



**ECOSOC**  
YOUTH FORUM



**United Nations**  
Futures Lab  
N E T W O R K



**United Nations**

# ECOSOC YOUTH FORUM 2025: TURNING YOUTH INSIGHTS INTO SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

**BACKGROUND MATERIALS: SYNTHESIS OF YOUTH VISIONS ACROSS SDGS 3,4,5,8,13,14,16,17**

**UN FUTURES LAB/GLOBAL HUB**

# HOW WE GOT HERE



## ENGAGEMENTS

Over **500 people**, from at least **75 COUNTRIES** across all regions, the UN Futures Lab/Global Hub and its partners have engaged through these various fora:

- [2024 UN Civil Society Conference: Unlocking Change – Visions of Transformation for a Youth-Driven Future](#)
- [International Youth Day Survey 2024: LET#YOUTHLEAD FOR THE FUTURE](#)
- [2024 Youth Action Day at the UN Summit of the Future: Strategic Foresight in Climate and Environmental Sustainability](#)

## ANALYSIS

Synthesis of consolidated insights on **SDGs 3, 4, 5, 8, 13, 14, 16, 17** regarding:

- Ongoing youth advocates and initiatives
- Visions and aspirations
- Recommendations



# YOUTH INSIGHTS FOR EACH SDG



**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTHCARE

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES

INNOVATIVE HEALTH SERVICES FOR INCLUSION AND SUSTAINABILITY



**4** QUALITY EDUCATION

INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION

EMPOWERING YOUTH AS CHANGEMAKERS

HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE SKILLS

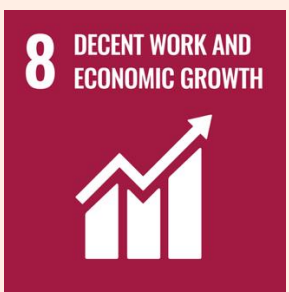


**5** GENDER EQUALITY

INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP AND SPACES

GENDER-BALANCED ECONOMIC EQUALITY

HEALTH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE



**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

PARTNERSHIPS FOR EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES

DECENT WORK ENVIRONMENT



**13** CLIMATE ACTION

INCLUSIVE CLIMATE EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS AND UNIVERSAL SHARING FOR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

GREEN JOBS, CIRCULAR ECONOMIES AND CLIMATE-RELATED FINANCING



**14** LIFE BELOW WATER

BLUE ECONOMY TRANSFORMATION

COMMUNITY AND CULTURE-CENTRED CONSERVATION

TECH-DRIVEN OCEAN FUTURES



**16** PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

DYNAMIC GOVERNANCE REFORMS

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY FOR TRANSPARENCY

MEANINGFUL YOUTH PARTICIPATION FOR INTERGENERATIONAL COLLABORATION



**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

EMPOWERED YOUTH NETWORKS DRIVING GLOBAL CHANGE

MULTI-PLATFORM MULTILATERALISM

INCLUSIVE INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE



# YOUTH VISIONS FOR SDG 3:

## HEALTHY LIVES AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES



### UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTHCARE

By 2050, healthcare systems ensure affordable, high-quality services for all, regardless of socioeconomic status. Health services are inclusive, catering to all individuals, including marginalized and vulnerable groups. Policies ensure equitable access to affordable healthcare and targeted community-based programs for underserved communities. Health professionals are trained in cultural competence and disability inclusion, ensuring that care is respectful and responsive to diverse populations.

### MENTAL HEALTH AND SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES

Regenerative paradigms that link physical, mental, and environmental health with overall well-being is well-recognized. Societies embrace mental health awareness, reducing stigma as comprehensive health coverage equally prioritizes mental health and physical needs. Sustainable lifestyles are promoted through balanced diets, physical activity, and preventive care. Parents are empowered with resources to raise healthy children in resilient ecosystems designed to support healthy living with clean air, safe water, green spaces, community facilities, safe walking, and cycling paths.

### INNOVATIVE HEALTH SERVICES FOR INCLUSION AND SUSTAINABILITY

There is enhanced understanding of how cutting-edge technologies can support public health, driving efficiencies and progress in diagnosis, and reducing access costs. Technological advancements such as telemedicine and regenerative medicine makes healthcare accessible even in remote areas. Sustainability is integrated into healthcare systems, through robust policies addressing pollution and green technologies in healthcare infrastructure to reduce environmental footprints.

# YOUTH VISIONS FOR SDG 4:

## INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING



### INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION

Equitable access to quality education for all youth, including marginalized groups, by promoting education in mother-tongues and expanding opportunities in underserved areas. Inclusive education ensures every child, including those with disabilities, receives quality education, levelling the playing field. Personalized education prepares young people for future challenges and empowers the youth to drive positive change.

### EMPOWERING YOUTH AS CHANGEMAKERS

Leadership training, civic engagement, and entrepreneurship are incorporated into educational programmes to empower youth to take active roles in their communities in addressing their unique challenges. Education systems prioritize mental health, emotional well-being, and financial literacy to equip youth with essential life skills such as problem-solving and mediation. Career counselling helps students choose subjects based on interest and tracks they are well-suited for, fostering a generation of informed and engaged citizens with a solid grasp of global issues.

### HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE SKILLS

A holistic approach to education ensures that youth are well-rounded, resilient, and capable of driving positive change in their communities. Education systems balance research and critical thinking with future skills like digital literacy, data analysis, and sustainable practices, to prepare them for the evolving job market and societal needs. Advanced technologies enhance educational experiences, learning outcomes, global exchanges of perspectives, and collaboration among youth, fostering cross-cultural understanding. Practical education and mentorship promote lifelong learning and pathways for non-degree holders.

# YOUTH VISIONS FOR SDG 5:

## ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS



### INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP AND SPACES

Efforts to dismantle biases and patriarchal domination create a society where everyone, regardless of gender, can shine and contribute to their fullest potential. Women hold significant decision-making positions across all sectors, ensuring that policies and practices are inclusive and considerate of diverse perspectives. Inclusive spaces that provide support and opportunities for growth are systematically established where every young person, particularly adolescent girls and marginalized youth, can thrive without fear of discrimination or exclusion.

### GENDER-BALANCED ECONOMIC EQUALITY

Equal economic opportunities are reflected in salaries, career advancement, and financial resources to support women-led businesses and initiatives. Gender-based tax reforms are implemented to address disparities and promote equity. These reforms recognize the value of unpaid care work, integrating it into public accounting to ensure that caregivers, predominantly women, are compensated fairly, and resources are allocated to support social welfare.

### HEALTH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Legal reforms and safeguards are strengthened to protect women's rights, address discrimination, child marriages, and gender-based violence, including in virtual spaces. Menstrual hygiene education and resources are prioritized, ensuring comprehensive support for young females. There is improved access to sexual and reproductive health services, including promotion of grassroots programmes to educate underserved communities and parents, as well as participation in decision-making on reproductive health issues.





## YOUTH VISIONS FOR SDG 8:

# SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK

### 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



#### SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Proper support and investments in youth-driven efforts have rendered tangible benefits to contribute to an economy defined by inclusive growth and sustainable practices. A supportive business environment nurtures innovations, enterprise, and grassroots initiatives that address social and sustainability challenges, which in turn generate livelihoods and economic activity. Earlier efforts to mainstream sustainability through fiscal policies, green jobs, services, and technologies across industries, have helped guide consumers to make sustainable and ethical choices on food, energy, transport, real estate, and consumer goods.

#### PARTNERSHIPS FOR EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Strengthened public-private-civil society partnerships create opportunities for career development programmes through practical skills that match market demands. Equitable access to internships, mentorships, networking, practical work experiences, and training, expand economic prospects that are respectful of the youth's energy and knowledge. These provide pathways that address joblessness due to a lack of professional experience or academic degrees.

#### DECENT WORK ENVIRONMENT

AI and automation are managed to mitigate job displacement, while being leveraged to enhance efficiency. These regulatory frameworks on the use of AI and automation create the space for creativity and engagement through meaningful, real-life connections, which allow people to thrive both personally and professionally. Advocacy carried out to raise awareness on occupational hazards, child labour, and ethical business practices, has helped secure physically and psychologically safe work environments.



# YOUTH VISIONS FOR SDG 13:

## URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS



### INCLUSIVE CLIMATE EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Inclusive climate education programmes equip individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively understand and respond to climate challenges. Intergenerational collaboration strengthens community resilience, combining traditional wisdom and innovative ideas from communities and groups representing all ages, gender, geographies, and backgrounds. By fostering environmental awareness across generations, communities are empowered to take proactive measures toward resilience. Sustainability principles are woven into everyday life – from the way people consume to how they live and work – cultivating communities that are both aware and resilient in the face of climate impacts.

### TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS AND UNIVERSAL SHARING FOR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Looking at 2050, technological innovation becomes a driving force in the global response to climate change. Sustainable, low-carbon technologies are widely shared across borders, accelerating international cooperation and maximizing impact. Breakthroughs in early warning systems, climate-smart infrastructure and adaptive technologies strengthen disaster preparedness and reduce vulnerability to climate shocks.

### GREEN JOBS, CIRCULAR ECONOMIES AND CLIMATE- RELATED FINANCING

Green skills empower everyone to engage in a low-carbon and circular economy. As climate-focused jobs expand, eco-career paths offer sustainable and inclusive employment across sectors. Public and private financing drives innovation and supports a just transition, while circular economy principles reshape production, reduce waste, and create new labour market opportunities. Climate action is fully integrated into economic systems, linking environmental goals with job creation and equitable growth.





## YOUTH VISIONS FOR SDG 14:

# CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



### BLUE ECONOMY TRANSFORMATION

The blue economy evolves into a model of regenerative development, with sustainable aquaculture, eco-tourism, and ocean-based renewable energy driving both livelihoods and conservation. Circular approaches to production have drastically reduced ocean pollution while creating new economic opportunities. Public and private investment has helped scale these solutions, linking financial systems with environmental sustainability.

### COMMUNITY AND CULTURE-CENTRED CONSERVATION

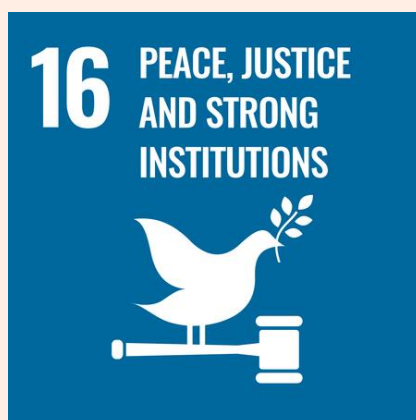
Marine conservation is rooted in strong community involvement and cultural renewal. Local initiatives have successfully revitalized traditional practices combining them with modern conservation techniques. Education and storytelling have played a central role in building ocean literacy, with schools, cultural centres, and grassroots organizations fostering a deeper connection between communities and the sea. Women and local leaders have driven change through collaborative action, leading mangrove restoration, promoting sustainable fisheries, and influencing coastal policies.

### TECH-DRIVEN OCEAN FUTURES

Advances in technology revolutionize marine conservation and ocean management. Innovation hubs, often led by young entrepreneurs and scientists, are incubators for green technologies and sustainable platforms. Digital tools and platforms make ocean stewardship more accessible, enabling communities worldwide to participate in conservation through interactive apps and citizen science. Bio-innovations such as coral-friendly building materials become mainstream, reducing harm to marine life and accelerating ecosystem regeneration.

# YOUTH VISIONS FOR SDG 16:

## PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES, ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL, EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS



### DYNAMIC GOVERNANCE REFORMS

Governance reforms are implemented to tackle structural failures by ensuring decisions reflect the interests of young people and marginalized communities. This enhances institutional capacity to build on advocacy and efforts to address socioeconomic disparities, discrimination, racial injustice, violence, and instability. Channels for public consultations enhance an understanding of complex interrelated issues, such as climate action and environmental conservation, to ensure long-term peace and security.

### DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY FOR TRANSPARENCY

Digital mechanisms facilitate transparency, civic participation, and accountability, ensuring universal participation through platforms for mobilization, co-creation, policy formulation, and monitoring mechanisms. Technology is harnessed to support decision-making processes by offering real-time data, policy simulation, and instant feedback. Legislative frameworks, ethical guidelines, and digital literacy mitigate the risks of misinformation, cybersecurity, and unhealthy dependence on technology.

### MEANINGFUL YOUTH PARTICIPATION FOR INTERGENERATIONAL COLLABORATION

The experience and institutional memory of older generations combined with the dynamism and innovation of youth, drive progress together. Political reforms to allow greater youth participation and investment in leadership development programmes cultivates the next generation of leaders, enabling the youth to apply critical life skills into practice across a variety of issues. By fostering a culture of civic leadership and engagement early on, continuity of initiatives is secured for the long-term while addressing barriers to meaningful participation such as resource constraints, burnout, and tokenistic engagement.

# YOUTH VISIONS FOR SDG 17:

## STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



**EMPOWERED  
YOUTH NETWORKS  
DRIVING GLOBAL  
CHANGE**

Leaders in politics, businesses, and communities build on the strength of their networks from earlier experiences to engage as a youth cohort in multilateral engagements, drawing on negotiation skills to align positions and broker consensus in advancing issues such as climate change and social justice. Networks of support and collaboration across borders replace barriers to meaningful youth engagement, extending the opportunity for the next generation to drive innovation and engage in policy at all levels. Foresight initiatives help youth anticipate and navigate societal shifts, ensuring they are equipped to address emerging challenges.

**MULTI-PLATFORM  
MULTILATERALISM**

Technology connects diverse voices, democratizing engagement beyond "the usual suspects" and facilitating seamless collaboration across borders. Balancing digital tools with hands-on experience creates a holistic approach to promoting increased global cooperation on shared advocacies. By engaging directly with society, young people gain a deeper understanding of problems, develop innovative solutions, and build empathy and concern for others. Encouraging real-world interaction and hands-on experience prepares young people to be effective changemakers capable of tackling complexity.

**INCLUSIVE  
INTERNATIONAL  
GOVERNANCE**

The multilateral system is shaped by equitable representation that reflects demographic shifts, with youth from the Global South playing an active role in shaping inclusive institutions. Decolonial futures literacy helps overcome neocolonialism, transform bureaucratic leadership, and navigate political economy dynamics. Young people from marginalized communities have access to platforms to drive change in decision-making at all levels, bridging experiences from local communities with global forums.