



ECOSOC Youth Forum 2025: Turning Youth Insights into Sustainable Action for Future Generations

17 April 2025, 08:45 am – 10:00 am ET, Virtual (via Zoom)

Organized by: [UN Futures Lab/Global Hub](#) and the [Executive Office of the Secretary-General \(EOSG\)](#)

SUMMARY

Background of the event

At the Summit of the Future on 22 September 2024, the UN General Assembly adopted a Pact for the Future, a Global Digital Compact and a Declaration on Future Generations. Annexed to the Pact, the Declaration defines future generations as “all those generations that do not yet exist, and who will inherit this planet”. It sets out the foundations to safeguard their needs and interests through concrete measures and follow-up mechanisms. These include a greater use of anticipatory planning and foresight, based on science, data and statistics, strengthened systems of national and global accounting, forward-looking and evidence-based impact assessments or better measures of progress on sustainable development within the UN and the multilateral system. Youth, as critical agents of positive change, already contribute to the advancement of peace and security, sustainable development and human rights in their own countries and in the multilateral system. As the leaders of tomorrow, investing in them and integrating their perspectives in decision-making drive innovative approaches and long-term policies that are future-orientated and sustainable. Their voices are thus essential to define the UN future generations agenda.

Key issues discussed

Building on the outcomes of foresight activities undertaken by the [UN Futures Lab/Global Hub](#) and partners at the [UN Civil Society Conference in Nairobi](#) (May 2024) and the [UN Summit of the Future Youth Action Day in New York](#) (September 2024), this session explored aspirations and developed actionable recommendations for a tomorrow that is fit for future generations. This session engaged an intergenerational and multistakeholder group in a participatory foresight exercise using the “Headlines of Tomorrow” across SDGs 3 (health & well-being), 4 (education), 5 (gender equality), 8 (work & economic growth), 13 (climate action), 14 (life below water), 16 (peace, justice & strong institutions) and 17 (partnerships). The recommendations will feed into the [High-Level Political Forum](#) (HLPF) in July 2025.

Key recommendations for action

- Advance intersectional and multidisciplinary approaches by establishing clear definitions, targets, and indicators to drive progress on overlapping, systemic issues.
- Co-create context-specific solutions with local communities and grassroots actors to address global and local challenges.
- Promote innovation that integrates Indigenous knowledge with science and technology, such as bio-innovation and biomimicry, which are innovations that are modeled after natural systems and processes.
- Transition to a regenerative economy by shifting finance from extractive industries towards youth-led initiatives aligned with the SDGs.
- Centre reparations as a foundation for justice and serve as a mechanism to expand inclusive leadership spaces for marginalized youth.
- Harness youth’s digital fluency and passion for justice to develop and leverage technologies that foster a more interconnected, equitable world.
- Scale collaboration through platforms for intergenerational alliances to influence policies, facilitate exchange of good practices, and fund implementation of youth innovations to support marginalized groups.
- Promote a holistic approach to raise awareness on human and planetary health through formal and informal means, such as public education on gender inclusion or intergenerational dialogues, drawing on scientific information and lived experiences.
- Demonstrate leadership by strengthening youth and women’s meaningful participation in the UN’s institutional practices and decision-making bodies.
- Amplify youth initiatives through recognition of their efforts, representation in decision-making spaces, and resources to drive the reforms they are advocating for.

Webpage with more information on the project and event recording: <https://un-futureslab.org/ecosocyouthforum2025>