



Guidance for Self-Organized Youth Consultations
Torchbearers for the SDGs:
Consultations on Meaningful Youth Engagement & the 2030 Agenda
30 June - 31 August 2023 | Submit results [here](#)

Overview:

The [SDG Summit 2023](#) provides a unique opportunity to expand and strengthen meaningful youth engagement at all levels, particularly in the scope of SDG implementation, review, and follow-up. Building on the views and recommendations from young people, highlighted during the "[Youth & the SDGs](#)" global consultation, the outcomes of the [2023 ECOSOC Youth Forum](#), as well as the process culminating in the [Secretary-General's Policy Brief on Meaningful Youth Engagement in Policymaking and Decision-Making Processes](#), the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, alongside the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) and the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO), is facilitating a youth-led meaningful youth engagement roadmap towards the SDG Summit 2023.

The United Nations Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth virtually organized the first Youth Consultation on 30 June with youth constituencies with a second one on 11 August. Additionally, MGCY facilitated a [process](#) featuring on-ground consultations since October 2022 across different UN foras and further virtual discussions for the development of the Global Youth Position Paper for the SDG Summit ([version-1 here](#) and the final version is being developed).

Every young person, youth-led organization, and youth-serving organization is welcome to use this guide to host your own self-organized youth consultation and share the results. Your perspectives will inform the discussions at the SDG Summit 2023. This consultation can be as

formal or informal as you like - we want to hear the voices of youth in all their diversity, wherever they are, to ensure that the SDG Summit delivers for current and future generations.

Objectives of the consultation:

- Inform and raise awareness among youth about the meaningful youth engagement roadmap to the SDG Summit 2023.
- Gather views and recommendations from youth on key framing questions on meaningful youth engagement and the 2030 Agenda.

Desired outcome:

The process will culminate ahead of the SDG Summit 2023, scheduled to take place at the United Nations Headquarters on 18 and 19 September 2023. The outcomes of the consultations will be unveiled during a dedicated SDG Mobilization Day on 16 September 2023. Sign up [here](#) for more information. They will also further into the Global Youth Position Paper for the SDG Summit that will be presented on 16 August 2023.

The consultation will explore seven questions.

1. What are some of the challenges or barriers you have faced or identified as a young person or youth organization, movement, and network, when taking action on the SDGs?
2. What are key opportunities to enhance youth leadership in SDG implementation, monitoring, and review, in your specific context?
3. What are the opportunities we have right now to shape the decisions and actions of future generations of "engaged youth"?
4. How can youth be better engaged as full-fledged partners in SDG implementation?
5. What methods can enhance meaningful youth engagement, especially of marginalized and vulnerable groups, in implementing, monitoring, and reviewing the SDGs? How can this engagement be mainstreamed at global, regional, national, and local levels, including grassroots?
6. How have you, as a young person or youth organization, movement or network, contributed to SDG implementation or led initiatives on the SDGs so far?
7. What would greater youth-led accountability look like in the context of the SDGs - how can young people be better engaged in tracking progress and ensuring commitments are delivered on?"

Suggested Consultation Agenda

09h00-09h05 | Welcome Remarks

09h05-09h30 | Watch the [Briefing Video](#)

09h30-10h10 | Explore Questions 1 and 2

10h10-10h40 | Explore Questions 3 and 4

10h40-10h55 | Explore Question 5

10h55-11h00 | Watch the [Closing Remarks Video](#)

You are welcome to adjust the amount of time dedicated to exploring the five questions. Before diving into the discussion, remind participants that **their unique perspectives, based on their lived experiences and specific context, are what truly matter**. Encourage them to speak freely and share their genuine feelings and thoughts, rather than what they believe might be "the right response".

How to submit consultation results

Please submit [here](#) using the form. Please feel free to submit link(s) to additional documents, photos, or videos from your consultation. The deadline to submit the outcomes of your consultation is 31 August 2023 at 6h00 PM EDT (New York time). Please email youthenvoy@un.org if you have any questions.

Step-by-step Instructions

Step 1: Understanding the Consultation

Ensure that you fully understand the purpose of the consultation and its objectives. Study the briefing video and related materials, review the questions, and research the topics if necessary.

Step 2: Setting Up the Consultation

Find a comfortable, quiet, accessible space for the consultation where you won't be interrupted. You can use a physical location or an online platform. If it's online, use a reliable meeting platform that all participants can easily access. In-person consultations can be held at various avenues. They could be a part of the agenda of an event you are already organizing, such as a conference or a school event. Alternatively, they could be an independent event.

Step 3: Inviting Participants

Ensure you invite a diverse range of youth, informing them about the consultation's objectives and expectations. When involving participants under 18, adhere to child protection protocols, including obtaining parental consent, ensuring privacy, and providing a safe, respectful environment, in line with [UNICEF guidelines](#).

Step 4: Conducting the Consultation

On the consultation day, start by welcoming the participants and explaining the consultation's aim. Follow the suggested consultation agenda, allowing enough time for everyone to express their views. Facilitate the conversation in a respectful and inclusive manner, ensuring that everyone's voice is heard.

Step 5: Capturing Responses

During the consultation, record or take notes of the participants' responses. If online, consider using shared documents for everyone to jot down their thoughts. It is important to accurately capture the diverse views and recommendations that arise.

Step 6: Wrapping Up the Consultation

After exploring all the questions, close the consultation by summarizing the main points discussed and thanking the participants for their contributions. Ask for any last thoughts or questions.

Step 7: Submitting Consultation Results

Compile the notes from the consultation, review them, and summarize the main points. Once done, use the [form](#) to submit the results. Add any additional documents, photos, or videos from the consultation as you wish.

Step 8: Follow Up

After submitting the consultation results, follow up with participants by thanking them for their participation and sharing the main conclusions. Also, inform them about the unveiling of the outcomes at the SDG Mobilization Day.

Remember to be patient and respectful throughout the process. Everyone's views matter, and your role as the host is to facilitate an environment where all feel safe to express their opinions.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to write to the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth youthenvoy@un.org.

Good luck!