCHR collaborated to develop individual risk analysis assessments together with young people, as well as context-specific and individually tailored protection protocols, to ensure that all precautionary measures were taken to prevent reprisals for youth's engagement with the UN. OSGEY will continue this practice in the future, as it has proven to be particularly effective in ensuring young people's safe participation.

In April 2021, OHCHR organized an [Intersessional Seminar on Youth and Human Rights](#), as per the recommendation from the Human Rights Council resolution 41/13 on youth and human rights (due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in October 2020 the Human Rights Council adopted decision 45/113 to postpone the seminar to 2021). The Seminar, first of its kind, aimed to highlight discrimination and challenges that youth in all their diversity face in the realization of their rights, explore how youth are mainstreamed across different human rights mechanisms and identify possible actions for the consideration of Member States to

improve the rights of youth. The Envoy on Youth provided opening remarks and called the Human Rights Council to consider not only possible methods of improving, but institutionalizing the participation of youth in its work in a permanent, structured and meaningful way. More specifically, the Envoy on Youth suggested that this could take various forms such as an Annual Forum, mandated by the Council (which was also recommended by the Human Rights Council report in 2018), with a clear follow-up plan and strong accountability mechanisms for the implementation of findings and recommendations put forward by youth. The Envoy on Youth hopes that these recommendations will be considered and implemented in the near future and welcomes similar initiatives such as the Intersessional Seminar to foster this implementation. The Envoy's remarks, as well as outcomes of other discussions, can be found [here](#).

OSGEY has also engaged with OHCHR in developing several smaller advocacy initiatives and collaboration opportunities throughout 2021. Such as providing input to various guidance papers, recommending diverse youth-led and youth-focused organizations for consultations with Special Procedures, as well as facilitating the amplification of youth activists on OHCHR's channels, most notably through the latest OHCHR Human Rights Champions blog series (for more information, see [here](#)).

Working Group on Hate Speech

The Working Group on Hate Speech, comprised of different UN Entities, UNCTs, peace operations and political missions, is tasked with implementing the [Secretary-General's Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech](#). In 2021, OSGEY has continued to attend the meetings and support the Working Group on Hate Speech, in order to ensure that young people are systematically included into the actions of the group. OSGEY has developed its internal Action Plan on implementing the official UN Guidance on Hate Speech, in line with its internal mandate, to continue building synergies with the group, by focusing on the three key commitments of the Strategy on hate speech:

1. Engaging with new and traditional media;
2. Engaging in advocacy;
3. Leveraging partnerships.

Moreover, OSGEY has contributed to knowledge products developed by the Working Group, including the Guidance for Gender-Based Hate Speech, to ensure that young women and girls are mainstreamed into the report.

On 26 October, the Envoy on Youth participated in the [Global Conference on Addressing Hate Speech Through Education](#), convened by the Secretary-General and co-organized by UNESCO and the United Nations Office on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect (OSAPG). In her address, the Envoy on Youth highlighted and emphasized the

critical role young people play in countering hate speech, fighting disinformation, and promoting values of peace, sustainable development, and human rights. OSGEY looks forward to continuing the collaboration with the leading social media platforms to advocate for better protection of young people online, while also promoting useful tools and distributing information for digital self-protection from hate speech and tracking personal digital footprint.

Racial Justice Initiatives

Promoting racial justice inside the UN system, as well as externally, is particularly important for the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. In 2021, OSGEY staff has contributed to several of the Task Forces of the larger UN Working Groups on Addressing Racism, by providing feedback on knowledge documents, participating in discussions and weekly meetings, and developing recommendations for improving responses to racial injustice issues at the UN. The office also actively contributed to amplifying the UN #FightRacism campaign across all social media channels. OSGEY looks forward to implementing these recommendations in 2022.

OSGEY has also supported civil society organizations in organizing discussions on this important topic in collaboration with a diverse group of young people. Most notably, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth participated in two roundtable discussions by [Equitas – International Center for Human Rights Education](#), where she discussed together with young people how youth are taking leadership and using their power to promote racial justice and reinforce inclusive, safe and connected communities. Through this session, young people were provided with access to dialogue opportunities with decision makers, they increased their capacity to articulate priorities and requests, and a space was created for sharing strategies that foster youth leadership in racial justice and measure for accountability. The Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth also stressed the importance of human rights education as a tool for promoting racial justice and encouraged everyone present to connect with international communities and initiatives to strengthen their initiatives locally, particularly through the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

Ahead of Human Rights Day and the Summit for Democracy, OSGEY supported the virtual dialogue on “[Advancing Racial Justice Through Sports Diplomacy](#)” hosted by the United States Department of State, the United States Permanent Mission to the United Nations, RISE, and Laureaus. The conversation provided an opportunity to discuss the realities of systemic racism in sports the intersectional challenges faced by women, LGBTQI+ persons, and persons with disabilities, and the ways athletes can use their platform to speak up on racial injustice.

Working Group on the Call to Action for Human Rights

In his [Call to Action for Human Rights](#), the Secretary-General commits to developing an agenda for protection for the UN system, underpinned by a common understanding of protection's centrality, based on full respect of human rights law, international humanitarian law, and refugee law. OSGEY is a member of the Working Group on the Call to Action for Human Rights, structured under the following seven thematic pillars: 1. Sustainable Development; 2. Times of Crisis; 3. Gender Equality; 4. Civic Space; 5. Climate Justice; 6. Collective Action; and 7. New Frontiers. OSGEY actively participates in four of the seven thematic pillars.

As part of the Task Team on the UN Guidance Note on the Protection and Promotion of Civic Space, led by OHCHR, as well as the Task Team that promotes the implementation of the Secretary-General's Agenda for Protection, OSGEY continues to support the groups by contributing to knowledge products and regularly attending meetings, to ensure that young people are systematically mainstreamed into the activities of these groups.

OSGEY also participates in the Working Group on the Rights of Future Generations and Climate Justice. This year, the Working Group led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), launched STEP UP, a joint commitment by Heads of United Nations Entities as a response to Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights to promote the right of children, youth and future generations to a healthy environment and their meaningful participation in decision-making at all levels, in relation to climate action and climate justice. Additionally, along with the members of Working Group, OSGEY also supported and signed the [joint statement of United Nations entities on the right to healthy environment](#). The joint statement was presented in the 46th session of Human Rights Council by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on behalf of 15 UN Entities. Following up to the joint statement delivery, the UN Human Rights Council then [adopted a resolution on the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment during](#) its 48th regular session. The resolution is the first formal recognition of this right at the global level.

In addition to this, OSGEY also takes part in the Working Group for New Frontiers and Digital Technology, which aims to develop UN system-wide internal human rights due diligence guide for the use of digital technologies. The internal guidance developed by the Working Group will serve as a model for other organizations and for Member States and is currently in its development process. In February 2021, the Working Group also launched the [Human Rights Digital Hub](#), an initiative the OSGEY supported in creating, that aims to be a one-stop-digital-shop for resources on human rights in the digital age. The Digital Hub, hosted under OHCHR, was presented to Member States briefing in the 46th session of Human Rights Council.

Collaborations with the UN Special Procedures

In 2021, the Envoy on Youth continued her collaboration with the UN Special Rapporteurs, which began in 2020 with the first ever [Joint Statement](#) between the Envoy on Youth and Special Rapporteurs in response to violent escalations during youth-led protests around the world.

Following up on this initiative, the Envoy on Youth had bilateral meetings with the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association and the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Freedom of Opinion and Expression, to discuss potential opportunities for collaboration that would ensure more systematic youth inclusion into UN's Special Procedures. At OSGEY's invitation, the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association provided remarks during one of the sessions at the ECOSOC Youth Forum, where he noted the importance of promoting transparent and inclusive consultation with diverse youth groups, in the process of achieving the SDGs. Moreover, he noted the importance of engaging with Governments to account for lack of meaningful inclusion of vulnerable youth groups in their consultations, and/or violating young people's right to peaceful assembly and of association. The Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth participated in the launch of the report on [Exercise of the Right to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association as Essential for Advancing Climate Justice\(A/76/222\)](#). The report documented the experiences of climate activists, particularly youth climate activists, when exercising their civil rights and freedoms, and presented a way forward for providing better support to these young people. OSGEY has also collaborated with the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders on protection and support of young human rights defenders, by providing information to young people about this mandate and directing youth cases to the mandate, when appropriate. The Envoy on Youth also welcomes excellent collaboration with the Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, who has provided support before and during the implementation of the first-ever Queer Youth Dialogues, which will be covered in detail below.

Moving forward, OSGEY will continue to provide the important connections between young people in civic space and the UN Special Rapporteurs when needed and continues to raise awareness about the mechanisms that are available to young people in need of support.

Envoy on Youth's Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Envoy on Youth, in coordination with the Resident Coordinator's Office and the UNCT, visited Bosnia and Herzegovina in November 2021 to promote the role of young agents of change for trust-building and reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Western Balkans region. The visit also highlighted the UNCT's programmes in support of youth and social cohesion.

This mission was in line with the approved Executive Committee High-Level Engagement Strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The visit emphasized the implementation of Youth2030, which provides a framework for the UN system work with and for youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The UNCT discussed with the Envoy the progress made so far based on the first reporting through the Youth2030 UNCT Scorecard and explored opportunities for strengthening UNCTs efforts on youth alongside other international partners present in the country, including but not limited to the European Union and the Council of Europe.

The Envoy met with national counterparts, government representatives, and young people with an aim to contribute to the joint efforts of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the UNCT in catalyzing youth development within the framework of the 2030 Agenda by sharing and exploring ways to further mobilize support for the empowerment of young people of Bosnia and Herzegovina and recognize their invaluable contribution as agents of change for trust-building and reconciliation.

International Human Rights Day

The [“Our Common Agenda”](#) report that was recently launched by the UN Secretary-General highlights the need to consider the possibility of updating application of human rights frameworks to address frontier issues and prevent harms in the digital spaces. Young people are known as digital natives and online activism is one of the key modalities that young people have been utilizing to stand up for the future that we all deserve. However, the civic space is filled with severe difficulties for young people to navigate: on the one hand, the intensified and multi-dimensional crises are calling on more young people to join movements for change; on the other, the violence and mental health issues that often accompany such engagements, especially for youth from marginalized groups, risk [reducing young people’s desire and ability to take action](#). It is on this background that OSGEY decided to host an interactive discussion, to commemorate International Human Rights Day in partnership with UN Global Pulse, OHCHR and the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Technology. This event set out to facilitate a timely conversation for young people, led by young people and technology experts, to rethink our approaches for activism. This discussion aimed to equip young people with useful, applicable information about engaging in strategic online activism to address global crises, in a safe and meaningful way.

Four inspiring speakers from Colombia, Malaysia, Nigeria and Palestine participated in a panel discussion moderated by Ms. Yu Ping Chan, the leader of Digital Collaboration at the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Technology. The first-ever hip-hop band led by young Roma women provided a closing musical performance, as well as video remarks where they shared why they use art and technology to advocate for gender equality and the equality of Roma minorities. Based on the outcomes of the discussion and the speakers’

recommendations, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth will publish a blog post, which will be translated to Arabic, French and Spanish, to call on stakeholders to provide young people with the necessary financial, social and political support to promote human rights through technology, innovation and art in their communities.

The Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth welcomes this multi-stakeholder collaboration and looks forward to continuing conversations on the timely topic of young people's efforts to innovate the human rights agenda worldwide.

Insights from Interactive Online Discussion to Mark International Human Rights Day

300 people from **77** countries/ areas registered to attend the online event

5 people from **5** countries/ areas spoke at the online event

4 out of **5** of the speakers were young people & **3** out of **5** speakers were women

Countries/ Areas and corresponding geographical regions taken from <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/>

Human Rights of LGBTIQ+ Youth

Young lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer (LGBTIQ+) people, are among the most vulnerable and marginalized in many societies, experiencing discrimination that negatively impacts all aspects of their lives. Due to societies' heteronormative and cisgender expectations, LGBTIQ+ youth experience abuse at home and elsewhere; offensive stereotyping and widespread discrimination, including in educational and health care settings; and lack adequate legal protection to combat denial of basic human rights. In addition, they are largely excluded from participating in decision-making processes that affect their lives. Concerted advocacy efforts are also challenged by a loosely organized youth civil society, suffering from a lack of resources and capacity. Despite this, LGBTIQ+ Youth bravely organize, engage, and activate across geopolitical divides with the shared ambition of improving protection, recognition, and support for global LGBTIQ+ movements. Recognizing the pertinent need to find ways to protect and meaningfully include young LGBTIQ+ advocates, who are disproportionately affected by the pandemic, OSGEY has increased the work on LGBTIQ+ youth rights in 2021, approaching the 'new normal' arising from global responses to COVID-19 as an opportunity to do better and answer the repeated calls from LGBTIQ+ youth around the world, who demand fundamental and sustainable change, leaving no one behind.

- ***Event on LGBTIQ+ Youth Rights on the sidelines of the Intersessional Seminar on Youth and Human Rights***

In relation to the Intersessional Seminar on Youth and Human Rights, mandated by resolution 41/13 and convened by the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights on 12 April 2021, OSGEY supported a virtual side event on LGBTIQ+ Youth Human Rights: the role of UN Human Rights mechanisms. In the spirit of youth-leadership the event was organized by the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) World, African Queer Youth Initiative, Youth Voices Count and the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer & Intersex Youth and Student Organisation (IGLYO), and co-sponsored by OSGEY, UNFPA, OHCHR and the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations in Geneva. Seeking connection, inspiration and ambition to move forward, paving the way for a more meaningful inclusion and participation of young LGBTIQ+ people in the UN space, the event provided a platform for young people to share about the obstacles they face and have overcome in their advocacy efforts, especially within and in relation to the Geneva-based human rights mechanisms.

- ***The Queer Youth Dialogues***

In 2021, OSGEY in partnership with the UN Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (IE SOGI), ILGA World and the Global Queer Youth Network ([GOYN](#)) initiated a new initiative, known as the [Queer Youth Dialogues](#), aiming to achieve a stronger and more powerful LGBTIQ+ youth civil society, able to realize legislative, cultural and behavioral change that advances their rights and freedom.

The Queer Youth Dialogues constitute a year-long initiative with the aim of building a stronger global youth movement for LGBTIQ+ human rights, with more resources, support and power and was launched on the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) on 17 May 2021.

The Dialogues bring together key actors, including young LGBTIQ+ people, activists, and civil society organizations alongside UN Entities and Member States. In support of Youth2030, the initiative seeks to enhance and promote the human rights of LGBTIQ+ youth and strengthen structures for their meaningful participation. For that, four high-level intergenerational dialogues led by OSGEY took place between July and December, focusing on different and intersecting themes, such as [meaningful participation at the UN](#); [Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights](#); [intersections between the LGBTIQ+, Peacebuilding and Climate Justice youth movements](#); [the participation of young LGBTIQ+ people in formal politics](#). The dialogues have featured 18 young LGBTIQ+ speakers from all continents, who have engaged with senior leadership and colleagues from UN Habitat, UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women, UNESCO, and the Peacebuilding Support Office of the United Nations Department of

Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (PBSO/DPPA). In the spirit of maintaining a truly collaborative and intersectional focus, the Dialogues have furthermore benefited from the support of key civil society partners such as SheDecides, CHOICE for Youth, the Secretary General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change, the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security and the Global Equality Caucus. The sessions have featured a live audience of over two hundred people and have all been simultaneously translated into French and Spanish, including communication access real-time translation (CART) to increase accessibility for more diverse youth audiences. Furthermore, the sessions have all been recorded and shared via email lists and in closed chat groups to reach a wider audience.

Thus far, the Queer Youth Dialogues have reached nearly 272,000 people via the collective social media channels of the organizing partners, including nearly 8,000 engagements and more than 500 shares. Several additional communications activations are planned together with partners for the remaining duration of the Dialogues in early 2022.

Looking ahead, the initiative will still hold another four high-level political sessions in the first semester of 2022, including a hybrid event on IDAHOBIT, marking the end of the initiative and the launch of an outcome report.

An additional objective of the Queer Youth Dialogues includes the establishment of a global infrastructure supporting young LGBTIQ+ activists and youth-led networks. This has been happening through the work of the [Global Queer Youth Network](#), established in the Spring of 2021 with the support of ILGA World's Youth Steering Committee. The Global Queer Youth Network is a global initiative which aims to create, facilitate, and maintain a global network of member organisations whose mandate is to further the rights, protections, and societal acceptance of LGBTIQ+ Young People. The Global Queer Youth Network strengthens partnerships through resource development, facilitation of global communication on the status of LGBTIQ+ youth rights, and the implementation of programming that raises the capacity of LGBTIQ+ youth organisations and activists. All activities and interventions of the Global Queer Youth Network bring queer youth issues to the forefront.

In 2021 OSGEY has supported the Global Queer Youth Network with a [series of events](#) such as a [Creative Celebration session](#), [virtual trainings on fundraising](#), a panel discussion on the [Outright Summit](#), called "*The Road to Equality is not Straight: Meaningful Action for LGBTIQ+ Youth*" and a [capacity building series on Digital Security](#) developed and facilitated in collaboration with industry experts.

[Participation in the Copenhagen 2021 Global Pride Human Rights Conference](#)

In May, the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth embarked on her first mission of the year to participate in the [Copenhagen 2021 Human Rights Forum](#) happening in conjunction with the

[World Pride and EuroGames](#). The mission provided an opportunity to engage in discussion with Government representatives, youth delegates, LGBTIQ+ youth activists, networks and organizations from all over the world to discuss strategies for amplifying the voices of young queer activists, highlighting their challenges and facilitating their meaningful participation in decision making processes. The Envoy on Youth spoke at the [opening](#) of the Human Rights Conference hosted by the UN City along with the Danish Minister of Development Cooperation, the Crown Princess of Denmark, the Executive Director of UNFPA, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UNDP Assistant Administrator and the Independent Expert of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. Amongst her many engagements of the mission, the Envoy on Youth furthermore provided a keynote speech at the Human Rights Conference on youth LGBTIQ+ rights and participated in a panel discussion with all the Ministers for Gender Equality from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland, which evolved around the well-being of LGBTIQ+ youth particularly in health and educational settings.

Free & Equal Campaign

To focus on the ways young lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) people are changing the world for the better and leading us all into a fearless future where all young people are safe, loved and empowered to thrive, OSGEY partnered with UN Free & Equal to launch the Fearless Future: LGBTIQ+ #YouthLead campaign. The campaign launched ahead of the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (17 May) and ran until International Youth Day (12 August), with an interim milestone to mark the Stonewall Anniversary (28 June) which is celebrated and coincides with Pride month in many countries.

The campaign was built on a foundational understanding that young LGBTIQ+ people, including youth who are questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity or are perceived as LGBTIQ+, are more likely to experience family rejection, homelessness, poor physical and mental health outcomes, cyber bullying, bullying, and other forms of violence — based on their age as well as their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics. Young LGBTIQ+ people, particularly transgender youth, are also at higher risk of suicide compared to their peers. Intersex children are often subjected to medically unnecessary operations causing them lifelong pain and trauma. For young LGBTIQ+ people who also face discrimination based on their race, ethnicity, age, gender, disabilities, religion or other characteristics, the situation is even more precarious.

With this context in mind, the campaign called on parents, family, teachers and young people to support LGBTIQ+ youth's work to change the world into a safer and more inclusive and welcoming place. It also called on governments and decision-makers to address the root causes of discrimination, violence and exclusion against LGBTIQ+ youth through adequate laws and policies.

The campaign featured more than 30 total unique assets (including two custom videos and a series of GIFs), which were all translated into Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish and Portuguese. In aggregate, the campaign achieved a total engagement level of 4.25 million, amassing over 7.75 million videos views and an additional 13.4 million media views across all social media channels.

The campaign also culminated in the launch of a dedicated microsite (www.unfe.org/youthlead) featuring specific actions for allies and Government stakeholders to take in support of LGBTIQ+ youth around the world.

Youth & Disability Inclusion

Accessibility is a precondition for the full realization of the rights and inclusion of young persons with disabilities, one of the most marginalized youth groups. Supporting and promoting an inclusive environment and processes is intrinsic to enable meaningful participation of young people in all their diversity. Yet, youth programs seldom address issues of young persons with disabilities, much less include them into activities. Mainstreaming the rights of young persons with disabilities within ambit of the Youth2030 is the first step towards access, representation and influence of youth with disabilities in decision making processes at the UN and beyond.

OSGEY is striving to make a disability inclusive and youth inclusive plan for achieving the 2030 Agenda, which is also central to the UN mandate of leaving no one behind. This work is backstopped by the UN Secretary-General system policy, action plan and accountability framework to strengthen system-wide accessibility and mainstreaming of the rights of persons with disabilities, the [United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy \(UNDIS\)](#).

Mainstreaming disability and youth inclusion would involve inclusion of young persons with disabilities in all aspects of OSGEY programming. Including, but not limited to, making all virtual meetings and events accessible to young persons with disabilities. As meetings and events continue to take place in virtual spaces as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, OSGEY strives to embed accessibility at the planning and conception stages.

In that regard, OSGEY invested in the accessibility of its 2021 online events, including but not limited to providing international sign language interpretation and CART to the ECOSOC Youth Forum 2021 and the #YouthLead Innovation Festival, marking International Youth Day 2021.

Furthermore, working with the disability portfolio in an intersectional manner remains a priority. As such, young people with disabilities have been included and featured as speakers

in events on various topics in 2021, one example being the official launch of the Guidelines for Working with and for Young People in Humanitarian and Protracted Crises.

OSGEY also facilitated the participation of young people in the 14th Conference of State Parties (COSP) to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in June 2021 and co-organized a High-level side event “[Towards Meaningful Inclusion: Participation of Young Persons with Disabilities From Commitment to Call to Action and Compliance](#)”, in which the Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth provided opening remarks. On this occasion a [Call to Action](#) was launched, building on the outcomes of a global youth consultation in 2020 organized by the OSGEY, supported by the Permanent Mission of Finland to the UN and in collaboration with OHCHR, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), WHO. The Call to Action outlines concrete actions within four priority areas: establishing inclusive platforms within the UN system; addressing gaps in engagement of young people with disabilities in the broader youth rights and disability agenda; recognizing the intersectionality and leadership of the most marginalized young persons with disabilities; and involving young people with disabilities as equal partners to realize systemic change.

In October 2021, OSGEY and UNFPA co-convened a youth dialogue with the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, focused on young persons with disabilities. The conversation was centered around the rights of young persons with disabilities and featured six youth speakers from the Global Network of Young Persons with Disabilities, co-founded by OSGEY in 2020, who spoke on issues such as discrimination, inequality, and recognition. Both the Chief of the Gender and Human Rights Branch of UNFPA, Nafissatou Diop, and the Under Secretary-General on Policy, Ana Maria Menendez, participated in this discussion alongside the Deputy Secretary-General. A total of 30 members of the Global Network for Young Persons with Disabilities joined the closed event in the audience. This important conversation served as an opportunity for young persons with disabilities to share their views and ideas on how the UN can better work for and with young persons with disabilities moving forward.

Indigenous Youth

With the aim of leaving no youth behind, OSGEY prioritizes amplifying the voices, work, and solutions of young people across the globe, with a special focus on young persons from marginalized and vulnerable communities. With that in mind, OSGEY spotlighted indigenous youth across sustainable development, peace and security, human rights, and humanitarian action. This included, but was not limited to, indigenous youth participating in events organized by the Office throughout 2021.

For example, three indigenous young people spoke at the plenary sessions of the ECOSOC 2021 and were later spotlighted on OSGEY’S website and social media. Another example,

was the session on [indigenous youth, education, and knowledge](#) organized in the scope of the Futures of Education webinars with and for youth, together with UNESCO.

To mark World Indigenous Day 2021, on 9 August, OSGEY partnered with the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus and the Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change to highlight the work of indigenous youth who are leading the way in fighting for a more sustainable future for all and implementing the SDGs in their communities. The article entitled "[Meet 13 Young Indigenous Rights Activists](#)" was also shared across OSGEY's social media channels.

During the [#YouthLead Innovation Festival](#), the festival presented an opportunity for young people to showcase innovative youth-led solutions for the achievement of the SDGs and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. It brought young innovators and solutions makers together with UN offices, policymakers, and industry leaders. Indigenous youth, coming from diverse parts of the world, presented solutions, and engaged in multistakeholder dialogues at the Food Security, Climate, and Employment and Economic Empowerment sessions.

Priority Area 5:
Peace and Resilience Building –
Support young people as catalysts for
Peace and Security & Humanitarian Action

Youth Peace and Security

UN Security Council Resolutions [2250](#), [2419](#), and [2535](#) on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) all refer to the mandate of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth while providing a normative foundation for OSGEY's work on Youth, Peace, and Security. The most recently adopted resolution on Youth, Peace and Security (2535) also encourages OSGEY "to promote coordination and coherence of youth, peace and security activities across the UN-system while tracking implementation of this resolution as well as resolutions 2250 and 2419."^[1]

OSGEY implements the YPS-agenda through various advocacy initiatives while coordinating and partnering with the UN-system, its Member States and Civil Society Organizations including youth-led and youth-serving organizations.

- **Strengthening Coordination and Advocacy on the YPS Agenda**

In 2021, OSGEY has continued to develop a more holistic approach to youth, peace, and security efforts by building on synergies between the YPS agenda and cross cutting issues such as climate, human rights, and sustainable development. A key priority for OSGEY has been working closely with UNFPA and PBSO in strengthening the coordination and advocacy efforts on the YPS agenda across the UN-system. A specific focus has been on mobilizing the resources and coordinating the development of four knowledge products in partnership with UN, civil society organizations, and youth partners.

These knowledge products have included:

- i. the [first global report on protecting young people in civic spaces](#) (please see priority area 4 human rights for more information);
- ii. a mapping study on the UN Peacekeeping Operations engagement on the YPS agenda;
- iii. a guide for Member States on operationalizing the YPS agenda at country-level;
- iv. a 5-year Strategy on Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes.

- ***Mapping study on the UN Peacekeeping Operations engagement on the YPS Agenda***

In 2021, OSGEY in partnership with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPO) rolled out the first ever mapping study aiming to collect information of the UN Peacekeeping Operations (PKOs) efforts to engage with young people and implement the YPS agenda. The study also aims to map PKOs efforts on the protection of young people within their activities.

The study was conducted by an independent researcher who interviewed staff members from 10 PKOs as well as several young people. In addition, evidence base for the study was collected through a survey that was shared with DPO and PKO staff members with a response rate close to 130. The study provides overall recommendations on how to further enhance the implementation of the YPS agenda in partnership with young people and is aimed to be finalized in 2022.

- ***Key outputs for the Global Conference on Youth Inclusive Peace Processes***

In preparation for the upcoming global high-level conference on Youth Inclusive Peace Processes, OSGEY has coordinated the development of the two key outputs through a participatory process engaging stakeholders from youth organizations, civil society organizations, Member States, regional bodies, and the UN system.

These outputs to be launched at the high-level conference on youth inclusive peace processes include:

- 1.1. A high-level joint statement between the co-hosting countries: State of Qatar, and Governments of Finland and Colombia to advance country-level operationalization of the YPS agenda based on specific contexts;

1.2. Launch of a Guide in support of country-level operationalization of the YPS agenda;

2. A five-year strategy on strengthening youth-inclusive peace processes building on recommendations from the *We Are Here* Policy Paper, including the pilot projects undertaken in countries to create youth mediation networks.

Output 1.1 - Joint Statement to advance country-level operationalization of the YPS agenda based on specific contexts

The three co-sponsoring countries will share a joint statement to reinforce their commitment to the important and positive contribution of youth in efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, as enshrined in UN Security Council Resolutions 2250 (2015), 2419 (2019), 2535 (2020) on Youth, Peace, and Security.

Output 1.2 - Implementing the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda at country-level: *A guide for public officials*

This guide is designed to facilitate young people's meaningful contribution to peace and security at country-level, providing insights and practical tools to support government actions and shifts in public policy to make this possible. It is developed for public officials working at various levels of government in management and coordination roles, who are responsible for, or interested in, implementing the YPS agenda at the country level. The guide is organized into six chapters where each chapter addresses the key elements mentioned in paragraph 14 of UN Security Council Resolution 2535.

The guide was developed through a participatory process, including a review of existing documentation, mapping of 245 practices, and multi-stakeholder consultations engaging a total of 35 Member States, 4 regional organizations, 7 UN entities, and 49 civil society organizations of which 40 are youth-led. The document will be accompanied by an online overview of examples of implementation efforts of the YPS agenda across diverse contexts. The project was coordinated by OSGEY in partnership with the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA), UNFPA, UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs – Peacebuilding Support Office (DPPA/PBSO), the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY) and Search for Common Ground. The guide has been informed by the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace, and Security, and reflects inputs from its members.

Output 2 – Operationalizing a five-year strategy for youth-inclusive peace processes

This document presents a strategic action plan to move from youth-inclusive norms towards youth-inclusive practices in designing and implementing peace processes. The strategy is intended to promote a holistic, long-term, gender-responsive, intergenerational, and integrated strategy that legitimizes and realizes the meaningful participation of youth in peace processes, and strengthens the mechanisms, tools, and partnerships to create a

conducive environment to do so. It is built on four interdependent streams, which are: institutionalization and policy, capacity strengthening, knowledge solutions, and collaborative partnerships.

This document was produced through the support and guidance of multiple expert consultations that focused on the changing landscape of conflict and reimagining peace processes over the next five years. Over 90 consultations were completed with mediation experts, young leaders, youth organizations, regional and multilateral mediation support units, UN Special Envoys, and gender experts. The strategy was coordinated by a core team: OSGEY, Search for Common Ground, and the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs' Mediation Support Unit and guided by a Steering Group, consisting of 37 members representing mediation support units, multilateral actors, civil society and youth organisations.

- ***High-Level Global Conference on Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes***

To celebrate and acknowledge the powerful role that young people play in building and sustaining peace, the Global Conference builds on the progress made since the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security in 2015 and on the International Symposium on Youth Participation in Peace Processes, held in Helsinki, Finland, in 2019. The Global Conference was initially planned for 2020 but deferred to be hosted virtually in January 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It sets out to become a turning point for the Youth, Peace, and Security agenda by generating political commitments at the global, regional, and national levels and strengthening buy-in for the stronger enabling and sustainable environment for youth-inclusive peace processes. The Global Conference also aims to report progress at the country-level, where young people have been constructively contributing to formal and informal peace processes.

As a next step to the International Symposium on Youth Participation in Peace Processes, the Global Conference aims to showcase progress on implementing the key recommendations of the Global Policy Paper [WE ARE HERE: An Integrated Approach to Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes](#). The policy paper WE ARE HERE was developed in conjunction with the various partners present at the International Symposium. Building on these continuing efforts by young people who strive to influence peace processes in their respective countries, the Global Conference also aims to strengthen political will and commitment towards including youth in all peace processes.

The programme will be structured across the following five themes, namely:

- **Youth, Peace & Security in today's world** - The world has changed rapidly since the adoption of UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security nearly six years ago. How can we tap into the transformational potential of the YPS agenda to address

contemporary challenges relating to climate-driven conflict, the COVID-19 pandemic, increased global push-back against the rights of women and girls and digital technologies, including the gendered implications of these challenges?

- **Moving beyond words** - How far have we come in translating the three YPS resolutions into reality, including for young women? Action-oriented discussions will center on country-level operationalization, regional cooperation, and resourcing of the YPS agenda from gender-sensitive perspectives.
- **Inclusive peace processes** - As a next step to the 2019 International Symposium on Youth Participation in Peace Processes, sessions under this theme aim to showcase progress on implementing the key recommendations of the Global Policy Paper 'WE ARE HERE: An Integrated Approach to Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes'. The inclusion of young women who face distinct challenges based on their gender will be discussed.
- **Inter-generational trust** - With global youth protests and an erosion of trust in institutions, there is a strong need to have a constructive conversation about youth at the interface of state-society relations. This theme will explore how we can build cross-generational solidarity and a new social contract, as called for in "Our Common Agenda" by the UN Secretary-General. Specific attention will be given to the security dimensions of the YPS agenda, as well as the gendered implications of young people's political and civic engagement.
- **Youth in their diversity** - There are unique dimensions to being young that often lead to distinct challenges, needs and opportunities based on gender identity, sexual orientation, race, religion, ethnicity, different abilities, socio-economic position among other factors. Additionally, opportunities provided by the YPS agenda in creating more equal societies by opening avenues for the participation of marginalized youth, including LGBTIQ+ youth, young refugees and IDPs, and youth with disabilities will be discussed specifically under this theme.

The Global Conference aims to bring together over 500 actors ranging from member state representatives to civil society, UN, and youth participants. It will be co-hosted by the State of Qatar, the Governments Finland and Colombia, and co-organized by OSGEY, and Search for Common Ground, in partnership with the DPPA, UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, Education Above All, and UNOY.

- ***Preparatory Meeting for the High-Level Global Conference on Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes***

On 1 and 2 December, the Government of Colombia hosted a Technical-level Preparatory Meeting in preparation for the upcoming Global Conference on Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes together with State of Qatar and Finland, and co-organized with civil society organizations and UN partners. The meeting was held virtually to gather technical-level experts from fifty Member States to jointly prepare for the High-Level Global Conference. Guest speakers from civil society, in particular young peacebuilders from Afghanistan, Nigeria and Yemen, and from Member States and UN Entities provided inputs to the sessions. Drafts of the key outputs of the Doha conference were also presented for validation.

- ***Strengthening synergies between YPS and cross cutting issues***

To strengthen the synergies between Youth, Peace and Security and Climate, OSGEY partnered with the International Peace Institute (IPI) in 2020 to develop a road map aiming to strengthen these interlinkages. In 2021, OSGEY continued to support IPI with rolling out the roadmap, actions included collaborating on organizing a peer-to-peer workshop for young people from the YPS and Climate communities to connect, as well as supporting IPI with the development of the first ever [policy brief](#) on the synergies between YPS and Climate. The policy brief was published at a high-level launch event in April. OSGEY also continued to support youth briefers who were invited to the UN Security Council's briefings such as the open debate on climate hosted by UK in February.

To further build the synergies between disarmament and sustainable development, OSGEY in partnership with Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) organized a workshop for young people. The aim was to bring together the 20-youth from OSGEY's Young Leaders on SDGs programme and young peacebuilders from the United Network of Young Peacebuilders. The workshop was followed up with a joint article published in iSeek, which is an online resource for UN staff. Moreover, to continue building the collaboration between UNODA and OSGEY, the Envoy on Youth participated in the "What If Speterra" event organized by UNODA. The event aimed to shed light on "What if more resources were spent on peace and less on arms".

- ***Campaigns and advocacy initiatives on Youth, Peace, and Security***

In 2021, OSGEY's advocacy efforts on the YPS agenda included providing support to two campaigns, various advocacy initiatives such as high-level events, and 17 video messages. To celebrate the 1st anniversary of the UN Security Council resolution 2535 on Youth, Peace and Security, OSGEY supported the roll out of an advocacy campaign #Acton2535. The aim of the campaign was to raise awareness and advocate for key commitments on implementing the resolution 2535 where especially UN leaders, and Member States representatives as well as young people were challenged to post pictures of themselves

describing concrete commitments on further operationalizing the YPS agenda. The campaign ran during the July month of 2021.

In addition, OSGEY supported the Department of Peacekeeping Operations with advocating for the International Peacekeeping Day campaign which focused on YPS and young peacekeepers. The campaign ran during the month of May, during which time OSGEY actively amplified across all social media channels.

- ***International Year of Peace and Trust***

The United Nations declared 2021 the International Year of Peace and Trust (IYPT) to reaffirm the UN's role to settle disputes peacefully (as marked by the [United Nations General Assembly Resolution 73/338](#))

To join the UN-system in its advocacy for the International Year of Peace and Trust, the Envoy on Youth participated in several events organized by UN's Member States such as the Youth Forum on Peace and Trust celebrating the International Year of Peace and Trust hosted by the Minister of Sport and Youth Policy of Turkmenistan, and the high-level event on the culture of peace hosted by the Government of Bangladesh during the General Assembly in September 2021. In addition, this message was continuously carried throughout the Envoy's country missions, most notably the recent one in Bosnia and Herzegovina in support of UN's High-level engagement strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- ***International Day of Peace***

To mark the International Day of Peace on 28 September, a video message was shared by the Secretary-Generals Envoy on Youth. The message aimed to inspire young people to think about what peace means to them and what concrete actions they are taking to build a more sustainable and peaceful world.

In addition, to spread the messaging of youth inclusive peacebuilding, OSGEY and the UN System Staff College co-drafted an article in partnership with young peace builders. The article titled "[the Centrality of Youth Inclusive Peace Processes](#)" was published by the UN Chronicle on the International Day on Peace and translated to all 6 UN languages.

- ***6th Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda***

Virtual Panel Discussion and International Launch of Finland's first National Action Plan on UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security

To celebrate the 6th anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth joined a virtual high-level event organized by the Government of

Finland. The [event](#) which took place on 8 December was livestreamed on UN Web TV and focused on the launch of the world's first action plan on Youth, Peace and Security. The Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth delivered the opening remarks which emphasized on the need for a strategic multistakeholder partnerships across all actors (including youth, member states, UN, and civil society) for the sustainable and systematic implementation of the YPS agenda.

A virtual panel discussion between Finland's Minister for Foreign Affairs, youth representatives from Nigeria, the Philippines, and Finland, was held to mark the anniversary and international launch. During the interactive discussion led by Search for Common Ground, representatives were able to reflect on experiences gained in the process and learn more from other countries engaged in similar initiatives. Participants included Member States, UN entities, and civil society organizations working on the YPS agenda. Among its outcomes, the event aimed to feed ideas on upcoming processes such as the High-Level Global Conference on Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes in January 2022.

Transformative Peace Education and Human Rights in a Fragile World: Together Towards 2022 and 2023

To raise awareness on peace education and human rights, OSGEY was represented at an event organized by the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Rondine Cittadella della Pace. The event held on 10 December aimed to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and focused on the theme education for peace and the protection of human rights. The event also launched the global campaign, Leaders for Peace, which aimed to appeal to all Member States to make concrete and lasting commitments into action.

- ***OSGEY participation in coordination Interagency networks on Youth, Peace and Security***

UN YPS Focal Point Network

OSGEY has been represented at the quarterly meetings of the UN YPS focal points network since the meetings started in 2021. At the quarterly meetings OSGEY has provided updates and presentations of key projects that the office has been leading and coordinating on during the past year such as the upcoming global conference on youth inclusive peace processes and its two key outputs, and the first ever global report on protecting young people in civic space launched in June 2021.

Core Group on Preventing Terrorism and Violent Extremism and the Working Group on Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV)

OSGEY joined the Core Group on Terrorism and Violent Extremism and the Working Group on CRSV in 2021. The working group aims to identify opportunities, and needs, for collaboration in addressing the nexus of terrorism/violent extremism and CRSV. In line with this, the role of OSGEY is to support with mainstreaming the youth lens into the Prevention of CRSV Framework which the working group is currently developing. OSGEY's efforts have particularly focused on integrating youth engagement in direct and indirect prevention strategies to prevent CRSV while building on findings and recommendations from the first [Global Report on Protecting Young People in Civic Space](#). In addition, OSGEY has attended monthly meetings of the core group.

Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security

OSGEY continues to be represented in the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security (GCYPS), and has been represented in its monthly meetings in 2021. In addition, since 2019, OSGEY has together with Search for Common Ground co-chaired the Protection Working Group under the GCYPS which has enabled a safe space for young people, civil society organizations and the UN to strengthen the protection of young people. The group has also provided a platform to build capacity on the protection issue and share information on country level efforts on protecting young people. OSGEY has played a key role to coordinate and facilitate the work of the group by organizing monthly meetings and lead initiatives regarding the protection of young people such as developing the first report on protecting young people in civic space (Please see Priority Area 4: Human Rights for more details).

Briefing the Peacebuilding Commission

The Envoy on Youth briefed the Peacebuilding Commission for the second time in February 2021 on the importance of engaging young people in peacebuilding while providing the PBC concrete recommendations.

Humanitarian Action

Some 408 million youth ages 15-29 or 23 per cent of the world youth population live in settings affected by armed conflict and organized violence – with conflicts now driving over 80 per cent of humanitarian needs. This is the largest population of young people the world has ever seen, wherein the support of their transition through humanitarian crises will have a lasting impact not only in disaster recovery but in the future of humanity.

OSGEY's approach to the humanitarian pillar of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth mandate is aligned with the fifth priority area of Youth2030 (Peace and Resilience Building – Support young people as catalysts for Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action), and shaped in its methodology by the [Compact on Young People in Humanitarian Action](#). The Compact, a concrete outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, works with and for young people within five action areas: 1. Service Delivery; 2. Participation; 3. Capacity and Local Action; 4. Resources; and 5. Data and Knowledge. Since its inception, more than 60 humanitarian partners including Governments, UN Entities, international and local civil society organizations, and major youth organizations and networks have joined the initiative.

The Compact, as the only coordination body of its kind, has proven to be a functioning platform for operationalizing the global ambitions in transforming humanitarian and development cooperation through advancing meaningful youth engagement at all levels, touching the lives of many young people caught up in the crosswinds of conflict and disaster. As such, the modality has been used as a good practice for coordinated implementation of Youth2030. Since its inception, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth has played a key part in the strategic leadership, day-to-day operations of the Compact and related global advocacy efforts.

- ***Launch of the Guidelines for Working With and For Young People in Humanitarian Emergencies and Protracted Crises***

The [Guidelines for Programming With and For Young People in Humanitarian Action and Protracted Crises](#) - officially endorsed by the Interagency Standing Committee (IASC) in November 2020 – were officially launched at a [high-level event in February 2021](#).

The aim of the 3-yearlong effort that led to the final guidelines and was spearheaded by UNICEF and the Norwegian Refugee Council on behalf of the Compact has been to develop a “go-to guide” for working with and for young people in humanitarian settings and protracted crises. These guidelines are about ensuring that young people are at the heart of humanitarian action and play a key role in the design, implementation and monitoring of programmes. The guidelines address a gap in humanitarian tools that tend to overlook young people, a specific but broad demographic with interlinked needs across multiple sectors. The voices of young people affected by conflicts and natural hazards are a cornerstone of the guidelines with over 500 crisis-affected young people who have contributed to their development and field focus. Generally, the finalization and endorsement of the Guidelines is considered a milestone for the humanitarian youth community.

The interactive high-level launch of the Guidelines was hosted by the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth and featured, among others, Government representatives from Denmark,

Germany, Jordan and the Netherlands, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, UNICEF Executive Director, High Commissioner for Refugees, UNFPA Deputy Secretary General, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Secretary-General of the Norwegian Refugee Council, Secretary General of ActionAid and inspiring youth advocates from around the world. The launch event was action-oriented in its format and scope and a range of specific commitments were made by all participants, including OSGEY. The Envoy on Youth pledged staff support to support Compact coordination and rollout of the Guidelines in select pilot countries, including the mobilization of support within humanitarian clusters and UN country teams, as a direct contribution to the implementation of Youth2030.

As follow up the Guidelines launch, OSGEY has supported a series of events and advocacy moments throughout the year to increase interagency knowledge and ownership as well as investments in youth-led humanitarian action. To name a few, in April the Compact organized a technical session on young people and emergencies with an outset in the Guidelines as part of the [2021 Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks](#) (HNPW), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)'s flagship event. The Envoy on Youth provided the opening remarks and the OSGEY humanitarian focal point facilitated one of the breakout sessions. In May, the Envoy on Youth also provided a keynote address for the [World Humanitarian Forum](#) and its youth council, on the topic of multigenerational partnerships to build back better.

In November, a [Training Package](#) was launched to support the rollout and training efforts for the IASC Guidelines on Working with and for Young People in Humanitarian and Protracted Crises. It includes a Facilitator's Guide, 7 Session Presentation Templates, and an Orientation Presentation Template which can be tailored to the needs and context in which the training is delivered and adaptable for in-person or remote (online/offline) training. The package was developed under the leadership of UNICEF, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and UNFPA, with the support of members of the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action.

- ***Young Refugees & Migrants***

2021 was an important year for refugee youth inclusion as the first mid-term [High Level Officials Meeting \(HLOM\)](#) of the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) was convened virtually in December. The aim of the HLOM is to contribute to building a long-term framework for engagement of States and other actors in refugee situations, as set out in the [Global Compact on Refugees](#) (GCR).

It is broadly recognized that agency, leadership, and engagement of the most marginalized youth groups, such as young refugees, is getting increased priority and the voices of youth are increasingly visible force of global change. The efforts of the Compact for Young People

in Humanitarian Action, as well as the development and launch of the IASC Guidelines on Working with and for Young People have further accelerated these trends, while providing a platform and tools for meaningful youth participation.

To ensure proper and meaningful youth inclusion in the GCR and GRF processes, throughout 2021 OSGEY participated in a working group under the Compact for Youth in Humanitarian Action, led by the Danish Refugee Council and UNHCR, [organizing a series of regional youth dialogues and facilitating youth-led platforms to bring recommendations and statements to the HLOM discussions](#). The Envoy on Youth spoke at the launch in connection with the International Youth Day in August and participated in the official Satellite Event to the HLOM in December, which took stock of the youth related pledges from the GRF in 2019, discussed how multi-stakeholder efforts can enhance future opportunities for young people and presented the recommendations from the regional youth dialogues.

As in previous years and building on her high-level mission to Palestine in 2019, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth continues her advocacy to promote the rights and need of Palestine refugee youth, as well as their meaningful engagement at the UN. As such, in 2021, OSGEY supported the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) student parliamentarian to address the Ministerial Plenary of the ECOSOC Youth Forum. Each year UNRWA elects [school parliaments](#) as part of the Human Rights, Conflict Resolution and Tolerance programme. School parliaments organize human rights related activities, help resolve conflicts between students, organize field trips, invite guest speakers, and represent students when speaking to school administration.

Furthermore, on the occasion of World Skills Day, OSGEY worked with the UNRWA New York Office to organize the event [Voices From Palestine Refugee Youth – Challenges, Aspirations and Opportunities](#). The event was attended by 60 people, primarily representing the Permanent Missions to the UN in New York. The Event was moderated by the Envoy on Youth and brought together Palestine refugee youth currently studying or who previously studied in UNRWA schools and Vocational Training Centres (VTCs). Throughout the discussion the Palestine refugees elaborated on the role UNRWA education played in their lives and discussed challenges faced as Palestine refugee youth, including the COVID-19 pandemic as well as their future aspirations. Finally, and as previously mentioned under Priority Area 2, on World Teachers Day OSGEY co-organized a takeover in which a young Palestine refugee and teacher took over the Envoy on Youth's Instagram profile.



5

CROSSCUTTING THEMES

Certain crosscutting themes, including gender equality, climate action, and innovation, impact all priority and foundational areas of Youth2030. This segment summarizes achievements in these crosscutting themes.

Gender Equality

Equality between all genders and the rights of girls and young women is at the core of OSGEY's mandate and is reflected in ongoing engagements and advocacy efforts in line with Youth2030. In 2020 the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth engaged in numerous outreach initiatives and events on the topic, raising the importance of addressing intersectional inequality and discrimination in order to meet the needs and rights of all young people - in particular girls and young women and young LGBTIQ+ persons – recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic has only further unveiled the depth and extent of the gender inequalities that impact young people in all parts of the world.

Generation Equality

The [Generation Equality Forum](#) (GEF) was a global gathering for gender equality, convened by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and co-hosted by the governments of Mexico and France in close partnership with civil society, originally planned for 2020 to mark the anniversary of the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action but postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Commencing in Mexico City from the 29th to 31st of March 2021, and culminating in Paris in June 2021, the Forum launched a set of concrete, ambitious and transformative actions to achieve immediate and irreversible progress towards gender equality in the context of building back better after COVID-19.

In February, the Envoy on Youth participated in a closed High Level Advocacy Workshop on Access to Justice for Women, co-organized by the Elders and Pathfinders, which featured around 25 high-level individuals: key voices and experts from government, private sector, philanthropy, youth movements and civil society, including Mary Robinson and Hina Jilani from The Elders. The objective of the workshop was to develop advocacy messages and sample commitments to inform the GEF process specifically on the topic of greater justice for women and thus to the achievement of SDG16 and SDG5. As a follow-up to the workshop, the Envoy on Youth authored a [blog entry for the Elders](#) on Gender Based Violence in the context of COVID-19 and the need for justice to maintain young people's trust in institutions.

In March, at the first GEF in Mexico City, the Envoy on Youth participated in the thematic session “Generation Equality: Girls’ and adolescents’ participation in building a more equal world” which featured on the official programme. In relation to the second GEF in June, OSGEY co-hosted the event: [Road to GEF Paris 2021 - Feminist Multilateralism for Build Back Better](#) together with GWL Voices for Change and Inclusion, Club de Madrid, Women Political Leaders, and the Paris Institute of Political Studies (SciencesPo).

Throughout 2020 and 2021 OSGEY carried out concerted efforts to place young people at the center of the GEF ensuring that they were in the driving seat of all galvanizing moments and processes, as well as meaningfully represented in the multiple layers of GEF governance. As an example, the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth held several meetings with UN Women leadership on the topic, as well as the Permanent Representatives of Mexico and France to the UN. At the working level, OSGEY has conducted regular meetings with youth-led and youth-serving organizations who are part of the GEF, as well as monthly bilateral meetings with the GEF secretariat.

OSGEY and the Envoy on Youth’s engagements in the GEF were informed by three main messages: that the intersection between gender and age create additional layers of challenges for young people and as such that commitments in the GEF should specify the need for increased support to young women and adolescents; that power sharing in all stages of the GEF process was needed to facilitate meaningful intergenerational collaboration and outcomes sustainable for the future, emphasizing the need to collectively invest in young people’s ability move away from mere participation to actual influence; and lastly that young people are the experts of their own lived realities and as such should be empowered to speak unapologetically on their own behalf.

OSGEY’s engagements alongside the GEF are highlighted in a public-facing [summary microsite](#).

[The Generation Equality Youth Task Force](#), launched in 2019, comprised a key modality for meaningful youth engagement in the GEF process convened by UN Women. It comprised young leaders from different youth-led and youth-serving organizations, with diverse areas of expertise from across all regions of the world and served on the governance structure of the Generation Equality Forum with a seat on the Core Group (the main decision-making body of the GEF). OSGEY has worked closely with UN Women regarding the establishment and role of the Youth Task Force and carried out a number of bilateral strategizing sessions with members to support their individual advocacy efforts to promote gender equality in various thematic areas. Throughout the year, OSGEY has facilitated the participation of Youth Task members in UN events and processes such as the ECOSOC Youth Forum where the selected youth speaker for the 2021 opening session was a representative from the GEF Task Force.

65th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

The [Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW\)](#), the annual global intergovernmental body for gender equality, is a key space for young people to participate and hold policymakers and world leaders accountable by demanding meaningful youth inclusion in the implementation, monitoring and review of gender equality actions at community, national, regional and global levels. CSW65 took place from 15 to 26 March 2021 under the priority theme “Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”. It also reviewed the following theme, “Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (Agreed Conclusions of the sixtieth session)”.

In line with the theme of CSW, recognizing young people's efforts in shaping a more equal recovery and future, acknowledging the existing power dynamics of any global movement and process, OSGEY in collaboration with the Generation Equality Youth Task Force and UN Women convened a [high-level dialogue](#), in which the Envoy on Youth spoke alongside the Vice President of the Republic of Costa Rica, the UN Executive Director and three youth activists on the meaning of shared intergenerational co-leadership and mutual accountability.

On the sidelines of CSW, OSGEY furthermore organized a Dialogue between the Deputy Secretary General and a diverse group of 25 young activists with the aim of providing a platform for young people to meaningfully engage in open and frank dialogue with UN leadership and facilitate a space for co-creation of ideas on how the UN can improve its support for the youth agenda while leveraging the creativity, lived experiences and expertise of young people with the political power and influence the top UN management has. The Dialogue was part of a series of dialogues between the Deputy Secretary General and groups of young activists that has taken place over the course of 2021.

International Women's Day

To mark the International Women's Day (IWD) on 8 March, the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth was featured in the coverage on CNN through quotes and a short video message.

The Envoy on Youth also participated in the highly interactive and girl-led event ‘It's Time to Listen to Girls’ organized by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), the largest educational movement in the world dedicated to girls and young women. The event officially launched the WAGGGS first online game named ["Listen to Girls"](#), where players through a spinning wheel game can learn more about the sentiments and opinions of girls input to the recent U-Report youth consultations on key global topics.

[U-report](#) is UNICEF's flagship digital platform started in 2011, a mobile youth empowerment platform created to collect young people's views and experiences. Young people can answer interactive polls via WhatsApp or Messenger and in a matter of minutes, share their opinions and learn how to create a positive impact in their communities.

Young Women's Political Participation

In March 2021 a [Call to Action on Young Women's Political Participation and Leadership](#) was launched, based on the outcomes of a conference on the same topic the year before co-organized by the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) and OSGEY as a contribution to the Generation Equality Forum and marking the 10th Anniversary of the [IPU Resolution on Youth Participation in the Democratic Process](#). The Call to Action identifies three priority areas for increasing young women's representation in politics: Nurturing Young Women's Political Aspirations; Supporting Young Women Candidates For Political Office; and Empowering Young Women In Office, Investing In Their Leadership. The launch was accompanied by an [explainer video](#) for social media by the Envoy on Youth. On social media, the Call to Action reached nearly 99,000 people, and garnered nearly 5,000 engagements and more than 300 shares.

International Day of the Girl

To mark the International Day of the Girl, OSGEY participated in a campaign by Plan International on the official ISG theme "Digital Generation. Our Generation", aiming to showcase how diverse groups of young people can access and use the digital space for their advocacy, particularly at the UN. In this framework, several "Lightning Dialogues" (short, pre-recorded video interviews) between girls or young women advocates and leaders in the UN spaces were facilitated on specific questions related to girls' activism, digital access, and fostering inclusive participation of girls and young women in decision-making. The Secretary General's Envoy on Youth engaged in a discussion with two girl activists from Mexico and Bangladesh, a dialogue that was broadcasted on [Plan International New York UN Liaison Office YouTube channel](#) and extracts shared on [Twitter](#).

The Envoy on Youth furthermore spoke in the *World's Girls Summit*, the Togolese celebration of the International Day of the Girl organized by Plan International and UNFPA. In her pre-recorded speech she outlined priorities for girls' rights protection and needs fulfillment, including equal and decent access to healthcare and education in accordance with the Sustainable Development and Youth2030 frameworks. In total, this two-day summit gathered between 3,000 and 5,000 online and on-site participants.

Becoming an International Gender Champion

In 2021, the Envoy on Youth officially became a [“Gender Champion”](#), joining a leadership network which brings together decision-makers determined to break down gender barriers and make gender equality a working reality in their spheres of influence. In this framework, the Envoy on Youth did not only formally express her support for the IGC Panel Parity Pledge as well as the IGC gender-based violence pledge, but also took [two personal commitments](#). These commitments, which OSGEY will strive to realize as soon as 2022, include launching a virtual gender-responsive training for young people with the aim of enhancing safe spaces when engaging with the United Nations and ensuring gender parity and inclusion of young feminists in the next cohort of the Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals.

High Level Gender Advisory

In 2021, the Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth became a member of the Gender Advisory Board to the President of the 76th UN General Assembly. The Board consists of an extensive mix of expertise from Member States, the UN system, the private sector, UN Treaty Body, and the parliamentary sector, allowing for infusion of partners across the board to mainstream gender equality in the world of the General Assembly. The Board will serve as an informal mechanism to facilitate critical thought, analyses, and advice on gender issues to help mainstream a gender perspective through all the priorities, initiatives and mandates for the UNGA 76th session.

Climate Change

#Youth4Climate Live Series

The #Youth4Climate (Y4C) Live Series is hosted by the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, in collaboration with Connect4Climate - World Bank Group and OSGEY, as part of the initiatives organized in the run-up to the 2021 Pre-COP26 in Milan, Italy, and COP26. The collaboration hosted a total of 9 live webinar sessions. Each session brings together a diverse group of unstoppable youth at the forefront of creative climate action for intergenerational and interactive conversations with policymakers and experts. A total of 9 Live Series were hosted. The final two (2) episodes took place on 22 January and 26th February 2021, focused on "Driving Adaptation & Resilience" and "Driving Local Action" respectively. These final two sessions reached nearly 104,000 people and amassed nearly 4,800 engagements across all social media platforms, building on the previous success of the series.

OSGEY also collaborated with partners of the #Youth4Climate to run the [#SumItUp competition](#) which invited youth between the ages of 15 and 29 to submit a one-minute video reflection or a visual infographic on the key takeaways from one of the #Youth4ClimateLive episodes. The winner of the competition had the chance to take part in the Youth4Climate: Driving Ambition event in Milan event ahead of the 2021 Pre-COP26 and have their creative work promoted across communication channels along with the work of other finalists. Together with other promotional content for the #Youth4Climate: Driving Ambition event and the call for delegate applications, the content collectively achieved a reach of more than 628,000, including more than 21,000 engagements and 2,000 shares. The competition received over 3,500 votes on social media.

Climate and Biodiversity Session at #YouthLead Innovation Festival

In the scope of #YouthLead Innovation Festival organized to celebrate International Youth Day 2021, OSGEY partnered with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the SDG Joint Fund and the Adaptation Fund on the “Climate and Biodiversity” session. This session aimed to unfold the agency and expertise of young people in the climate agenda. With the main focus of increasing advocacy on the need for resilience building and post-COVID recovery through youth-led innovations towards climate change, the youth-focused event highlighted existing youth-led innovative solutions, and opportunities to scale such solutions to increase resilience at community, national and international levels. Through a multi-stakeholder discussion, solution developers, technical advisers and funders discussed how to deliver an uncompromised future.

The discussion, which took place on 12 August, started with a keynote speech from Didier Trebucq- UN Resident Coordinator, Barbados and Eastern Caribbean who highlighted the urgency on building resilience in countries that are already seeing the devastating impacts of climate change such as the Small Islands Developing States. He furthered to provide case studies of young people championing adaptation in their countries. The event then highlighted the work of three young innovators, namely [Komb Green Solutions](#) - a program that converts abandoned dump sites into sustainable green spaces in Nairobi, [GeoHazards Risk Mapping Initiative](#) which deploys young experts in Geographic Information Systems and satellite imagery analysis to create susceptibility and emergency mapping of actual or expected natural, biological, and technological hazards in Africa, and [2021 ACE Youth Forum](#) - a forum established to brought together more than 500 youth from all regions of the world to share their experiences implementing principles of Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) and craft youth policy recommendations for ACE negotiations at COP26.

The session also featured a multistakeholder dialogue between youth activists, representatives from the Adaptation Fund, UN SDG Joint Fund, IUCN which reflected

initiatives developed to support youth innovation on climate such as the [Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator](#).

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Congress

In September 2021, the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth joined the [IUCN Congress](#) in Marseille. The Congress was held from 3-11 September and had a Youth Summit segment, following a successful Global Youth Summit in April 2021. The Congress aimed to improve how the world manages the natural environment for human, social and economic development.

The Envoy was in Marseille between the 3-5 September. She joined a panel on the Youth Summit, where panelists reflected on the outcome document of the Global Youth Summit and the actions needed to implement priorities demanded by youth. On September 4, the Envoy moderated the high-level opening of the Congress, where panelists discussed actions needed for a green, equitable recovery to tackle the biodiversity and climate crisis, amongst others. On her last day in Marseille, the Envoy joined events on human rights environment defenders and an oceans event organized by the UN Special Envoy on Oceans, Peter Thompson.

While at the IUCN Congress, the Envoy held meetings with the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN), and Ambassador of the Stockholm +50, Ms. Johanna Lissinger Peitz.

Youth4Climate: Driving Ambition

The 'Youth4Climate: Driving Ambition' event took place in Milan from 28 to 30 September 2021 in partnership with OSGEY, UNFCCC and Connect4Climate - World Bank Group. The event also partnered with YOUNGO – the official youth constituency to the UNFCCC. The meeting was part of the process of involvement of young people, which started in 2019 in partnership with OSGEY to organize the first United Nations Youth Climate Summit which was held in New York on 21 September 2019. OSGEY served as a member of the Advisory Committee charged with shaping the event. Additionally, OSGEY worked with YOUNGO to facilitate the selection process: a total of 400 participants, between the ages of 15 and 29, were selected out of around 8,700 applications from 186 countries, taking into consideration principles of gender and regional balance.

The Y4C was structured along four major themes, each debated in a working group setting, featuring several topics (breakout group setting). Those were in line with the most pressing umbrella issues and priorities in the international climate agenda: Youth Driving Ambition, Sustainable Recovery, Non-State Actors Engagement, and Climate Conscious Society. OSGEY led the grouping of delegates across these four major themes based on the

motivation and interest of delegates while ensuring balance across regions, age, level of expertise and gender. On the final day of the event, the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth facilitated a meeting between Y4C delegates and Ministers attending Pre-COP26 where delegates engaged in a discussion with Ministers on the main elements of the main outcomes of the Youth4Climate event.

The main outcomes of the Y4C event have been further developed into a Youth Manifesto, containing proposals/recommendations for each theme, addressing different international processes/forums in line with their subject matter.

Social Media Takeovers

In collaboration with Pass the Mic and Fridays for Future, OSGEY lent the office's Twitter and Instagram accounts to young climate activists twice in 2021 to coincide with key milestones for youth constituencies when it comes to global climate action.

On for the Global Day of Climate Action (19 March), three young activists from Brazil, Costa Rica and Argentina took over the @UNYouthEnvoy channels. The takeover featured 56 posts, reaching more than 262,000 people, including more than 800 engagements.

Ahead of COP26, three other young activists from Kenya, Zambia and Bangladesh took over the @UNYouthEnvoy channels to coincide with the global climate strikes on the same day. This takeover featured 30 posts exclusively on Instagram, reaching more than 18,000 people, including nearly 490 engagements.

COY16

The 16th UN Climate Change Conference of Youth (COY16) took place from 28th October 2021 - 31st October 2021 at Strathclyde University, Glasgow. 500 hundred young climate leaders from more than 130 countries came together for 4 days - full of sessions, workshops and speakers from different geographic and thematic backgrounds, cutting across sustainability, climate change, youth empowerment, policy making and more. Endorsed by OSGEY and organized by YOUNGO – The Official Youth Constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), COY16 prepared young people for their participation at the 26th UN Climate Conference (COP).

The Secretary General's Envoy on Youth spoke at the opening and closing sessions of COY16 ahead of the 26th UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP26). To climax COY16, young climate leaders from around the world presented the Global Youth Statement - the main output of COY16, which is a policy document developed by youth voices globally, which outlines the priority areas for climate action by young people. Synthesizing inputs from over

40,000 young people over several months, the statement covered a number of crucial topics on climate negotiations such as the need for clean and *just* energy transition, loss and damage financing, technology transfer, adaptation, article 6 of the Paris Agreement and more. The Global Youth Statement was a foundation for lobbying and advocacy by young people during the climate negotiations at COP26.

COP26

The 26th UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP26) took place from 31 October to 13 November. As a partner to the flagship Youth4Climate: Driving Ambition event in Milan and the 16th Conference of Youth in Glasgow, OSGEY participated at COP26 to support the engagement of youth at COP26. The Secretary General's Envoy on Youth participated in series of official events at COP26 including an intergenerational inquiry on "Youth Stepping Up Climate Action" during the Youth and Public empowerment day at COP26.

The Envoy also contributed to sessions that focused on priority areas for youth at COP26 such as climate education, gender equality and climate justice. OSGEY worked closely with YOUNGO to provide communications support and provided guidance on how international organizations working with, and for, young people can collaborate better with youth to achieve common goals of raising ambition and action. Through these collaborations and joint efforts, an outcome of COP26 included a 10-year Glasgow Work Programme on Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE). The Work Programme calls for governments to include young people as part of the national delegations and it will also establish a permanent youth forum following the Youth4Climate event held during the pre-COP. Multiple UNFCCC processes also welcomed youth engagement into their work such as the Adaptation Fund and CTCN who are both integrating youth engagement as an indicator to their programmes.

Additionally, OSGEY contributed to series of dialogues aimed at enhancing how civil society and youth can better support the achievement of the Paris Agreement. This included consultative meetings with the COP26 High-Level Climate Champions, as well as supporting new initiatives like the #Decarbonize Global Youth [Manifesto](#), produced by 34,000 children from 54 countries in partnership with CC UNESCO, to build coherence with other demands from diverse youth groups.

Ahead of COP26, OSGEY joined the advocacy of young people on their key demands which included increasing the number of young people on national delegation, urging parties to listen to science and limit global warming to 1.5degrees, implement climate education at national level, among others. Our office provided guidance to member states such as Chile in their efforts in rolling out the School for Young Negotiators programme. On advocacy, one of the global movement championed by young people is the [SC1.5NCE NOT SILENCE](#) campaign led by March for Science, YOUNGO and supported by Office of the UN Secretary-

General's Envoy on Youth. The Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth also co-authored an article on the role of young people in international climate policy spaces together with Focal Points of YOUNGO. The article titled "[Keeping 1.5 degrees alive means a better future for everyone](#)" was published as part of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Matters blog series.

During both COY16 and COP26, OSGEY collaborated with youth delegates on the ground to provide a virtual takeover of the @UNYouthEnvoy social media channels, featuring video content from Glasgow. The takeover videos featured 13 different young people, achieving a total reach of nearly 19,000, including nearly 1,100 total engagements.

UN Food Systems Summit

In 2021, UN Secretary-General convened a [United Nations Food Systems Summit \(UNFSS\)](#) as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the SDGs by 2030. The Summit called on the world to strengthen meaningful partnerships to transform the way the world produces, consumes and thinks about food.

Young people are one of the key partners that must be engaged in the efforts and discussions to transform the food system. Young people were included in the UN Food Systems Summit leadership architecture and have been engaged through the Summit's five Action Tracks and Champions Network mobilization. Ahead of the UN Food Systems Pre-Summit, the Envoy on Youth and the UNFSS Special Envoy Agnes Kalibata hosted an [Instagram Live discussion](#) to address importance of youth empowerment for Food Systems transformation.

Food Security Session at #YouthLead Innovation Festival

On International Youth Day 2021, OSGEY partnered with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNFSS, and Thought for Food to design the "Food Security/Food systems" session of the #Youthlead Innovation Festival.

This session aimed to unfold the agency and expertise of young people within the food systems. With the focus of increasing advocacy on the need for resilience building and post-COVID-19 recovery through youth-led innovations towards the food systems, the youth-focused event highlighted existing youth-led innovative solutions, and opportunities to scale such solutions to increase resilience at community, national and international levels. Through a multi-stakeholder discussion, solution developers, technical advisers and funders discussed a youth-led approach to transform and innovate the food systems.

The discussion, which took place on 13 August, started with a keynote speech from FAO's Chief Economist and Chair of the FAO Youth Committee, Maximo Torero, who called attention to the need of working together to fight the climate and food crisis. Meaningful youth inclusion and participation was at the center of his speech, as he mentioned that young people are key and can drive the necessary changes through innovation and initiative. Following his intervention, three young innovators presented their work: [Indigikitchen](#) – an indigenous youth led online cooking show dedicated to re-indigenizing diets using digital media. Using foods native to their Americas, Indigikitchen gives viewers the important tools they need to find and prepare food in their own communities; [Alley capital Group Drone crop spraying for climate sustainable farming](#), a young Smart Agriculture and Engineering company offering crop protection services in agriculture using advanced and innovative autonomous robotic drone systems; and [Hillsbazar](#) - an e-commerce platform promoting products from the hillsides of Bangladesh through innovative manufacturing, marketing, and logistics. They connect Agri-entrepreneurs to the market through education and technology.

The session also featured a multistakeholder dialogue between youth activists, representatives of youth constituencies and indigenous youth on the topic of: From consultation to implementation, a youth-led approach to transform food system.

World Food Forum

In 2021, the [World Food Forum](#), a global movement led by WFP Youth Network was convened with the aim of harnessing the energy and creativity of young people to shape a better future for our food. At the Forum's flagship event in October 2021, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth joined FAO leadership and youth leaders for the presentation of Youth Declaration that was created in consultation with young people from around the world. The Office also engaged with the Youth Co-Chairs of the UN Food Systems Summit, as well as youth constituencies that have been contributing to the food systems dialogue over the past years.

Innovation

Multistakeholder Collaboration – Staying Safe with Twitter Youth Activist Checklist

Complex issues, such as the protection of young civil society actors, require collective, multi-dimensional responses. For youth worldwide to be able to express themselves freely, without fear of reprisals, and without exposure to hate speech, everyone must work together

– governments, civil society, multilateral regional organizations, parents, schools, youth, and especially social media and technology leaders. Due to the overwhelming accounts of digital threats related to youth online participation that young people shared with OSGEY during the consultation process, the OSGEY partnered with Twitter to develop a [Youth Activist Checklist - a guidance on digital safety and online participation for young people](#). Launched on International Youth Day 2021, 12 August, the Youth Activist Checklist was initiated to equip young people with youth-friendly tools that will help them navigate different ways of staying safe online, as well as ensure youth to continue to meaningfully engage throughout the process. The checklist initially reached more than 57,000 people via social media during the #YouthLead Innovation Festival, including another 1,000 engagements and a dedicated “Tweet chat” with @TwitterForGood to launch the document.

The checklist recommendations stemmed from a closed consultation process with diverse youth activists from around the world, organized by OSGEY in January 2021. A knowledge resource that’s built by and for youth, the checklist is a youth-friendly Twitter official resource that aims to educate youth on potential online risk factors, inform young people how to protect themselves and take advantage of existing privacy settings on social media accounts, help them understand how their digital footprint can impact them long-term, and learn what they can do to reduce the potential negative implications.

The collaboration with Twitter also aims to highlight the importance of engaging young people in shaping digital development together with industry leaders, as it related to technology and digital platforms that youth use daily, and OSGEY hope it will inspire future such initiatives in the future.

Multistakeholder Collaboration - Generation Connect Visionaries Board

[Generation Connect](#) is the multistakeholder initiative of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), which aims to engage global youth and encourage their participation as equal partners alongside the leaders of today’s digital change, empowering young people with the skills and opportunities to advance their vision of a connected future. Generation Connect embodies the ITU Youth Strategy on the journey to the 2022 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), the preceding the Generation Connect Global Youth Summit and beyond.

In 2021, the Envoy on Youth joined the Generation Connect Visionaries Board, a group of diverse leaders and youth from across institutions and industries, dedicated to championing youth voices in the digital development dialogue, and offering strategic guidance to the ITU on its youth strategy. In addition to providing strategic guidance, the Generation Connect Visionaries Board members also aim to identify and invite strategic partners to ensure youth

engagement and youth participation in digital cooperation, as well as to advocate for meaningful youth engagement in digital cooperation.

On International Youth Day, the Envoy on Youth joined [ITU's Youth2Connect: Empowered Youth Shaping the Digital Agenda](#), which specifically addressed the need to fully engage youth in the decision-making process that shapes the global digital agenda.

The implementation of Generation Connect, as well as the ITU Youth Strategy, both contributes to the implementation on Youth2030, by advancing the partnership to work with and for youth in the digital development agenda.

Talking Tech Initiative and Girls in ICT Day

The field of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) often lacks the presence of young women and girls. The World Economic Forum's [Global Gender Gap Report 2021](#) suggests that only 14 per cent of those working in cloud computing, 20 per cent of engineers, and 32 per cent of data and artificial intelligence professionals are women. Around the world, multiple barriers are still keeping young women and girls from pursuing their interest in STEM and fulfilling their full potential.

In support of the annual celebration of Girls in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Day and of the EQUALS Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age, ITU, the UN International Computing Centre, and OSGEY are collaborating on a year-long series of online interviews, titled [Talking Tech](#), by girls and young women in technology in conversation with women in technology that are role models and leaders further on in their careers.

By mobilizing OSGEY's network of young leaders and changemakers and tapping into OSGEY's strong online presence, the Office contributes directly to this partnership by advocating for the importance of having more young women and girls in STEM, connecting Talking Tech with young female innovators, and amplifying the [interview outcomes](#) of the initiative through our social media platform. In 2021, Talking Tech initiative reached [100th interview milestone](#) where 200 girls and women in ICT share their stories on digital transformation, diversity and inclusion.

McKinsey.Org Innovation Workshop

In 2021, in collaboration with [McKinsey.org](#), members of the 2020 class of Young Leaders for the SDGs engaged in a virtual mentorship programme that aimed to empower young people working on solutions for SDGs by leveraging on innovative approaches to solutions-making. Innovation is integral to support young people's contribution to 2030 Agenda, as it

enables young people to accelerate their work and solve challenges. As a leading non-profit that aims to deliver long-lasting impact on social challenges, McKinsey.org has included innovation in the heart of its programme. Through the mentorship collaboration, McKinsey.org and Young Leaders for the SDGs identified the different opportunities and challenges that young people face in implementing innovative approach to SDGs solutions.

In celebration of International Youth Day. A virtual session led by McKinsey.org and Young Leaders for the SDGs was held during the #YouthLead Innovation festival. The virtual session, [In the Hands of Women: Innovation for SDGs](#), was as follow-up to the mentorship collaboration between McKinsey.org and Young Leaders for the SDGs that focused on different areas of innovation through the lens of young women in the innovation and solutions space.

Microlearning Course on AI and Human Rights for Youth

From algorithms that are designed and used to shape the way social media news feeds are shown, to those profiling users and curating the information they receive, artificial intelligence (AI) is impacting human rights worldwide. There is an urgent need to inform and educate young people on how their rights are affected by AI and empower them with tools to guard their rights as well as advocate for meaningful youth engagement to shape the future of AI.

In 2021, OSGEY supported interagency work on AI and youth. A new microlearning course on [AI and Human Rights](#) for young people aged 16 to 24 was launched by UNESCO and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). The online course, available in English, French, Spanish and Russian, was developed in consultation with young people from around the world with support from OSGEY. The course breaks down complex concepts about AI through activities built around our daily technology interactions. The course focuses on how freedom of expression, the right to privacy, and the right to equality are impacted using AI. To ensure the course reflected the need of young people, OSGEY supported UNESCO and UNITAR in facilitating consultations with youth, to help shape the course in collaboration with them.

Additionally, in this year's Internet Governance Forum, OSGEY also supported the workshop of [Multistakeholder Approaches for the Design of AI Policies](#), hosted by UNESCO and i4Policy. The virtual session addressed the importance of a multistakeholder-lens in shaping AI policy processes, and OSGEY emphasized the need to acknowledge youth as key stakeholders to engage in both the design and decision-making process of AI.

Digital Technology Session at #YouthLead Innovation Festival

In the scope of the #YouthLead Innovation Festival organized to celebrate International Youth Day 2021, OSGEY partnered with ITU and Twitter on the “Digital Technology” session. This session, entitled “Youth’s Rights in Digital Age” aimed to unfold rights of young people in the age of digital development. From rights to participate in shaping up the policies of digital development to being able to exercise the rights to feel safe online, the rights and needs of young people in the digital age must be addressed together with young people as rights holders and equal partners.

The discussion, which took place on 12 August, started with a keynote speech by a young champion for universal connectivity from the Generation Connect Visionaries Board to highlight the need for equal access to connectivity and digital opportunities. It then highlighted the work of three young innovators, namely the young innovators from [eBionics](#), who created 3D printed bionic arms to create innovative and affordable solutions for people with disabilities. [Internet4Good Africa](#) which created a digital platform to engage media practitioners to responsibly report and set agenda on internet use among young Africans; and [Kolekti](#), a digital employment platform that brings together the various existing employment web spaces and improves young people’s access to information on the labor market.

The session also featured a multistakeholder dialogue between youth activists, Twitter, and representatives from UN Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Technology on the topic digital safety and young people’s rights to being free from online harm and discrimination.

Global Advocacy for Meaningful Youth Inclusion in Innovation and Technology

Despite being the most connected and the generation that was raised as digital natives, young people, especially ones who identify as vulnerable youth, are rarely engaged as equal partners in shaping the development and policies of innovation and technology.

In 2021, the Envoy on Youth advocated for meaningful youth inclusion in shaping the discourse and direction of our digital future. The Envoy on Youth supported the call made by [G7 Summit youth delegates](#) on the need for youth to be engaged in the decision making processes of emerging technologies and the need for equal access to digital infrastructure and opportunities to access digital education. At this year’s [Asia-Pacific Forum on Youth Leadership, Innovation and Entrepreneurship](#), the Envoy on Youth also emphasized on the need for young entrepreneurs and innovators to be engaged in the government’s plans for Agenda2030 both at the national and regional levels. At the [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation \(APEC\) Voices of the Future 2021 Forum](#), the Youth the Envoy’s also advocated for intergenerational partnership to support young solutions makers on their efforts to contribute to COVID-19 response and recovery.



6

**A WAY FORWARD
IN 2022**

2022 will be a key year for young people at the UN and beyond. The Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth's work will be marked by advancing recommendations for more meaningful, diverse and effective youth engagement at UN deliberative and decision-making processes, as tasked by the UN Secretary-General. The Office will also host the High-Level Global Conference on Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes in January; a virtual ECOSOC Youth Forum in April, including the launch of the second Youth2030 Progress Report; the continuation of the Queer Youth Dialogues in the first half of the year; and much more.

Youth2030 implementation will also continue to accelerate in 2022, including by working on priority areas of programming, through targeted outreach and technical support; building back better after COVID-19, with an equity focus; establishing a system-wide "youth-marker" to improve tracking of results and resources for youth in the UN; strengthening internships, through data-driven system-wide action, documenting good practices, instituting policy and operational changes and advocacy; and ensuring that young people are meaningfully engaged through all aspects of Youth2030 implementation.

All signs point to 2022 also being marked by uncertainty as we continue to experience the effects of the pandemic. OSGEY will remain dedicated to advocating for the rights of young people, amplifying their voices, and working to bring the UN and young people closer together, leading the "new normal" with and for young people in all their diversity.

List of Acronyms (in alphabetical order):

ACE	Action for Climate Empowerment
AI	Artificial Intelligence
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
CART	Computer Assisted Real-Time Translation
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
COP26	26th UNFCCC Conference of Parties
COP27	27th UNFCCC Conference of Parties
COSP	Conference of State Parties
COVID-19	Novel coronavirus of 2019
COY	UN Climate Change Conference of Youth
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CRSV	Conflict Related Sexual Violence
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
CYP	Commonwealth Youth Parliament
DPO	Department of Peacekeeping Operations
DPPA	United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

DSG	Deputy Secretary-General
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FBA	Folke Bernadotte Academy
FIA	Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile
FII	Fair Internship Initiative
G7	Group of 7
GCR	Global Compact on Refugees
GCYPS	Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security
GEF	Gender Equality Forum
GEM	Global Education Meeting
GenU	Generation Unlimited
GET Youth	Global Employment Trends for Youth
GPE	Global Partnership for Education
GRF	Global Refugee Forum
HLC	High-Level Commission
HLCM	High-Level Committee on Management
HLOM	High Level Officials Meeting
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
HLSC	High-Level Steering Committee
HNPW	Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks
IANYD	United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development
IASC	Interagency Standing Committee
ICMYO	International Coordination Meeting for Youth Organizations
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IDAHOBIT	International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia
IE SOGI	United Nations Independent Expert on Protection Against Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
IGLYO	International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer & Intersex Youth and Student Organisation
ILGA	International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association
IPI	International Peace Institute
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWD	International Women's Day
IYPT	International Year of Peace and Trust
JWG	Joint Working Group
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
LGBTIQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, and Queer
MGCY	Major Group for Children and Youth

NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSAPG	United Nations Office on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect
OSGEY	United Nations Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
PBSO/DPPA	Peacebuilding Support Office of the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
PKOs	UN Peacekeeping Operations
PWG	Protection Working Group
QCPR	Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review
S4YE	Solutions For Youth Employment
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SE4All Youth Summit	Sustainable Energy for All Youth Summit
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDCO	United Nations Development Cooperation Office
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDIS	United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNF	United Nations Foundation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNFSS	United Nations Food Systems Summit
UNGA76	76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
UNGEI	United Nations Girls' Education Initiative
UNHCR	UN Refugee Agency
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

UNISS	United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNOCHA	
UNODA	United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs
UNOICT	United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology
UNOY	United Network of Young Peacebuilders
UNPGA	United Nations President of the General Assembly
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UNSDCFs	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks
UNSDG IMS	United Nations Sustainable Development Group's Information Management System
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UNWRA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency
VTCs	Vocational Training Centres
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WOSM	World Organization of the Scouts Movement
WTDC	2022 World Telecommunication Development Conference
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
Y4C	Youth4Climate
YAG	Youth Advisory Group
Youth2030	UN System-wide Youth Strategy
Youth2030 ESRS	Youth2030 Entity Scorecard Reporting System
YPS	Youth, Peace and Security

WORK WITH AND FOR YOUTH



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