Platform for ECOSOC Youth NGOs

Collaboration Platform for ECOSOC Accredited Youth NGOs

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1. Background

The UN MGCY is the formal engagement mechanism for young people at the UN. Created and mandated by the UN General Assembly (UNGA), it acts as a bridge between young people and the UN system in order to ensure that their right to meaningful participation is realized. It does so by engaging formal and informal communities of young people globally; and facilitating and conducting a number of online and offline activities in the following areas - *Policy & Advocacy, Capacity Building, Action, and Knowledge.*

This document elaborates the scope and institutional arrangements as related to youth NGOs accredited to ECOSOC within the UN MGCY and the UN. While there are over 5000 NGOs that have ECOSOC status in the UN (http://csonet.org/?menu=100) , very few of them happen to be youth led NGOs. In addition, many such NGOs are not able to fully catalyse their access and standing in the UN system.

As the name suggests, the Platform for ECOSOC Accredited Youth NGOs seeks to bring together youth led NGOs that have ECOSOC accreditation, in order to better coordinate and strategically align their work in the UN.

It draws on provisions in several UN resolutions and documents, primarily Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, UNGA Resolution 66/288 (Rio+20 Outcome – The Future We Want), UNGA Resolution 67/290 (High Level Political Forum), UNGA Resolution 70/1 (Agenda 2030), in addition to

It also refers to:

- 1968- Comprehensive Resolution on- "*Arrangements for Consultations with non-governmental organisations"*
- 1993 and 1995- Additional Reviews on Modalities for NGOs
- 1996- Additional resolution on consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations

2. Objective/Purpose

The Platform for ECOSOC Accredited Youth NGOs serves as a dedicated space for youth NGOs accredited to ECOSOC within the work of UN in general and UNMGCY in specific, in order to further catalyze their access and standing in the UN system.

It helps improve the impact and effectiveness of our work in the UN, create opportunities and make resources available to youth led entities/organisations that do not have ECOSOC status through a collective pool.

3. Membership

The membership to the platform is facilitated through an open process either through an online or in-person sign up. All members of the *platform* are members of the UN MGCY, and vica versa for those that are youth NGOs accredited to ECOSOC.

3.1. Criteria/Requirements for Membership

All members of the *platform* must, first and foremost fulfill the following requirement:

- Be formally accredited to ECOSOC
- Agree with the principles of the UN Charter
- Agree with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Agree to adhere to the *platform/caucus's* collective principles of *solidarity, justice, equity, universality, inclusion, human rights, and the integrity of the planet*
- Agree to adhere to the Process and Procedures of the UNMGCY

4. Methods of Work

4.1. Facilitation

The *platform* Is facilitated by two **Platform Liaisons** identified by the membership of the Platform. The duties are elaborated in section 7.

Platform taskforce...

4.2. Meeting

The *platform* may use regular online meetings (with in-person options when relevant). In addition its primary annual meeting corresponds with the ECOSOC Youth Forum or HLPF or UN MGCY annual assembly.

4.3. Substantive Positions

In the context of the formal substantive engagement in the UN, the positions of the platform are aligned with the substantive positions of the existing formal youth constituency. This does not impact any individual NGOs substantive position on any specific topic.

Where no such positions exist, the platform may arrive at positions based on the process highlighted in the *Processes and Procedures in coordination* in consultation with the appropriate structures in the UN MGCY.

4.4. Decision Making

- All decision making seeks to follow a consensus process.
- More detailed decision making processes can be seen in the *UN MGCY Processes and Procedures Document.*

5. Areas of Work

5.1. Advocacy

Facilitate the collective participation of ECOSOC accredited youth NGOs in official, formal and informal avenues of policy design, implementation, monitoring, follow-up, and review

at all levels, as per their respective modalities, and advocate for the meaningful participation of young people within these.

5.2. Capacity

Facilitate capacity building activities for ECOSOC accredited youth NGOs to enhance their understanding, knowledge, and skills in relation to linking grassroots/local work to national, regional and global avenues, meaningful engagement, and the UN system.

5.3. Action

Provide a platform that encourages members to lead, join, showcase and share innovative and effective actions and programmatic work aimed at addressing policy and practise from the perspective of ECOSOC accredited youth NGOs.

5.4. Knowledge

Provide a platform for dialogue to create an evidence base for best practices. This includes the assessment of existing knowledge, the generation of new knowledge, the identification of emerging issues and effective use and dissemination of knowledge. It should include inputs from formal, informal, traditional and indigenous knowledge streams.

6. Engagement with the UN

6.1. Engagement avenues

In coordination with the UNMGCY Coordination Team, the platform serves as UN MGCY's umbrella focal point for ECOSOC accredited youth NGOs to relevant external partners.

Recognising its cross-cutting nature, the platforms seek to engage its members in the different UN processes/avenues as per their respective modalities (through the relevant youth constituencies).

The platform may, through consultation with the UNMGCY Coordination Team also engage externally in avenues (as per the respective modalities) in the UN relevant to *youth policy and development,* such as the UN IANYD, UN Youth Strategy Youth 2030. This arrangement also extends to avenues/processes specifically related/relevant to youth organisations accredited to ECOSOC,

Substantive Coordination

The convenor and facilitator for substantive deliberations or initiatives at all levels is the formal institutional youth constituency linked to the respective avenues/processes, as per its existing modalities[1] that includes direct engagement access for all *platform* members and the *platform* itself. As relevant, the *platform* and/or the most appropriate *platform* member can be identified as a partner for an initiative.

[1] This is in line with existing best practices and modalities at the UN and includes obligations on these youth entities to follow UN and member state required governance and reporting practices

6.2. Regional Coordination

The convenor and facilitator for UN MGCY wide[2] regional deliberations or initiatives is the respective regional caucus through the regional caucus coordinators, as per its existing modalities[3] that includes direct engagement access for all *platform* members from the region and the *platform* itself. As relevant, the *platform* and/or the most appropriate *platform* member can be identified as a partner for an initiative.

7. Duties of the Platform Liaisons

- Participate in the UNMGCY Coordination Team in observer capacity/All focal points group
- Promote the work of the UN MGCY and encourage membership to carry out activities per UN MGCY area of work *(policy and advocacy, capacity building, knowledge and action)*
- Promote engagement of platform members in processes and avenues open to ECOSOC accredited organisations and seek to coordinate collective efforts. Organise regular meetings of the *platforms*;
- Work with the UNMGCY Secretariat and Coordination Team to provide input to inform their work as related to their mandate;
- Attend the Annual General Assembly Meeting of the UN MGCY, and where necessary attend the national, regional meetings of UN MGCY or its International partners;
- Collaborate, strengthen and support the work of members of the *platform* in regards to the UN and UN MGCY.

[2] Includes, inter alia regional HLPF, IANYD Youth Caucus, ECOSOC Youth Forum
[3] This is in line with existing best practices and modalities at the UN and includes obligations on these youth entities to follow UN and member state required governance and reporting practices