



**United  
Nations**

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

# The United Nations Guide to the Youth Delegate Programme

2nd Edition

## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations Secretariat is a vital interface between global policies in the economic, social and environmental spheres and national action. The Department works in three main interlinked areas: (i) it compiles, generates and analyses a wide range of economic, social and environmental data and information on which States Members of the United Nations draw to review common problems and to take stock of policy options; (ii) it facilitates the negotiations of Member States in many intergovernmental bodies on joint courses of action to address ongoing or emerging global challenges; and (iii) it advises interested Governments on the ways and means of translating policy frameworks developed in United Nations conferences and summits into programmes at the country level and, through technical assistance, helps build national capacities.

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DESA is grateful for the all contributions received for this guide, including from official youth delegates of Member States, as well as from the World Federation of United Nations Associations, European Youth Forum, YOUNGO, the Major Group for Children and Youth, UN WOMEN, national youth structures, Saba Loftus and other contributors.

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# FOREWORD

Over the last decade, young people's participation in the work of the United Nations has progressed and flourished significantly. A broader and deeper understanding of the importance and value of youth participation is continuously being cultivated. An increasing number of UN entities have dynamic youth policies and programmes in place and have formalized ways of working with youth-led organizations. This growth in youth participation, and the importance of youth development, can be seen not only among UN entities, but also among Member States, and in the work of United Nations intergovernmental bodies across the UN system. An increased understanding and commitment toward youth is evident in the priorities reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including in several of the targets and indicators. It is also evident in the work of the Security Council in the area of youth, peace, and security (United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2250 and 2419) and many other intergovernmental processes. Today at the United Nations, it is well-recognized that young people are crucial partners in efforts towards sustainable development, peace, and human rights.

This growing focus on youth is also reflected in the increasing number of Member States sending youth delegates to the United Nations. In 2007 and 2008 there were respectively 29 and 38 youth delegates attending the UN General Assembly. A decade later, in 2017 and 2018, there were respectively 73 and 68 youth delegates to the General Assembly. This increase is remarkable, especially given budget cuts and austerity.

Moreover, many young people have been moving away from traditional political platforms and channels. There are several reasons behind this change, including an aversion to establishments and labels often associated with national politics; sliding trust in political institutions; frustrations regarding barriers to political participation; etc. We know that young people regularly play key roles in the birth of movements for democracy in all corners of the world. However, they are less engaged than older generations in traditional political circles. Research by the Inter-parliamentary Union shows that young people below the age of 30 represent under 2 percent of the world's members of parliament; and more than 75 percent of the world's upper houses of parliament have no members under the age of 30. While young people themselves are pivoting away from traditional politics, they are still championing the values and principles of multilateralism. Young people are redefining political engagement and creating new avenues to express their political views outside of traditional political spheres.

For multilateral organizations such as the United Nations, to help build a truly inclusive future, young people from all corners of the world need to share their ideas, put forth their solutions, and leverage their capacity for innovation and solidarity. In this context, youth

delegates play a unique role, and have an exceptional platform to do so when they come to the United Nations. The present guide was developed to help stakeholders better understand and support that role.

This guide was prepared by the United Nations the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), which serves as focal point for the UN's work on youth. Through the Division for Inclusive Social Development (DISD), which coordinates the participation of youth delegates at the global level, DESA facilitates Member States' dialogue and drives policy development to address the vast challenges faced by today's young people.

As a source of information and by presenting examples of how certain countries structure their programme, this guide can help Member States and national youth structures build, or further develop, their own programmes. It does so by presenting avenues for their participation and detailing what several Member States have done to enable youth delegates to join multilateral processes.

As we aim for a more inclusive and peaceful world, young people must be at the forefront, as torchbearers and partners in decision-making. When the world's leaders agreed on the 2030 Agenda, they recognized that "the future of humanity and of our planet... lies... in the hands of today's younger generation who will pass the torch to future generations". It is our collective responsibility to ensure that today's young people play the role they have the right to play, in all aspects of sustainable development and peace efforts. Youth delegates are one of the most important ways of ensuring that level of participation. I encourage all Member States to include youth delegates in their official delegations and considered them equal to other official delegates.



Liu Zhenmin

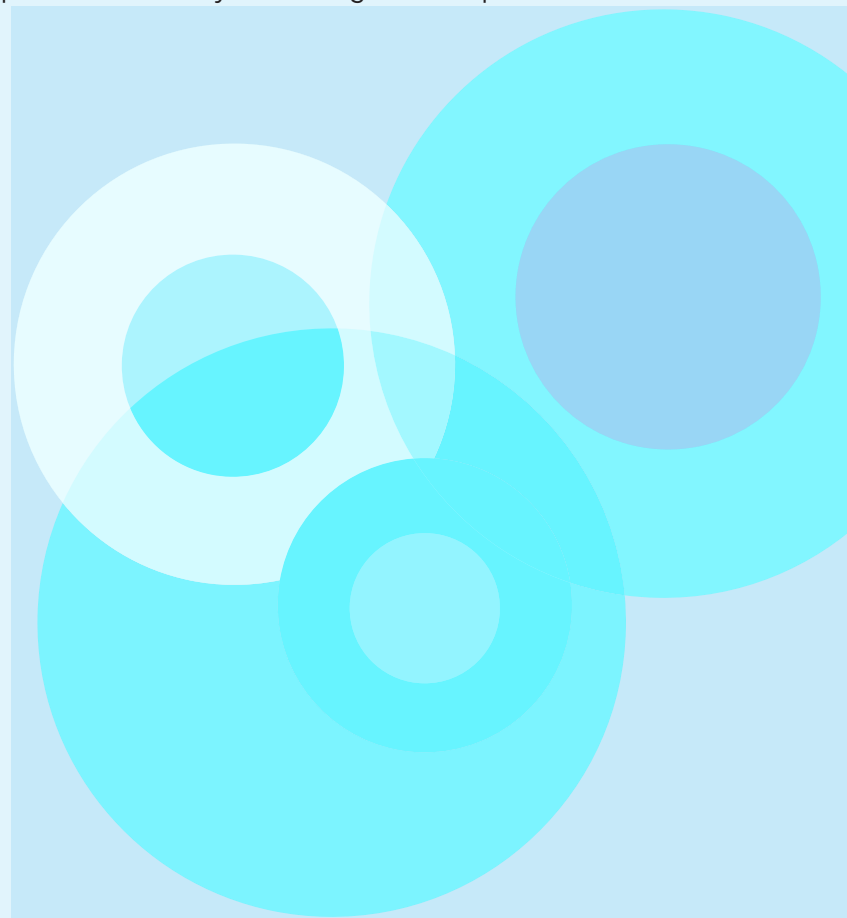
*Under-Secretary-General of  
Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations*

# INTRODUCTION

The United Nations recognizes that young people around the world are key agents for social change, economic development and technological innovation. It has further recognized that youth should participate in decision-making processes since their outcomes affect both their lives and their futures. In addition to being able to mobilize support, the contributions and unique perspectives of young people need to be factored in when shaping the future.<sup>1</sup>

An important form of youth participation at the United Nations is through the inclusion of young people among a country's official delegation to various intergovernmental meetings. This type of inclusion is not new and has been a longstanding practice of many Member States — some for over four decades.

This guide has been developed as a resource for Member States to provide information about the inclusion of youth in their delegations and offers ideas for those with existing youth delegate programmes on how to potentially strengthen them. It includes sections on establishing a programme, suggestions for possible roles of youth delegates and practicalities to be considered.



<sup>1</sup> World Programme of Action for Youth, A/RES/50/81, Paragraph 104; United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, paragraph 25.2.





2018: Youth Delegates  
attending the 73rd Session  
of the United Nations  
General Assembly.

UN Photo/Loey Felipe



## WHAT IS A YOUTH DELEGATE?

In the United Nations context, a youth delegate is normally a young person selected by a Member State to participate in one or more intergovernmental meetings as their representative, normally as part of a delegation. The selection processes, mandates and responsibilities of youth delegates are determined by each Member State.

Usually, Member States either establish an annual youth delegate programme, wherein one or more delegates are selected for a determined period of time (often one or two years) and engage year-round, or they include youth in their delegations on an ad hoc basis (i.e. occasionally accrediting youth delegates to certain events or processes). An annual youth delegate programme can be considered a best practice, wherein one or more delegates have a specific term, such as one or two years. Setting up an annual youth delegate programme has a number of benefits including increasing meaningful engagement, building institutional knowledge, ensuring continuity, clear mandates and better oversight. Ideally, such a programme allows time for young people to consult nationally with their peers, build consensus on policy priorities with youth at a national level and input these into the intergovernmental processes with the support of their government.

However, it is important to recall that the decision to have youth delegates and/or to establish a youth delegate programme is made by Member States and is only one way for young people to engage in the work of the United Nations, at regional organizations and within their countries.

Roles and mandates are generally determined by the authority responsible for youth development in a country (in cooperation with the ministry of foreign affairs (or its equivalent) and the permanent mission to the United Nations) and are usually decided in consultation with the national youth structure (i.e. national youth council) and national United Nations Association. In many instances, the process is coordinated by the national youth council or a similar youth structure that is able to transmit information to a diverse membership and organize a peer review process. Involvement of well-established youth structures also can help ensure continuity.

Most youth delegates are also active at the national level and contribute to shaping policies, impacting young people throughout the year or mandate of their selection. For example, they often advocate on youth development more broadly and advise their Member State on priorities for youth or share the views of young people in their countries. In some countries, the youth delegate has a strong communications and outreach role. Although youth delegates may have some overlapping tasks with mission experts, staff and interns, their tasks are often geared to supporting the substance and processes of intergovernmental meetings, as opposed to undertaking administrative functions.

The structure and term of an annual youth delegate programme also differs between Member States. Some programmes have an overlap between the terms of youth delegates in order to

create a “junior and senior system”. Other Member States assign youth delegates to certain thematic portfolios.

The potential for engagement is also shaped by the intergovernmental processes in which youth delegates participate. Historically, youth delegates participate in the General Assembly and functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. In that context, they often provide input to their delegation on issues related to youth or priority issues raised in national consultations prior to their engagement with the intergovernmental meeting. They also can participate in the delegation's general work through attending a variety of meetings and informal negotiations, as well as providing assistance in covering general debates and drafting reports.

At the global level, the [Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#) coordinates the [participation of youth delegates](#). Member States therefore often inform the Department's Division on Inclusive Social Development of the participation of youth delegates, so that information can be circulated to them and they can be connected with youth delegates of other countries. DESA's work on youth delegates is in support of the Member States who have the responsibility to decide who will represent the young people of their country, and to select youth delegates (on an ad hoc basis) or to establish a youth delegate programme at the national level.

### **Defining Youth:**

For statistical purposes, the United Nations defines youth as those persons between the ages 15 to 24 years old without prejudice to the other definitions used by Member States and other organizations.

These definitions vary considerably depending within UN entities, regional entities and Member States.

# WHY HAVE YOUTH DELEGATES?

"The future of humanity and of our planet lies in our hands. It lies also in the hands of today's younger generation who will pass the torch to future generations." (2030 Agenda, para 53)

In 1995, the United Nations formally strengthened its commitment to young people by adopting the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY).<sup>2</sup> It provides a policy framework and practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people, and was expanded in 2007 to cover additional action areas relevant to youth.<sup>3</sup> The framework's priority action area on the full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and in decision-making invites:

"Governments to strengthen the involvement of young people in international forums, inter alia, by considering the inclusion of youth representatives in their national delegations to the General Assembly." (A/RES/62/126)

Subsequent UN resolutions<sup>4</sup> related to policies and programmes involving youth to both the General Assembly and Commission for Social Development have reaffirmed the commitment to promoting official representation of youth in delegations to United Nations meetings and conferences.

This was reiterated in a resolution at the Seventy-Second session of the General Assembly on Policies and Programmes involving youth. The resolution:

"[u]rges Member States to consider including youth delegates in their delegations at all relevant discussions in the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and relevant United Nations conferences, as appropriate, bearing in mind the principles of gender balance and non-discrimination, and emphasizes that such youth representatives should be selected through a transparent process that ensures that they have a suitable mandate to represent young people in their countries."

<sup>2</sup> Specifically, A/RES/50/81 and A/RES/62/126

<sup>3</sup> The fifteen priority areas are: education, employment, hunger and poverty, health, environment, substance abuse, juvenile justice, leisure-time activities, girls and young women, youth participation in society and in decision-making, globalization, information and communication technology (ICT), HIV /AIDS, armed conflict, intergenerational issues.

<sup>4</sup> A/RES/72/146, E/CN.5/2017/L.4, A/RES/70/127, E/CN.5/2015/L.4, A/RES/68/130, E/CN.5/2013/L.4, A/RES/66/121, A/RES/65/267, E/CN.5/2011/L.4/Rev.1, A/RES/64/130, A/RES/62/126, A/RES/60/2, A/RES/59/148, A/RES/58/133, A/RES/57/165, A/RES/56/117, A/RES/54/120, A/RES/52/83, A/RES/50/81



The participation of youth in official delegations ensures that this often underrepresented demographic has the space to share their experiences, perspectives and priorities. This inclusion can catalyze positive change as it helps ensure that policies being designed for youth are inclusive of youth. The underlying principle of youth participation in the work of the United Nations is that it leads to better policy and programmatic responses to the issues facing young people today.

Listening to the views of youth and making them full partners in the decision-making process can help governments enact more effective and legitimate policies and programmes for youth. Integration of a young person into a delegation in a year-round policy role can support their development, and if combined with national level consultation with youth networks, builds ownership over decisions.



2019: UN Secretary-General António Guterres with the Youth Delegates attending the 74th Session of the General Assembly.

UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe



# ESTABLISHING A YOUTH DELEGATE PROGRAMME

In countries with no previous youth delegate programme, the process is often started by a national youth council (or similar youth structure) or by a national United Nations Association (UNA) and relevant authorities or ministries (such as those working on youth development and foreign affairs).

Normally, the youth entities collaborate with the government and develop a proposal that defines the youth delegate's mandate, creates a selection process that is transparent to ensure legitimacy and representativeness, and clarifies the funding process and continuity.

Once the decision to have a youth delegate programme has been made, there are a number of considerations:

- » Selection process and criteria (age, nationality, language skills etc.).
- » Framework of the programme (mandate, timeframe, capacity-building and the engagement of other stakeholders such as national youth structures and UNAs).
- » Logistics (funding, visa and accreditation).
- » Role, term and responsibilities of the youth delegate.
- » Level of commitment from Member State.

This guide shares ideas on potential selection processes, criteria, mandates, and functions based on existing young delegate programmes from around the world.

## SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process for youth delegates varies from country to country but can include similar elements. Much of the preparations and negotiations for intergovernmental meetings (from drafting resolutions, preparing speeches and consulting with relevant stakeholders) occurs ahead of the meeting itself. As such, ideally the youth delegate should be selected well ahead of the process (such as six months prior to the meeting). It is recommended that selection takes place well before the intergovernmental meeting is held to ensure that the youth delegates have sufficient time to prepare and make the most of their participation at the United Nations.

Numerous resolutions encourage Member States to select youth delegates "through a transparent process that ensures that they have a suitable mandate to represent young people in their countries."<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Including A/RES/72/146 para 25.

The selection process is frequently overseen by the government authority directly responsible for youth (e.g. ministry of education, department of youth and sport, ministry of cultural and social affairs, or equivalent). It is recommended that national youth structures are involved, and, in many instances, the process is coordinated by the national youth council, a United Nations Association or similar youth structure, as they are able to transmit information to a diverse membership and organize a peer review process for the selection of youth delegates. In other cases, the relevant government ministry circulates a call for applications and then shortlists candidates to be jointly reviewed and/or interviewed by representatives of both the government and youth organizations. In several countries, previous youth delegates are included in the selection process, since they have first-hand experience of the skills and knowledge needed to be an effective youth delegate. Another way to select youth delegates is to involve the public and use social media, and in a few countries, the final shortlisted qualified candidates are selected through a public voting process.

For more information on how different countries select their youth delegate, refer to the country profiles at the end of this guide.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

When deciding on the selection criteria, some considerations may include:

- » **Institutional knowledge and capacity-building:** For example, some Member States have a "junior and senior system" where the youth delegates have a staggered two-year term to support capacity-building and ensure institutional knowledge is developed. Other Member States have one-year terms but the previous youth delegate acts as a resource for their successor for 3 to 6 months to share good practices.
- » **Engagement with youth processes nationally:** Youth delegates are often expected to inform on resolutions and other recommendations regarding youth policies and programmes, therefore the most effective delegates are those who are familiar with current national youth policies, linked to youth organizations, structures or networks in their home country and who are knowledgeable on the key issues confronting their peers.
- » **Language skills:** It is important that the selected youth delegates have knowledge of basic English and/or fluency in an official UN language in order to be able to interact effectively at intergovernmental meetings.
- » **Gender balance and non-discrimination:** Some Member States include two youth delegates for gender balance or have a few youth delegates representing different national language groups, ethnic groups or minorities from the country.

## MEMBER STATE SUPPORT

The inclusion of youth representation in a national delegation to United Nations intergovernmental meetings involves cooperation and coordination. Once a youth delegate has been selected, the ministry of foreign affairs (or equivalent) informs the country's permanent mission to the United Nations in the country where the youth delegate will be participating in the intergovernmental processes (i.e. New York, Geneva, Nairobi, Vienna etc.).

Many Member States are often in contact with youth delegates ahead of their participation in intergovernmental meetings. A best practice is to appoint a focal point or coordinator within the delegation as a contact person if issues arise so that a communication channel is established. This relationship is important as youth delegates should work closely with their delegation. Communication with youth delegates is key to ensure that they receive the appropriate information prior to relevant engagements. This allows them to prepare the necessary information to input into processes and meetings. It also allows youth delegates to conduct research, so that they are informed and can contribute concretely during the preparatory process.

Member States frequently encourage youth delegates to organize side events (which can also be held in collaboration with other Member States, non-governmental organizations or UN entities). It is also common for Member States to have their youth delegate prepare and give a statement during relevant meetings (such as during the Third Committee, under the agenda item on social development, or during the Commission for Social Development).

Member States support youth delegates in a variety of ways and frequently offer assistance by:

- » Holding advance briefings with the relevant youth ministry or similar authority responsible for youth development. This is done prior to the youth delegate attending the intergovernmental meetings to build capacity or provide training on youth policy priorities.
- » Establish a focal point, point of contact or coordinator in the delegation.
- » Organizing an introductory call and regular communication between the permanent mission and the youth delegate before their travel.
- » Communicating expectations of the youth delegate in advance (in terms of their activities during their time at the United Nations, and anything they should prepare prior to the inter-governmental meetings).
- » Ensuring the youth delegate has access to relevant materials and knows what to expect.
- » Supporting the youth delegate to organize events or activities, including side events.



- » Authorizing the youth delegate to give an intervention during the official process (if relevant) and support their preparation.
- » Including the youth delegate in official press conferences and media releases, where relevant.
- » Facilitate the youth delegate's participation in the delegation's briefings or relevant bilateral meetings.



2018: Youth Delegates  
attending the 73rd Session  
of the United Nations  
General Assembly.

UN Photo/Loey Felipe



# ROLE OF THE YOUTH DELEGATE

While participation in intergovernmental processes are the “milestone moments” of their term as a youth delegate, often considerable work and effort happens well ahead of the intergovernmental processes.

Once selected, the official youth delegate is often expected to take an active role both at a national level and to prepare for the intergovernmental meetings they will attend.

## PREPARATION

Before attending intergovernmental meetings, it is helpful for youth delegates to become familiar with the work of the United Nations on youth development, recent youth resolutions and relevant reports of the Secretary-General. This information is accessible via the Department of Economic and Social Affairs website at [www.un.org/youth](http://www.un.org/youth).

In some countries, UN Associations or national youth councils have staff that provide support for youth delegates. Occasionally, a national youth council or similar organization hosts a preparatory meeting for all the national youth delegates or for youth delegates of a specific region. In previous years, for example, the European Youth Forum has hosted a preparatory meeting for European youth delegates prior to the General Assembly.

Some Member States encourage their youth delegates to connect with youth nationally. In some cases, delegates organize events, public or online discussions, consultations or school visits in order to create awareness of their role as a national youth delegate. In some countries, the youth delegates' role includes travelling around their country to meet with national youth in order to gather information about their opinions and views. In addition, many youth delegates have used social media and other platforms to share information (about the UN and its processes, the situation of youth nationally, and relevant policy information relating to young people).

Youth delegates need to be proactive in conducting research and in their preparation to engage at the United Nations. In this context, it is often very helpful for them to contact previous youth delegates in order to learn more about their experiences and seek relevant guidance. Frequently, previous youth delegates connect their successors with key national representatives from the youth sector. Member States may also provide briefings or connect youth delegates with the permanent mission before they leave for the intergovernmental meetings.

Normally, in anticipation of their participation, youth delegates begin drafting relevant input ahead of intergovernmental meetings. This allows the youth delegate to gain feedback from consultations with youth networks / organizations at the national level, align with their Member States positions and be ready to answer relevant questions. Many times, youth delegates tour their countries to obtain feedback from young people before their participation at the United Nations.

Some good practices include:

- » Youth delegates connecting with previous youth delegates (if any) and meet with national youth structures.
- » Create a communication or outreach strategy and social media plan.
- » Prepare a draft statement (3–5 minutes) and talking points.
- » Organize logistics and have all official travel documents.
- » Review meeting agenda and create plan of engagement.
- » Email to organize meetings with relevant individuals / organizations.

## **DURING INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS**

Upon the arrival of the youth delegates, many permanent missions hold a briefing for youth delegates to clarify their role in the delegation as well as to provide relevant information. The Programme on Youth Unit in DESA's Division for Inclusive Social Development normally provides an orientation for youth delegates to the General Assembly, Commission for Social Development and High-Level Political Forum. For other processes, particularly those outside of headquarters in New York, UN DESA's Division for Inclusive Social Development helps the youth delegates liaise with relevant stakeholders to provide information. A number of official processes have formal youth civil society constituencies that also hold capacity-building preparatory workshops.

While the role of a youth delegate is dependent on their delegations, and the processes in which they participate, most attend official meeting sessions, bilateral meetings with other Member States, social events or participate in the general work of their missions. This can be done by providing assistance in monitoring general debates, drafting reports or providing inputs into negotiated texts. They may be invited to speak on an issue relating to youth or on a topic of priority for the intergovernmental process they are attending at side events organized by permanent missions, UN agencies or NGOs.

Many youth delegates have a communication and outreach role. They tend to have an active online social media presence by writing articles, blog entries, posting videos and updates on social media platforms.

Quick checklist:

- Has the permanent mission and youth delegate(s) met and discussed participation?
- Is there a schedule for engagement during meetings (this could include deciding which side events to attend)?
- Will the youth delegate write blog entries or provide updates via social media?

## **FOLLOW-UP AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING**

Upon returning from intergovernmental meetings, or upon concluding their term, most youth delegates are asked to prepare a report to submit to the various ministries within the government and national youth structures. They regularly make presentations to relevant departments about key outcomes, good practices and innovative youth policy recommendations. This acts as a potential mechanism for knowledge sharing by creating institutional knowledge for the future.

In some cases, they undertake additional outreach activities, in order to share their experience with other young people through a national tour, online blogs or short video, sharing updates via youth networks, speaking at schools or organizing media interviews.

Some youth delegates continue to interact with their governments to participate in implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth or to support related government programmes and projects.

Some good practices include:

- » Preparing a report with youth policy recommendations.
- » Debriefing with relevant youth organizations and networks nationally.
- » Writing articles or blog entries as well as creating videos to share experiences.

## THE PRACTICALITIES

Once selected, the youth delegate is part of the official delegation of the Member State and the logistics should be handled accordingly. Typically, logistics are overseen by the ministry of foreign affairs or permanent mission to the United Nations.

### FUNDING

As members of the official national delegations, the costs associated with establishing a programme are normally borne by Member States.

In some instances, Member States have also asked the youth delegate to raise some funds required for their participation. In some countries the national United Nations Association or national youth council may provide some support for official youth delegates.

The most significant costs of the programme will be related to the youth delegate's travel, food and accommodation.

Several UN General Assembly and Commission for Social Development resolutions recall the existence of the United Nations Youth Fund, including 72/146 para 27 (of the UN General Assembly), which:

"[c]alls upon donors, including Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to actively contribute to the United Nations Youth Fund in order to facilitate the participation of youth representatives from developing countries in the activities of the United Nations, taking into account the need for greater geographical balance in terms of youth representation, as well as to accelerate the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and to support the production of the *World Youth Report*, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate action to encourage contributions to the Fund."

More information about United Nations Youth Fund can be found at: [www.un.org/development/desa/youth/](http://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/) .

### ACCOMMODATION

Some permanent missions may have a guest room or house that they may offer to youth delegates and others arrange accommodation for their delegation at a hotel. Alternatively, some delegations provide their youth delegates a per diem to arrange their own accommodation.



## VISAS AND ACCREDITATION

The visa process differs by country. In most cases, the ministry of foreign affairs or the permanent mission to the United Nations writes a letter of support for the selected youth delegates that can be used for the visa application process.

Member States follow the normal process for accrediting members of their delegation for the intergovernmental meetings. Please note that there may be special requirements for those under 18 years of age.

## LOGISTICS CHECKLIST

- Valid passport for at least 6 months beyond period of intended stay.
- Visa letter from the permanent mission / ministry of foreign affairs.
- Visa planning in line with deadlines.
- Accommodation.
- Funding arrangements clarified.
- Registered youth delegate as part of official delegation for intergovernmental meetings.
- DESA, permanent mission and relevant focal point have been contacted.





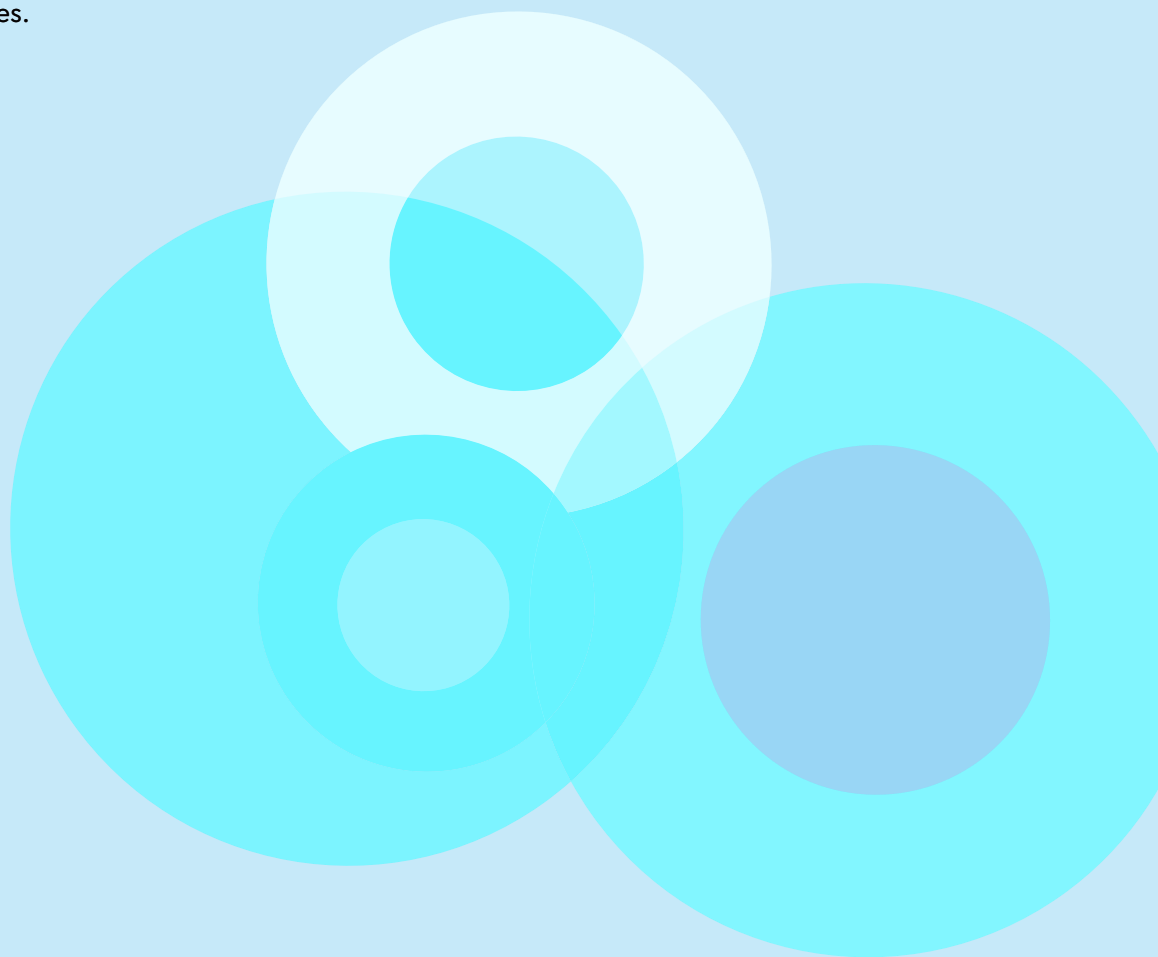
View of the  
United Nations  
buildings  
in New York.

UN Photo/Cia Pak



## INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES

Young people are increasingly mobilizing and impacting social policy dialogue within their communities as well as at the global level. Common avenues for youth participation at the local, national, regional and international level include through civil society processes, non-governmental organizations, schools, networks and movements. At the national level, young people are increasingly taking a leadership role in their schools, communities, national youth structures, local chapters of international organizations and local non-governmental organizations (including youth and youth-led organizations). At the regional level, these youth platforms serve as entry points to get involved and engage with regional bodies such as the UN Economic Commissions, African Union or European Union. Globally, many youth are engaged in international processes through activism, civil society movements or by working with official youth constituencies.



## UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN and all Member States have equal representation through a vote. The General Assembly opens annually in September. It usually meets from September to December each year and resumes from January to August (as needed). The General Assembly composition, functions, powers, voting, and procedures are discussed in Chapter IV of the [\*Charter of the United Nations\*](#).

Each country determines the amount of time its youth delegate(s) spend at the General Assembly and this period ranges from around a week to several months. Material for the General Assembly, including the draft agenda are normally available online in late summer. Read more about [the functions and powers of the General Assembly](#).

In the area of youth, there has traditionally been a biennial resolution to both the General Assembly and Commission for Social Development. The majority of youth delegates attend the Third Committee, the arm of the General Assembly that deliberates on social, cultural and humanitarian issues. As the UN General Assembly is a year-round process, it is encouraged that the youth delegate also has a year-round role.

In order to allow for effective participation during the Third Committee, youth delegates may consider preparing in advance by reading up on relevant material, resolutions and reports.

### ***How can a youth delegate participate in the General Assembly?***

Youth delegates are often invited to deliver statements on issues of concern on behalf of their governments in the Third Committee under the agenda item on social development, covering youth.

As official members of delegations, many Member States encourage their youth delegates to participate in the negotiations of resolutions (including the resolution on policies and programmes involving youth, resolutions related to youth (i.e. cyberbullying, human rights etc.) or resolutions of interest to their Member States).



## COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Commission for Social Development (CSocD) is a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The body is tasked with the follow-up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and meets annually in February for one and a half weeks. It covers key social development themes (such as poverty, employment and social integration) and social groups, including youth.

Each year the Commission reviews relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action on the situation of social groups, including youth. A resolution on policies and programmes involving youth is traditionally adopted every two years. Typically, youth delegates that have been selected for the General Assembly also participate in the Commission for Social Development, since the work of the two bodies is closely interlinked.

In addition to the official youth delegates, the CSocD processes also includes young people representing youth networks, constituencies and organizations.

### *How can a youth delegate participate in CSocD?*

Apart from attending the Commission, youth delegates regularly organize side events to share national experiences or co-convene a meeting in partnership with other youth delegates on a priority theme.

Sometimes Member States allow youth delegates to give statements with relation to the resolution on policies and programmes involving youth.

It is a best practice for the same youth delegate to cover the UN General Assembly, the UN Commission for Social Development and the ECOSOC Youth Forum, as there is overlap.

## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the main United Nations platform on sustainable development and has a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The HLPF adopts intergovernmentally negotiated political declarations and meets annually under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (for eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment) and every four years at the level of heads of state and government under the auspices of the General Assembly (for two days). The Forum's first meeting was held on 24 September 2013 replacing the Commission on Sustainable Development, which had met annually since 1993.



Inside the General Assembly Hall at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

UN Photo/Cia Pak

## 2030 Agenda and Youth

The 2030 Agenda highlights children and young people as "critical agents of change" and notes that the Sustainable Development Goals can be used as a "platform to channel their infinite capacities for activism into the creation of a better world." (para 51)

As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda encourages Member States to "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at national and sub-national levels which are country-led and country-driven" (para 79). These Voluntary National Reviews are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the HLPF. As stipulated in paragraph 84 of the 2030 Agenda, regular reviews by the HLPF are to be voluntary, state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and shall provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders.

### *How can a youth delegate participate in HLPF?*

Increasingly, youth delegates are participating in their country's 2030 Agenda follow-up and review processes at the national level ahead of the Forum, and some are invited to present part of their country's Voluntary National Review to the Forum. This is a process where an annual youth delegate programme is a strength, as it allows concrete contributions.

## The Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY)

The civil society youth constituency for the High-Level Political Forum is called the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY). The MGCY normally organizes an open briefing for young people ahead of the HLPF for the purposes of orientation, briefing, and capacity-building on lobbying and negotiations. Youth-led organizations need to be encouraged and empowered to participate in translating the 2030 Agenda into local, national and regional policy. They play a significant role in the implementation, monitoring and review of the Agenda as well as in holding governments accountable.

The Major Group for Children and Youth, as the official youth constituency for the process, may have speaking slots. It is common for youth delegates to contribute to the content of these statements by being actively involved with the drafting process for the statements which are prepared in a collaborative consensus driven process involving young people, networks, youth councils and organizations globally.



## UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Increasingly, Member States (particularly Small Island Developing States) include youth as part of their official delegations to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) processes on an annual or ad hoc basis. This provides young people with access to restricted negotiations and, depending on the Member State, insight into how a delegation is run on the ground. This is an invaluable experience for youth delegates to understand politics at the international level.

### *How can a youth delegate participate in UNFCCC?*

A lot of youth delegates tend to have a communications or outreach focused role. It is common to be included in bilateral meetings, closed-door negotiations and to support the delegation taking notes or tracking the positions of other Member States.

This process tends to attract *ad hoc* accreditation of youth delegates. It has become a common practice for Member States to also accredit active youth from their region on a case-by-case basis. There tends to be less opportunities for giving statements in this process.

### **Youth Constituency to the UNFCCC (YOUNGO)**

In addition to youth delegates, young civil society are also proactive in the climate negotiations, which attracts activists and advocates for ambitious targets. In 2009, the UNFCCC secretariat granted a provisional constituency status to young people, recognizing their status as a key stakeholder in climate change negotiations. This constituency is referred to as YOUNGO, one of nine constituencies. The constituency operates as a network of both individuals and groups of young people from around the world attending the UNFCCC sessions, coming together to lobby on various topics of mutual interest, as well as speaking as one voice in various platforms within the negotiating halls. YOUNGO can also get creative and undertake 'actions' or mini demonstrations within the conference venue or hold meetings with key actors and negotiators throughout the conference. It is currently based on a non-hierarchical, consensus decision-making, voluntary basis, working to be as open and inclusive as possible, and by supporting each other through peer-to-peer learning and networking.

A key example, is when YOUNGO holds the Conference of Youth (COY), planned, organized and operated by young people, ahead of the annual year-end UN Climate Change Conference (COP). There is one main COY in the country of the COP, as well as several 'local' COYs held around the world for those who cannot attend in person. Attendees can build their capacity to participate in the UNFCCC process and be active citizens back home, by providing them with negotiating skills and a broader understanding of climate change science, among many relevant topics and workshops. It also links them with youth from diverse stakeholder groups working internationally to empower young people.

## COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. It meets annually for two weeks in New York. The outcomes and recommendations of each session are forwarded to ECOSOC for follow-up.

CSW is the largest single forum for UN Member States, civil society organizations and other international actors to build consensus on policy actions that promote women's rights, documents their lives, and shapes global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. It is also a space where intergenerational and intersectional conversations, often led by civil society, can be convened.

In recent years, a space to elicit the views and contributions of young people has been held around the CSW (in the form of a meeting, forum or dialogue), to tackle persisting challenges brought about by unequal and unjust systems that pose barriers to achieving the full rights and empowerment of young women, girls and trans youth. Such a space allows for young people, particularly young women and girls, to openly and strategically discuss the challenges and opportunities in their local, national, regional and global contexts in accelerating progress to achieve gender equality and sustainable development. More information about the annual events held for youth is available [here](#).

### *How can a youth delegate participate in CSW?*

Youth delegates often support their delegations in matters related to promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. This includes the implementation of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the key global policy document on gender equality, and by contributing to dialogue on the priority thematic topics. They have also taken roles to support Member States in drafting the agreed upon conclusions, as well as resolutions adopted by the Commission. Youth delegates can also participate in, or hold, side events.



## OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Youth delegates can be included in delegation meetings, including at the global and regional level. As such there are many other processes, meetings and forums in which youth delegates can participate — ranging from relevant high-level meetings and youth forums to regional meetings. It should be noted that engagement spaces may change on a year-to-year basis depending on the priority and focus of the United Nations agenda.

Some forums or initiatives may be championed by presidents of functional bodies (such as the President of ECOSOC), special and personal representatives and envoys that are appointed by the UN Secretary-General, including the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. In 2018, a broad strategy called "Youth 2030: The United Nations Strategy on Youth" was created for the UN system, and its implementation is being led by the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth.

### ECOSOC YOUTH FORUM

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum is an annual initiative of the President of the Council. It has evolved into a key platform where young people can contribute to policy discussions at the United Nations through their collective ideas, solutions and innovations.

Participants take part in brainstorming sessions, interactive speaker panels and discussions with Member States on the annual ECOSOC/High-Level Political Forum themes. Other gatherings held in the framework of the Forum include side events, which encourage participants to further engage with one another on a wide range of topics.

The outcome of the ECOSOC Youth Forum in the form of its summary is considered an informal contribution to the HLPF and key elements are referenced in the annual Ministerial Declaration. The main focus is the role of youth in the monitoring, review and the implementation of the Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this context, the ECOSOC Youth Forum offers a unique opportunity for youth to voice their opinions, share ideas, and work together on what should be done to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Participation in the forum is by invitation where youth participants are selected by national youth councils, regional youth organizations, as well as youth-led and -focused organizations and networks affiliated with the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) and the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO). Youth delegates are often selected to attend with their Member State.

## **YOUTH 2030: THE UNITED NATIONS STRATEGY ON YOUTH AND THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S ENVOY ON YOUTH**

In 2013, the Secretary-General appointed the first Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth to serve as a global advocate for addressing the needs and rights of young people and ensure their meaningful engagement in the United Nations.

In 2018, a broad strategy called "[Youth 2030: The United Nations Strategy on Youth](#)" was created for the UN system and its implementation is being led by the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth.

It has 5 priorities:

1. **Engagement, Participation and Advocacy** — Amplify youth voices for the promotion of a peaceful, just and sustainable world.
2. **Informed and Healthy Foundations** — Support young people's greater access to quality education and health services.
3. **Economic Empowerment through Decent Work** — Support young people's greater access to decent work and productive employment.
4. **Youth and Human Rights** — Protect and promote the rights of young people and support their civic and political engagement.
5. **Peace and Resilience Building** — Support young people as catalysts for peace, security and humanitarian action.

More details can be found from the [Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth](#).

## **INTER-AGENCY NETWORK ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

The United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (UN IANYD) is a network consisting of representatives of UN entities whose work is relevant to youth issues. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs is the permanent co-chair of the IANYD. The second co-chair is selected by the members and rotates on an annual basis. In March 2019, the IANYD Youth Caucus was created with the purpose of coordinating and facilitating formal youth engagement in the work of the IANYD. The IANYD Youth Caucus serves as the third co-chair of the IANYD in addition to the UN permanent and rotating co-chairs. The membership of the IANYD Youth Caucus includes formal youth constituencies/caucuses linked with UN processes/avenues, UN entity-specific youth engagement mechanisms, broad formal youth constituency in the UN, youth engagement mechanisms of UN General Assembly observers as well as civil society youth entities already engaging in general IANYD coordination.

The aim of IANYD is to increase the effectiveness of UN work in youth development by strengthening collaboration and exchange among all relevant UN entities, while respecting and harnessing the benefits of their individual strengths and unique approaches and mandates. The United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development has working groups that allow for the participation of youth organizations. In this connection, some youth delegates have engaged with the work of the network through those working groups.

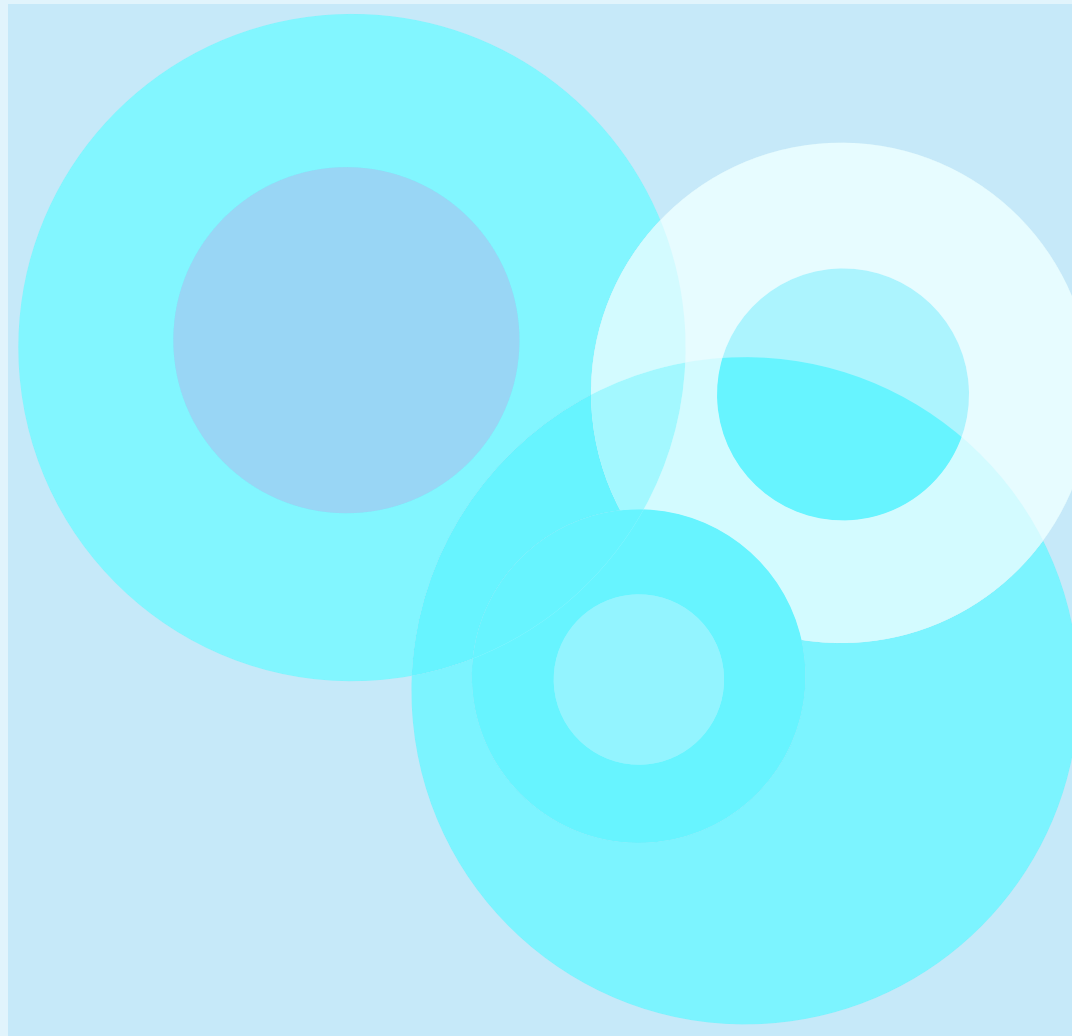
The main objectives of the UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development include:

- » To identify key joint priorities and plan collaboratively to implement related initiatives;
- » To share good practices and expertise and to promote effective cooperation among the entities in programming at country and regional levels;
- » To identify global strategic opportunities, ensure coordinated input, facilitate and support sustainable follow-up mechanisms.

## COUNTRY PROFILES

As indicated throughout the guide, countries that send youth delegates to intergovernmental meetings at the United Nations have varied arrangements when it comes to their national youth delegate programmes.

In this section, several national programmes are presented in detail to provide a better understanding of how a youth delegate programme might be set up.







2019: UN Secretary-General António Guterres with the Youth Delegates attending the 74th Session of the General Assembly.

UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe



# AUSTRALIA



**Youth delegate programme established:** 1999

**Sending youth delegates to:** The United Nations General Assembly

**Call for application:** Late October

**Number of youth delegates:** 1

**Length of term:** 1 year, beginning January

**Visa process:** G2 visa, received with a support letter from the Australian Mission to the United Nations

**Criteria for applying:**

- Between 16 and 25 years old
- Passion for youth empowerment and participation
- Strong knowledge of the United Nations and of international affairs
- Awareness of the Australian youth sector
- Past background in media, advocacy and/or consultation
- Able to devote the whole year to a domestic tour and participation in the United Nations General Assembly

**SELECTION PROCESS:** The selection process is organized by UN Youth Australia and follows a four-step process. The process begins with an expression of interest. UN Youth Australia advertises the position and consistently receives around 200 applications per year that outlines their experience and plan as a youth representative. During the second step, shortlisted applicants are asked to write a more detailed proposal of their plans and participate in a video interview. Thirdly, successful applicants from the second round are invited to a selection weekend where they are asked questions on their experience with media, advocacy, consultation and youth work, and undertake a mock consultation with panelists. The final step consists of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT) selection and endorsement of the successful youth delegate. UN Youth Australia supports the youth delegate with their domestic consultations and advocacy, while DFAT is responsible for supporting the representative's work at the General Assembly.

**BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** The youth delegate has a high-profile role in the Australian youth community and undertakes a six-month consultation tour of all Australian states and territories. The objective of this tour is to capture the local and global concerns of young Australians.

During the tour, the youth delegate performs a wide range of educational activities, including educating young people on domestic and international political processes. This includes raising awareness among

## **AUSTRALIA (continued)**

young people on how they can convey their views to the Australian government and on how they can support the goals of the United Nations. The youth delegate also equips young people with tools and information on how they can get involved in local and global campaigns.

A vital part of the youth delegate's work is engaging voiceless young people in the community, including young people who are marginalized and come from disadvantaged backgrounds. This provides the youth delegate with a platform to deliver speeches and engage young people in workshops.

Throughout the domestic tour, the youth delegate forms strong relationships with members of the federal government, state/territory governments and other political actors. These relationships provide the youth delegate with a platform through which they can advocate the concerns of the diverse youth that s/he has engaged. Ultimately, the consultations and advocacy work help develop the youth delegate's official statement to the Third Committee of the General Assembly.

**AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** The Australian youth delegate works within the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations from early September to late October. The main responsibility of the youth delegate is to convey the voices of Australian youth in the General Assembly forums and events. This includes delivering a statement to the Third Committee of the General Assembly based on the findings of the national tour. The youth delegate may also help to negotiate resolutions in the Third Committee on behalf of the Australian Mission, organize side events for delegations and contribute to raising the profile of youth participation within UN organs and agencies.

**WHEN RETURNING HOME:** Follow-up on the work within Australia and to the General Assembly is one of the most critical parts of the youth delegate's role. The youth delegate's follow-up work includes a "Report Back Tour" where they undertake a substantial evaluation process that summarizes their findings from their time on the consultative listening tour and at the United Nations.

**FUNDING:** The Australian government organizes and pays for the youth delegate's flights and accommodation during the General Assembly. All other costs, including the national tour, are funded by the youth delegate through their own fund-raising.

**CONTACT:** To learn more about the selection process and the Australian Youth Delegate Programme, please contact [youthrep@unyouth.org.au](mailto:youthrep@unyouth.org.au) or visit [unyouth.org.au](http://unyouth.org.au).

# BELGIUM



**Youth delegate programme established:** Over 10 years

**Sending youth delegates to:** The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF-SD), the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Third Committee of the General Assembly and any UN high-level meetings relevant for youth, such as the Forum on Democracy in Geneva or the Commission for Social Development (CSocD).

**Call for application:** Beginning of each year.

**Number of youth delegates:** 5 (2 Dutch-speaking youth delegates and 3 French-speaking youth delegates).

**Length of term:** Two years, the first year as a junior delegate, the second year as a senior delegate supporting the new junior delegate.

**Criteria for applying:**

- 18 to 30 years old;
- Fluent in English and preferably in the other language(s) of the country;
- Able and willing to devote time and energy to advocacy and take actions for youth rights;
- Relevant knowledge about youth issues, sustainable development and/or climate issues and about the UN system;
- Having a strong link with the youth field / experience with youth work (desirable).

**SELECTION PROCESS:** The selection processes are organized independently and slightly differently by the two youth councils of the country.

**The Flemish Youth Council** asks for applications through an online form. Personal, motivational and practical information is requested. Five candidates are selected for an interview and are asked for background on their motivation, ambitions and insights related to advocacy and governance. Part of the interview is in English. Out of these five candidates, three are selected for the finale. They have to set up a campaign for online votes and prepare a speech for the public election event. The final decision is taken by a panel (consisting of representatives of the youth council, staff members of the ambassador and the senior UN youth delegate). All four parts of the selection procedure are taken into account.

**The French-speaking Youth Council** asks for applications through an online form. Personal, motivational and practical information is requested, and a CV must be submitted. Around 10 candidates are then selected for a written test and an interview. The questions mostly focus on the SDGs, the UN,



## **BELGIUM (continued)**

the representation of youth in Belgium and abroad, national and international institutions working on sustainable development or climate and the candidate's specific ideas and projects for the mandate. The panel in charge of the interviews consists of the vice-president of the youth council, the youth council's coordinator of international projects, the senior UN youth delegate and a representative from civil society that is an expert on the topic. All three parts of the selection procedure are taken into account.

**BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** Before their respective assemblies, the youth delegates prepare themselves by carrying out background research, attending events and conferences, participating in stakeholders' reunions and panel discussions, taking part in trainings, consulting youth through surveys, events and activities in schools and public spaces. They also create content for their work online via social media and web pages of their respective youth councils. The months preceding the high-level meetings are also used to prepare the side events they want to organize. The delegates from the two youth councils work closely together.

**AT THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS:** The Belgian UN youth delegates actively take part in plenaries, meetings and side events at the General Assembly and other high-level meetings. It is also common for them to organize their own side events either on UN grounds or at the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the UN.

As part of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF-SD), the Belgian youth delegates attend both meetings of the Belgian delegation and the Major Group for Children & Youth (MGCY). They receive the opportunity in various plenary meetings to take the floor to deliver a youth-oriented perspective on the subject. They are also able to give inputs in some discussion papers as "youth experts". In this regard, youth delegates attend various meetings with ambassadors and are considered official members of the national delegation.

Each year the Belgian youth delegates also attend the Conference of Parties (COP). The delegates work at different levels. As a part of the Belgian delegation and as representatives of the French-speaking youth, they attend the morning meetings of the delegation and meet with Belgian ministers. The delegates can also take part in the YOUNGO assembly, and the observer constituency of the youth NGO at the UN. These two tasks, along with the opportunities to give speeches in civil society's name, to meet foreign delegations, to organize side events, allows the Belgian youth delegates to convey the importance of youth inclusion in the democratic processes to the national governments, and to stand up for the French-speaking youth's interests.

A third key body to which Belgian youth delegates are sent each year is the Third Committee of the General Assembly. As part of this framework, the Belgian youth delegates attend various meetings, including with the Permanent Representation of Belgium to the UN, give speeches and organize side events (for example on the UN Youth Delegate Programme).

Every year, opportunities arise for the Belgian youth delegates to attend high-level meetings relevant for youth. For example, a Belgian youth delegate attended the Youth Forum of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), during which she was able to give a speech on the inclusion of youth.

**WHEN RETURNING HOME:** When returning home, the youth delegates report back to civil society organizations (by organizing meetings with them), the members of their respective youth councils and

## **BELGIUM (continued)**

the general public (via their social media pages and the websites of their respective youth councils) about the outcomes of the General Assembly / HLPF / COP. They also ensure a follow-up of these high-level meetings.

Each delegate must draft a detailed report on their experience to be submitted no later than one month after their return.

It is quite common for delegates to implement new actions after their return related to ideas they were able to share with fellow youth delegates during their missions abroad.

Once new youth delegates have been elected, the senior youth delegates go through a knowledge transfer process with them in order to facilitate the beginning of their mandate.

**FUNDING:** All costs (when in Belgium: mostly transport and administrative costs; when abroad: travel costs, accommodation, food and non-alcoholic beverages) are covered by the respective youth councils. N.B.: The French-speaking Youth Council covers these costs with funds from Wallonia-Brussels International (WBI).

**CONTACT:** Websites: [www.vlaamsejeugdraad.be](http://www.vlaamsejeugdraad.be) & [www.conseildelajeunesse.be](http://www.conseildelajeunesse.be)  
Email addresses: [info@vlaamsejeugdraad.be](mailto:info@vlaamsejeugdraad.be) and [conseil.jeunesse@cfwb.be](mailto:conseil.jeunesse@cfwb.be)

# MEXICO



**Youth delegate programme established:** 2005

**Sending youth delegates to:** The General Assembly at the UN Headquarters in New York.

**Call for application:** Between April and June before the General Assembly begins.

**Number of youth delegates:**

- » 4 youth delegates that live in Mexico (as part of the Youth Delegate Programme)
- » 2 youth delegates that live in the United States and are DACA beneficiaries (Dreamers) (as part of the "Youth Delegates Dreamers Programme")

**Length of Term:** Three weeks in New York, and following events in their respective communities.

**Criteria for Applying:**

- Must be between 18–24 years of age.
- Must be bilingual (Spanish and English).
- Be a Mexican national (could be a DACA recipient).
- Submit the application with the completed documentation requested, including a video and an essay.
- Public servants of the agencies that call the contest and / or young people who were previously benefited by this program cannot participate.

## SELECTION PROCESS:

**Stage one:** Application.

The call is published on the official pages of the convening parties. Candidates must submit the requested documents, a video and an essay. At this stage the selection committee will review and dictate the files received to obtain the list of young people who will be summoned to the next stage of interviews.

**Stage two:** Interview.

The Jury will conduct face-to-face interviews with the young people who moved on to this stage.

The young people selected for the interview must have a solid knowledge about the United Nations including its history, structure and function.

After this stage the young winners of the contest will be selected.

**Stage three:** Training.

## **MEXICO (continued)**

**Stage Four:** Integration into the official delegation of Mexico.

**BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** Delegates receive a training by the convening agencies.

**AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** The youth delegates are integrated into the delegation of Mexico participating in the work of the corresponding period of the General Assembly, at its headquarters in New York, USA.

**FUNDING:** All travel, transportation, food, and lodging expenses are covered through a stipend. International medical insurance is also available if needed.

**CONTACT:**

Mexican Youth Institute: 55 1500 1300 ext. 1

Youth Delegate Programme Phone Lines: +52(55) 36.86.51.00 ext. 5070.

+52 (55) 15.00.13.00 ext. 1366 and 1099

Website: [www.gob.mx/sre/acciones-y-programas/delegados-juveniles-onu](http://www.gob.mx/sre/acciones-y-programas/delegados-juveniles-onu)



# NETHERLANDS



**Youth delegate programme established:** 1970

**Sending youth delegates to:** The UN General Assembly, UN Climate Change Conference, UNESCO Youth Forum, European Youth Forum meetings, European Youth Conferences, The High-Level Political Forum, the Commission for Social Development (CSocD) and the Human Rights Council.

**Call for application:** Beginning of April (for the youth representatives of European affairs) and the beginning of August (youth representatives to the UN General Assembly, youth representatives to UNESCO General Conference and youth representatives on sustainable development).

**Number of youth delegates:** Eight (two for the UN General Assembly, two for the UNESCO General Conference, two for European affairs and two for the UN Climate Change Conference and the High-Level Political Forum).

**Length of term:** 2 years, youth delegates are selected in June and October. The first year as a junior youth delegate, and the second years as a senior youth delegate.

**Criteria for applying:**

- 18–25 years old
- Dutch nationality

**SELECTION PROCESS:** The selection process is organized by the Dutch National Youth Council (DNYC). In response to a call for applications, interested candidates submit their CV and motivation letter. In September, the DNYC selects ten to twelve young people who qualify for the next round. The second round consists of interviews with the candidates. After this round, six people for each position are selected for the third round, which is a public debate where they must deliver a pitch and debate against each other on different topics. The two best candidates are chosen by an official jury representing a former youth delegate, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a board member of the Dutch Youth Council and a representative of a partner organization. In the last round the two selected young people (for each position) compete against each other during a whole week trying to get more votes than the other. Everyone in the Netherlands can vote either through the internet, by ballot-paper or by sending text messages. The final takes place around October 24th (the United Nations day) during a public UN event, called 'the Night of the UN', where there is a public speech. The winners are those with the most votes and become the next youth delegates.

**BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** The youth delegates travel around the country to meet young people, attend conferences, workshops and meetings, participate in debates and give guest lectures. The

## **NETHERLANDS (continued)**

youth delegates receive a lot of support from their senior youth delegate, undertake background reading and participate in preparatory (online) consultations with other youth delegates.

**AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** The youth delegates are often official members of the national delegation, and if possible, deliver a statement (e.g. to the Third Committee of the General Assembly and to the General Conference of UNESCO). The youth delegates sometimes participate in informal negotiations on resolutions concerning youth and organize side events together with other youth delegates, NGO's and the Permanent Missions of the Netherlands.

**WHEN RETURNING HOME:** The youth representatives report back to the ministry responsible for their topic and the Dutch National Youth Council. The youth representatives also participate in various lectures, debates, workshops and give speeches in order to inform as many youth as possible on their experience from the intergovernmental meetings.

**FUNDING:** The Dutch National Youth Council covers travel expenses for the youth representatives while traveling in the Netherlands and expenses related to the intergovernmental meetings, including accommodation, travel expenses and food. The youth representatives' program is funded by different Dutch ministries and a few other organizations.

**CONTACT:** To learn more about the selection process and the Dutch youth representatives programme please visit [www.njr.nl](http://www.njr.nl) or [www.jongerenvertegenwoordigers.nl](http://www.jongerenvertegenwoordigers.nl). For questions regarding the programme, please contact the Dutch National Youth Council via email: [internationaal@njr.nl](mailto:internationaal@njr.nl) or phone: +31-302303575.

# NORWAY



**Youth delegate programme established:** 1971

**Sending youth delegates to:** The United Nations General Assembly, Human Rights Council, United Nations Climate Change Conference, UNESCO General Conference, World Urban Forum and Commission on the Status of Women.

**Call for application:** January/February

**Number of youth delegates:** 2 youth delegates to the General Assembly, also sends youth delegates to other UN meetings.

**Length of term:** 1 year. Youth delegates are elected at the Norwegian National Youth Council's General Assembly in April.

**Criteria for applying:**

- Nominated by a member organization of the Norwegian Children and Youth Council (LNU).
- Experience working with children and youth.
- Over 18 years of age, desirable under 26.

**SELECTION PROCESS:** The youth delegates are elected for different thematic subjects, and the youth delegates to the General Assembly are Norwegian youth delegates for "human rights and youth participation". The election process is organized by the Norwegian Children and Youth Council (LNU). In response to a call for applications, member organizations can nominate candidates. The nominated candidates should send their CV and a motivation letter stating what the candidate would do as a youth delegate if selected, together with the nomination letter from their organization to LNU.

Successful candidates are then invited for an interview conducted by a nomination committee, consisting of a board member of LNU, a previous youth delegate, and representatives from LNU's member organizations. Based on these interviews, two candidates are suggested to LNU's General Assembly. One candidate is suggested from one of the political parties' youth organizations, and one youth delegate is suggested from one of the civil society youth organizations. One candidate should be female, and one candidate should be male. LNU's General Assembly makes the final decision.

**BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** The youth delegates participate in the United Nations working group in the Norwegian Children and Youth Council. Before every UN meeting that the youth delegates attend, they develop a position paper with their political priorities for the meeting. The youth delegates also meet with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and previous youth delegates. They also participate in the preparatory meeting organized by the European Youth Forum.

## **NORWAY (continued)**

**AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** The youth delegates are official members of their national delegations and participate in relevant meetings with the Norwegian delegation. They deliver a statement to the Third Committee of the General Assembly and speak on behalf of Norway in the informal consultations on relevant resolutions. Furthermore, the youth delegates do various work for the Norwegian delegation related to the Third Committee. The youth delegates are at the General Assembly for two to three weeks.

**WHEN RETURNING HOME:** The youth delegates write a report to the Norwegian Children and Youth Council and to the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They also share their experiences with the new youth delegates and the national youth council's working group.

**FUNDING:** Most of the costs for the youth delegate are covered by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Some of the total cost is covered by the national youth council, LNU.

**CONTACT:** Visit the Norwegian Children and Youth Council: [www.lnu.no](http://www.lnu.no)



# SRI LANKA



**Youth delegate programme established:** 2012

**Sending youth delegates to:** The United Nations General Assembly and Commission for Social Development (intermittently).

**Call for application:** May to June

**Number of youth delegates:** Two

**Length of term:** 1 year, beginning early September

**Criteria for applying:**

- Between 18 and 26 years old.
- Passion for youth empowerment and participation.
- Insight into and understanding of youth perspectives.
- Previous experience with activism or youth engagement.

**SELECTION PROCESS:** The selection process which consists of four stages is organized collectively by the National Youth Services Council and the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs and supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The process is as follows:

**Stage 1:** A public call of applications is released via national newspapers and social media. In response to the call for applications, interested and suitable candidates submit their CV along with a brief essay on 'Why they should be selected as the next youth delegate'. These applications are scrutinized, and candidates are shortlisted for the second level of the selection process.

**Stage 2:** Shortlisted candidates are then selected for a personal interview. From such interviews a selected number of candidates proceed to the next stage of the selection process.

**Stage 3:** This stage also consists of an interview where candidates are tested on their knowledge of the Sri Lankan youth priorities, the United Nations and international affairs.

**Stage 4:** The final round consists of two sub-steps and the interviewees are evaluated on both these steps. The first step is a public speech on a selected topic made at an open forum, delivered before a panel of judges. From this step the top five speakers are announced. Then all the finalists must go through a final face-to-face interview with a balanced interview panel consisting of officials from the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs, the National Youth Services Council, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, representatives from local offices of the United Nations, academics, reputed individuals of society and previous youth delegates. The interview contains questions about the applicants' experiences with volunteer work, the work of the United Nations and the World Programme of Action for Youth, the national

## **SRI LANKA (continued)**

youth policy, and perspectives on current local policies for youth empowerment and youth development as well as on personal motivation in the area of youth activism. The two candidates who score the highest in the final interview are chosen as the official youth delegates of Sri Lanka.

**BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** The youth delegates travel around the country to meet with young people in Sri Lanka. The main aim of this tour is to have a comprehensive consultation processes with youth leaders and youth focus groups such as the Youth Parliament and Federation of Youth Clubs. This enables the youth population of the country to voice their views and demands to be incorporated into the official youth statement made by the youth delegates at the General Assembly, as well as share ideas and recommendations.

The youth delegates receive support and guidance from other youth delegate alumni. Furthermore, the youth delegates also engage in a literature review with the relevant publications on youth engagement to gather material, knowledge and information for their deliberations at the United Nations.

**AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** The youth delegates act as the voice of youth of their official national delegation. They deliver a statement to the Third Committee in the General Assembly encapsulating the status quo of the youth and youth related systems of the country. In addition to this presentation, the youth delegates participate in side events, informal consultations on youth resolutions and youth gatherings. They network on behalf of the National Youth Services Council as well as the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs, by forming diplomatic ties with state and non-state participants of the United Nations General Assembly sessions.

**WHEN RETURNING HOME:** Upon arrival the youth delegates serve a diverse role. The youth delegates report back to the National Youth Services Council and the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs on the experience during the General Assembly. They formulate a report on their experience which is made publicly available via social media platforms and circulated through various channels. The youth delegates are invited to events on youth engagement and their input is obtained when making important policy decisions. They also organize events and engage in the process of youth advocacy together with the youth infrastructure of the country. The youth delegates also have the responsibility to support, select and act as a mentor for the next youth delegates during the following year. They also act as a nexus between the international community and the youth of the country. The youth delegates maintain the Sri Lankan UN Youth Delegate social media accounts and email address.

For further information the "Terms of Reference — UNYD Programme" document can be viewed at: [docs.google.com/document/d/1oZmNbRla3CPfZyuw3bfhHc4\\_fdBDauwNqI5707bCpw/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oZmNbRla3CPfZyuw3bfhHc4_fdBDauwNqI5707bCpw/edit)

**FUNDING:** The National Youth Services Council and Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs covers the associated costs of the travel and stay of the two youth delegates in New York.

### **CONTACT:**

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SriLankanYouthDelegatesToUnitedNations](https://www.facebook.com/SriLankanYouthDelegatesToUnitedNations)

Email: [unydsrilanka@gmail.com](mailto:unydsrilanka@gmail.com)

Twitter: [@UNYouthSL](https://twitter.com/UNYouthSL)

# REPUBLIC OF KOREA



**Youth delegate programme established:** 2008

**Sending youth delegates to:** The United Nations General Assembly Third Committee, ECOSOC Youth Forum and other intergovernmental events (upon official invitation from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea).

**Call for application:** Varies per committee/forum (usually in April and November).

**Number of youth delegates:** Varies per committee/forum (2–3 delegates on average).

**Length of term:** From the day they are selected to the day they return to the Republic of Korea from the committee/forum.

**Criteria for applying:**

- Ages 16–24.
- Fluency in English.
- Interest in the United Nations and social development.
- Must be able to attend meetings and devote time to other relevant youth work.

**SELECTION PROCESS:** The application process consists of two rounds after the online application period (3 weeks).

**Stage 1:** Cover letter, motivation letter, activity plan

**Stage 2:** Interview (language skills, character evaluation, etc.)

**BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** The youth delegates attend workshops on global citizenship, the United Nations, and other youth related work. They are mentored by previous youth delegates. The previous youth delegates provide written information to the new delegates and this becomes an effective source of information for future delegates. In addition, they organize meetings for active in-depth discussions, research, and analysis on various international issues in preparation for their speeches and discussions. For insights they also interview academics, NGOs, professionals, and representatives of international organizations. The youth delegates also work to plan their trip including travel, accommodation and transportation to the United Nations.

**AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** The youth delegates of the Republic of Korea act as youth representatives of their national delegation. In this capacity, the delegates deliver speeches when given the opportunity and participate in the informal meetings held by other entities (i.e. side events). Delegates also work closely with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations to fulfil

## **REPUBLIC OF KOREA (continued)**

any other roles for which they are responsible. For example, networking is another crucial role of the delegates. They are to gain and share information about various youth policies, events, programmes, and new areas of possible cooperation with foreign youth delegates.

**WHEN RETURNING HOME:** Upon returning home, the youth delegates should report to the Korea Youth Exchange Center to discuss their achievements and make suggestions to the government and youth organizations for them to consider in youth policy-making.

They also act as knowledge-sharers to other young people. They are invited as mentors to preparation sessions for the future delegates. Moreover, they are to suggest practical information and share their experiences with the youth of Korea.

**FUNDING:** 70% of the travel cost is funded by Ministry of Gender Equality and Family of the Republic of Korea. Note: students in need are fully funded.

**CONTACT:** Details and reports of former youth delegates are available at the following website: [iye.youth.go.kr](http://iye.youth.go.kr)

Please note that the website is only available in Korean.



# THAILAND



**Youth delegate programme established:** 2007

**Sending youth delegates to:** The United Nations General Assembly

**Call for application:** July

**Number of youth delegates:** 2 (gender-balanced)

**Length of term:** 3 weeks during the General Assembly

**Criteria for applying:**

- Not older than 24 years of age
- Experience working on youth issues
- English language is required

**Visa process:** G2 visa

**SELECTION PROCESS:** The selection process is organized by the Department of International Organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The eligible applicants need to submit the application form along with a letter of motivation, CV and transcript of their grades. Candidates then proceed through a three-stage selection processes; written exam, individual and group interview, and two-week internship at the Department of International Organizations.

**BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** The youth delegates receive preparatory trainings at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and prepare the statement to be delivered at the Third Committee of the General Assembly. Background information related to youth is reviewed through materials such as reports, national policies, programmes and earlier resolutions.

**AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** The youth delegates deliver a speech to the Third Committee, attend events hosted by fellow youth delegates, take part in informal negotiations, participate in permanent mission meetings, and organize side events.

**WHEN RETURNING HOME:** When returning home, the role of the youth delegates is to share their experiences from the General Assembly with other youth. They are interviewed by the Saranrom Radio Station of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and must submit a report on their participation and experience at the General Assembly.

**FUNDING:** The Thai government finances the trip, accommodation and subsistence expenses during the intergovernmental meeting.

**CONTACT:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs

# UGANDA



**Youth delegate programme established:** 2016

**Sending youth delegates to:** The United Nations General Assembly, Commission for Social Development, UNFCCC/COPs, ECOSOC Youth Forum among other UN youth related programmes and events.

**Call for application:** November

**Number of youth delegates:** 3

**Length of term:** Five years

**Criteria for applying:**

- Between 18–30 years old.
- Fluency in English.
- Youth leader / experience with youth related work.
- Completed and passed the Uganda advanced certificate in education.

## SELECTION PROCESS:

**Stage 1:** Call for applications by the National Youth Council.

**Stage 2:** Nominations from youth organizations.

**Stage 3:** Shortlisted candidates are submitted for interviews to the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (Office of the Commissioner for Youth).

**Stage 4:** Three candidates are selected by the Minister for Youth and endorsed by the Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament.

**Stage 5:** Accredited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** Attend an orientation about the United Nations by the UN Association Uganda. In addition, attend a briefing from the National Youth Council and Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development about youth positions and policies. Youth delegates will focus their work on the three roles of advocacy, negotiation and lobbying by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They will also complete an internship at the United Nations Uganda Country Office to further understand how the UN works. Youth delegates also participate in youth workshops, delivering speeches and taking part in panel discussions on youth programming.

## **UGANDA (continued)**

**AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** In their capacity, they deliver a speech to the Third Committee of the General Assembly on behalf of Ugandan youth. The Ugandan youth delegates are advisors to their national delegation on the youth position. They also work to organize side events at the UN, as well as attend informal consultations on resolutions concerning youth. An internship is offered to them at the Ugandan Permanent Mission for September / October during the UN General Assembly and February / March during the ECOSOC Youth Forum and Commission for Social Development.

**WHEN RETURNING HOME:** Youth delegates report back to the National Parliament, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development and National Youth Council on what policy issues and actions should be taken in the national context when it comes to youth policies and implementation of national development plans and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Various meetings, conferences and seminars are organized to transfer knowledge, share experiences and lessons learnt as well as to engage youth leaders on opportunities that can better their lives.

**FUNDING:** Government of Uganda, the UN Country Office, Development Partners on Youth Programmes.

**CONTACT:** Office of Commissioner for Youth and Children Affairs. Ugandan Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development.

# UKRAINE



**Youth delegate programme established:** 2014

**Sending youth delegates to:** The United Nations General Assembly Third Committee, ECOSOC Youth Forum and Commission for Social Development.

**Call for application:** April-May

**Number of youth delegates:** 2–3

**Length of term:** One-year mandate (and a one year mentorship once the term is completed).

**Criteria for applying:**

- 20–27 years of age.
- Excellent written and spoken Ukrainian and English required (upper intermediate/advanced level). Knowledge of any other official languages of the United Nations (Russian, Spanish, French, Arabic, Chinese) is preferred (but not required).
- BA or a MA degree in international relations/political science is desirable, but qualified candidates with relevant work or volunteer experience are strongly encouraged to apply.
- Demonstrated leadership and proactivity in tackling youth-related issues through volunteering, NGO work, project management or community work, etc.
- Residency requirements: Young professionals as well as students from various academic backgrounds currently working or studying in Ukraine may apply. It is important to note that youth delegates are not allowed to participate simultaneously in any long-term (more than 3 weeks) professional/educational programs that requires being outside of Ukraine during the one-year mandate (unless the trip is related to UN Youth Delegate Programme activities).

**SELECTION PROCESS:** The selection process is coordinated by a selection committee formed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Sports and Youth representatives, former youth delegates and the Bohdan Hawrylyshyn Charitable Foundation Director.

There are three stages to Ukraine's selection process:

**Stage 1:** Application which consists of a written assessment (3 questions, answers are to be approximately 150 to 250 words), CV and video.

**Stage 2:** Shortlisting and interview: The top 16–20 applicants are invited for a 7-minute interview.

**Stage 3:** Final assessment:

The finalists are selected (preferably 2 women and 2 men). The finalists are invited to participate in a team task and give a presentation. Two finalists are selected as the youth delegates.

## **UKRAINE (continued)**

**BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** The newly elected youth representatives participate in a national consultation campaign to meet with young people, NGOs, initiatives and groups in both rural and urban areas. The purpose of the national consultations is to gather solid information on priority issues of Ukrainian youth. One of the objectives of the youth delegates is to engage with youth that come from marginalized groups. While having meetings with the young people nationwide, the delegates gather information which can be communicated to various stakeholders on a national and an international level. A key responsibility of the youth delegates includes an active social media presence (including writing blogs) to keep young people informed on important activities and information. Activities are planned and coordinated with support from programme managers at the Bohdan Hawrylyshyn Charitable Foundation.

After finishing the national consultation campaign, youth delegates prepare a brief report and a blog post about his/her learning experiences related to youth issues in Ukraine.

**AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** The primary focus of a youth delegate's work is usually the processes that take place in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly. Youth delegates regularly deliver statements and update young people in Ukraine via social media. Everyday work of youth delegates normally includes attending Third Committee sessions and writing weekly reports for the Permanent Mission of Ukraine; attending and organizing side events on youth issues; delivering speeches on behalf of Ukraine; translating documents or note verbales and attending networking events. The youth delegates are expected to make at least 2 blog posts while at the UN General Assembly.

**WHEN RETURNING HOME:** After returning to Ukraine, youth delegates engage in a wide range of follow up activities. Upon arrival, the delegates provide a detailed report on his/her activities at the UN, including side events he/she organized. The youth delegate is also expected to write at least one blog post after returning home. The same requirement applies to the delegates' work during the Commission for Social Development in February.

The delegates initiate meetings with the programme managers, sponsoring foundation and the United Nations on Ukraine where he/she shares his/her experiences of participating at the United Nations. Youth delegates also present the project that he/she is going to work on during the year based on the specific focus of his/her mandate. The delegates also make television appearances to speak about his/her experience as a youth delegate at the UN and raise awareness on youth participation in the decision-making processes. The delegates also organize a youth conference/seminar and are free to choose the theme of the conference. The delegates are usually invited to a number of events as speakers to discuss the Ukrainian youth issues highlighted in his/her mandate. At the end of the mandate year (May–June), the delegate prepares a report on his/her activities and submits it to the programme managers and Bohdan Hawrylyshyn Charitable Foundation. An evaluation session is held to assess all the work that has been done and identify programme outcomes.

**FUNDING:** The official Youth Delegate Programme in the Ukraine is funded by the Bohdan Hawrylyshyn Charitable Foundation which was established in 2009 in order to encourage and promote new generations of Ukrainians to be proactively involved in the social and political life of the country.

### **CONTACT:**

Website: [www.uayouthdelegate.com](http://www.uayouthdelegate.com)

Email: [ua.youthdelegate.un@gmail.com](mailto:ua.youthdelegate.un@gmail.com)

Twitter: [@uayouthdelegate](https://twitter.com/uayouthdelegate)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ua.youthdelegate/](https://www.facebook.com/ua.youthdelegate/)



# UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



**Youth delegate programme established:** 2016

**Sending youth delegates to:** The United Nations General Assembly Third Committee

**Call for application:** Early June

**Number of youth delegates:** 2 youth delegates, with gender balance (1 male and 1 female)

**Length of term:** 3 weeks to 3 months — starting September

**Criteria for applying:**

- 18–30 years of age.
- Fluency in Arabic and English.
- Public speaking skills.
- Awareness of key issues facing young people in the UAE, regionally, and globally.
- Affiliation/involvement in a youth-organization would be an advantage.
- Availability to devote time to the programme is considered.

**SELECTION PROCESS:** Following an open call for applications, interested candidates submit a letter of motivation and a CV, after which the Emirates Youth Council shortlists candidates, interviews them and ultimately selects the two most suitable candidates based on the criteria outlined above. The selected youth delegates then meet with the UAE Minister of Youth, to discuss important topics that relate to youth, in addition to the purpose and aim of the programme and the desired outcomes.

**BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** As the programme develops, it is expected from the selected Emirati youth delegates to conduct tours around the country, visiting educational institutions, attend youth events including "Youth Circles" and other locations where youth are present to discuss their challenges and aspiration. They also work to develop creative and innovative ideas with young Emiratis and listen to their concerns and suggestions. The youth delegates also meet with officials to inform them of their mandate. Youth delegates also receive a briefing from the UAE Mission to the United Nations in New York to be further familiarized with the process at the United Nations as well as their schedule and tasks.

**AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** UAE youth delegates mainly attend the proceedings of the Third Committee 'Social, Humanitarian & Cultural' at the General Assembly. At the Third Committee, the UAE youth delegates deliver a speech on behalf of the Emirati youth, as well as deliver other speeches on social development issues. Moreover, the delegates attend informal consultations on resolutions, side events organized by other youth delegates and other UN entities, and attend receptions of different missions. The youth delegates also attend high-level meetings with the Permanent Representative of the UAE to the UN.

## **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (continued)**

**WHEN RETURNING HOME:** When returning home, the UAE youth delegates report back to the Emirates Youth Council about the course of the programme and its outcomes and meet with decision makers and the UAE Minister of Youth.

Delegates also submit a report detailing their participation and experience at the United Nations, as well as recommendations and suggestions for the following year. Delegates also submit youth policy briefs on diverse topics to share new innovative youth policies with the Prime Minister's Office.

The Emirates Youth Council creates a video of the youth delegates outlining the outcomes of the programme. The youth delegates would later transfer their knowledge to newly appointed youth delegates for the following year.

**FUNDING:** The program is funded by the UAE's Ministry of Presidential Affairs.

**CONTACT:** To learn more about the UAE Youth Delegate Programme please contact the Permanent Mission of the UAE to the United Nations:

Email: [newyork@mofa.gov.ae](mailto:newyork@mofa.gov.ae)

Contact number: +1 212-371-0480

# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



**Youth observer programme established:** 2012

**Sending youth observer to:** The General Assembly Third Committee, Economic and Social Council, and UNESCO Youth Forum, among others.

**Call for application:** April-May

**Number of youth observers:** 1

**Length of term:** One-year mandate. Typically, the role runs from July-June.

**Criteria for applying:**

- Applicants must be U.S. citizens aged 18–25.
- Talented writers, capable of digesting complex information and quickly turning around blog posts to inform other youth.
- Team players, willing to work with multiple stakeholders to tell the story of the UN.
- Intellectually curious and able to have meaningful conversations with high-level leaders.
- Experienced public speakers who are enthusiastic about engaging with young Americans and foreign counterparts.
- Digitally engaged and tech-savvy, with a knack for communicating online in creative and effective ways.
- Passionate and entrepreneurial about civic engagement, youth issues, and the United Nations.
- Interested in international affairs and passionate about solving today's most pressing problems.

**SELECTION PROCESS:** The role is appointed annually by the U.S. Department of State and UN Association of the USA. Applicants complete essay and biographical questions, and selected applicants are invited to interview and submit sample digital engagement plans.

**BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** For a one-year term, an American between the ages of 18–25 is selected to engage young people in the U.S. and abroad in the work of the United Nations and international issues, in addition to elevating youth voices in the global conversation. S/he consults with peers throughout the term on a grassroots level, capturing their concerns and reporting back experiences via in-person and online dialogue.

**AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** The youth observer attends meetings and side events at UN events, chronicling his or her experience “behind the scenes” through social media. He or she meets with

## **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (continued)**

relevant U.S. government leaders to learn about global policy issues and provide a channel to American youth. The youth observer has helped to lead roundtable discussions with youth delegates from other countries in coordination with the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations in New York.

**WHEN RETURNING HOME:** The youth observer shares experiences with diverse audiences, reporting back to American youth on the state of global issues, how young people can make an impact, etc. Throughout the year, the youth observer acts as a voice for youth and a portal to the UN via his or her online presence. The youth observer visits college campuses across the country, attends conferences and events related to global issues, and hosts web chats with international youth audiences.

**FUNDING:** The U.S. Youth Observer to the United Nations Program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of State

**CONTACT:** To learn more about the selection process, please visit the following website: [genun.unausa.org/youth\\_observer](http://genun.unausa.org/youth_observer)





2018: Youth Delegates attending the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

UN Photo/Loey Felipe



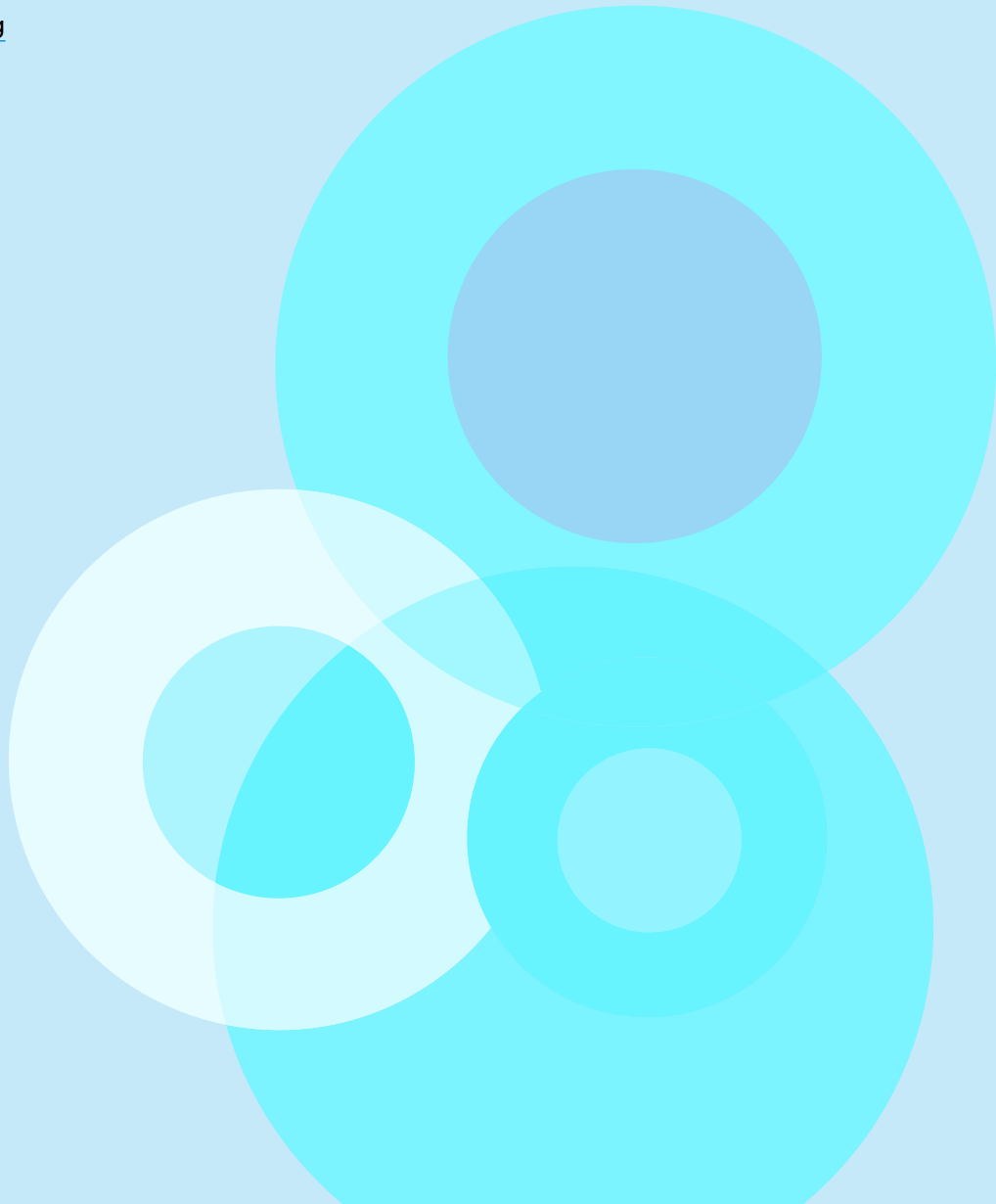
**FOR MORE INFORMATION** on the United Nations Programme on Youth  
of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Please visit our website, click [here](#)

Social Media:  [facebook.com/UN4Youth](https://facebook.com/UN4Youth)

 [twitter.com/UN4Youth](https://twitter.com/UN4Youth)

Contact Email: [youth@un.org](mailto:youth@un.org)





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