




YOUTH EVENT

CONVENED BY THE CHAIR OF THE

UNGA THIRD COMMITTEE

"BUILDING SOLUTIONS
TOGETHER FOR AN
INCLUSIVE FUTURE"

October 10, 3-6 pm | CR-1, UN HQ
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Youth Event Convened by the Chair of the UNGA Third Committee

"Building Solutions Together for an Inclusive Future"

10 October 2025, 3 pm - 6 pm, Conference Room 1, UN HQ

CONCEPT NOTE / PROGRAMME

Version: 9 October 2025

Background

The [United Nations General Assembly's \(UNGA\) Third Committee](#) addresses a wide range of critical issues ranging from issues related to youth, persons with disabilities, cybercrime, the broader social development nexus and the promotion of fundamental dignity for all. These issues directly affect the lives and futures of children and youth globally, especially those from the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing Countries (SIDS).

The Youth Event will serve as a space for dialogue between Member States, youth organizations/advocates, and other stakeholders from civil society organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC on issues addressed by the Third Committee, how they impact young people, and actions being taken by Member States and youth groups on the same. It is convened by the Chair of the Third Committee and co-convened by the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY).

Recommendations for a dedicated forum on youth issues linked to the Third Committee, for exchange on youth issues, were made across various avenues in 2025, including the [Voices of Youth Report 2025 \(outcome document of the 2025 Youth Forum of the Economic and Social Council \(ECOSOC\)\)](#) and

by the youth speaker at the HLPF High-Level Segment. Recognizing this, the MGCY acknowledges the need to further the perspectives of the youth constituency in the context of the Third Committee. The Youth Event will therefore build on progress made in meaningful youth engagement across the social, and cultural pillars in the work of the UN, including the 2025 Youth Forum ECOSOC, which convened more than 2,000 participants—over 1,000 of them youth—and more than 150 Member States.

Context & Outline of Substantive Scope

Young people are a powerful force for sustainable development, driving innovation and progress at local, national, and global levels. With the 2030 deadline for achieving the SDGs rapidly approaching, cooperation that leverages the expertise of all stakeholders is the only way forward. Strengthening global partnerships and ensuring that young people have a meaningful role in decision-making processes are both essential to restoring trust in multilateralism and shaping a global governance framework fit for the future. Children and youth have already been engaged in the thematic processes linked to the work of the Third Committee. Therefore, the Youth Event will serve as a cross-cutting platform to consolidate and amplify these inputs ahead of and during the Committee's work, while enabling an intergenerational dialogue.

Therefore, the Youth Event will serve as the avenue to:

- Promote dialogue between youth organisations, member states, UN agencies and other stakeholders on youth action on themes addressed by the third committee, including providing a space for member states to reflect on their priorities and progress
- Amplify youth-led priorities, experiences and recommendations on the thematic issues under the Committee's purview

The convening of this Youth Event also comes at a pivotal moment in the multilateral agenda, as this year marks the 80th anniversary of the UN, the first phase of implementation of the [Pact for the Future](#), the 30th anniversary of the [World Programme of Action on Youth \(WPAY\)](#) and preparations are underway for the [Second World Summit for Social Development \(WSSD2\) - taking place this November 2025](#) - which will renew a collective vision for social development. Similarly, the youth constituency has been [undertaking a year-long process towards meaningful engagement in the WSSD2](#) processes, which has included the publication of the various iterations of the youth policy paper.

It is therefore both urgent and strategic to convene young people at this crucial moment and to build a strong, forward-looking intergenerational dialogue in the context of the Third Committee.

Format

This will be a half-day event held in person at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Forum will feature a brief opening segment and 2 panels, followed by an interactive discussion/dialogue from the floor, with at least 70% of the time of each panel dedicated to such a discussion. The event will be broadcasted on social media channels using #UNGAYouth.

Outcome

There will be no official outcome of the Event. A youth-led Position Paper will be drafted by the Major Group for Children and Youth in collaboration with youth constituencies and organisations worldwide with recommendations for the UN system and member states. The Position Paper would be

a direct call to action from young people on the current challenges they are facing and their expectations vis-à-vis the international community.

Draft Programme

Time	Topic/Theme	Speakers
3.00 pm - 3.35 pm	<p>Welcoming Remarks and Opening</p> <p><i>This segment provides overall context setting and key messages for the event, inspiring a spirit of collaboration.</i></p>	<p>Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amb. Mr. Cherdchai Chaivaivid, PR Thailand and Chair of the Third Committee <p>Keynote: Message of Hope “spoken word”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keshia De Freece Lawrence, Youth Advocate from Lenape-Rampough Tribe <p>Opening Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diene Keita, Executive Director, UNFPA - Felipe Paullier, ASG on Youth Affairs, UN Youth Office - Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon, ASG & Special Representative of ILO to the UN - Björg Sandkjær, ASG, UN DESA - MGCY Youth Representative(s)
3.35 pm - 4.35 pm	<p>Segment 1: Youth and Social Development in the Third Committee - Building Solutions Together</p> <p><i>This segment will explore the intersection of youth and various social and cultural issues under the remit of the Third Committee. An intergenerational panel will set the scene for discussion, exploring how young people’s perspectives are shaping issues such as social action, and pointing to where gaps still remain.</i></p> <p>Perspectives from the panel - 15 minutes Interactive dialogue - 45 minutes</p> <p>Guiding questions for interactive dialogue:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Where and how are young people affected by issues within the purview of the Third Committee? 2) What has changed in the past few years that makes this conversation more urgent than before? 3) Where do you see the biggest disconnect between what is discussed here in New York and what young people are experiencing on the ground - how can the Third Committee help bridge this gap? 4) What are the issues and opportunities 	<p>Co-Moderators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loretta Chingandu, CSW Youth Constituency Group and Gender Youth Caucus - MGCY - Huda Halim, Youth Advocate from Libya <p>Speakers (4-5 minutes each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nagma Shretha, International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (ECOSOC accredited) - Ali Mustafa, International Organisation of Youth (IOY) and IAAI (ECOSOC accredited) - Tjaz Crncec, Slovenia (UN Youth Delegate) <p>45 minutes of interactive dialogue - respondents from the floor—interspersed between member states and stakeholders, including youth organisations, in consultative status with ECOSOC</p>

	that member states could advance during this Committee session?	
4.35 pm - 5.35 pm	<p>Segment 2: Building Shared Pathways to Progress—Youth Engagement and the Future of Multilateralism</p> <p><i>This segment will explore how meaningful youth engagement can strengthen trust in multilateral processes and strengthen implementation, follow-up and review of global commitments and resolutions. It will also reinforce the importance of the WSSD-2 outcomes for advancing social development.</i></p> <p>Fireside chat—15 minutes Interactive dialogue—40 minutes</p> <p>Guiding questions for interactive dialogue:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What does the future of multilateralism look like from a social inclusion lens? What is the role of youth and stakeholders in shaping the future of multilateralism, what barriers do they face? 2) How can the implementation of the Pact for the Future serve as a concrete roadmap towards rebuilding trust in multilateralism? 3) What innovative approaches can help close the "implementation gap" for global commitments like the WSSD2 outcomes, and what support is needed? 4) What are the biggest barriers to including diverse and frontline youth and stakeholder voices in multilateralism, and what specific policies can overcome them? 5) What is one bold, practical step we can take to embed intergenerational equity into the UN's work for the next generation? 	<p>Co-Moderators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Naveen Gautum, Global Focal Point, Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent Youth Constituency, MGCY & The Inclusivity Project (ECOSOC accredited) - Shannon Lisa, Global Focal Point, Chemicals and Waste Youth Platform and co-lead of the UN Youth Fund Task Force, Pact for the Future youth working group <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sarah Lister, Co-director of the Governance, Rule of Law and Peacebuilding Hub, UNDP - Salem Al Hedfa, Qatar (UN Youth Delegate) - Matthew Kelson, Senior Human Rights Advisor, International Disability Alliance (IDA) (ECOSOC accredited) <p>45 minutes of interactive dialogue - respondents from the floor—interspersed between member states and stakeholders, including youth organisations, in consultative status with ECOSOC</p>
5.35 pm - 6.00 pm	<p>Closing</p> <p><i>Key take-aways and reflections from the day</i></p>	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Closing remarks by the Chair of the Third Committee and the Youth Delegates from Thailand - Closing remarks by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - John Koester, Major Group for Children and Youth

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