



2024

AFRICA YOUTH CONSULTATIVE FORUM ON UN SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE ,26-27 APRIL, UNCC, ADDIS ABABA -ETHIOPIA.



United Nations
Economic Commission
for Africa



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SUMMARY: AFRICA YOUTH CONSULTATIVE FORUM ON UN SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE.

The African Youth Consultative Forum on the United Nations (UN) Summit of the Future is a preparatory event aimed at galvanizing the participation of African youth in shaping the outcomes of the upcoming UN Summit of the Future.

Building on the African Youth Charter and the UN's commitment to youth empowerment, this forum seeks to mobilize youth representatives from across African Member States to articulate their perspectives, priorities, and solutions for addressing global challenges and also inform the UN Future Summit, which seeks to rekindle multilateralism towards the accelerated implementation of the SDGs with focus on five key strategic areas that could be "game changers" in delivering on the SDGs by 2030. Given the principle of "two agendas, one framework" adopted in the implementation of the Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 by the AU and the UN, an integrated approach will be adopted by the forum simultaneously focusing on the two agendas.

Overall, the African Youth Consultative Forum on UN Summit of the Future aims to foster dialogue and innovation among African youth, empowering them to lead the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and subsequent Agenda 2063 shaping the future of their continent. Through meaningful engagement, capacity building, and advocacy, the forum will contribute to building a more inclusive, equitable, and prosperous.

THE FORUM SEEKS TO ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING MAIN OBJECTIVES:

1. To **provide a platform** for African youth to engage in dialogue, collaboration, and discussion in articulating an African youth common position on the UN Summit of the future, which could serve as input to the deliberations of the Summit of the Future in September 2024 in New York.
2. To **amplify the voices** of African youth in global decision-making processes and ensure their meaningful participation in formulating policies and strategies for sustainable development and the overarching UN Summit of the Future policy paper.
3. To discuss how the youth specific **issues articulated in the zero draft of the Pact** for the Future are to be realized in Africa including issues of gainful employment through access to quality education, participation in political decision-making, funding opportunities for small scale projects and initiatives, and transformative innovations and the proposed initiative on the Global Youth Investment Platform.

METHODOLOGY:

- A. The **five focus areas** of the UN Summit of the Future will be the centerpiece of the forum, namely, sustainable development and financing for development; international peace and security; science, technology, innovation and digital cooperation; youth and future generations; and transforming global governance.
- B. **Expert presentation** will be made in each of the five areas above from a youth perspective and dialogue and discussion will follow with a view to articulating a clear youth position on it.
- C. The forum will be largely **interactive** in nature and will have plenaries, breakout sessions and workshops.
- D. **Three phases consultative** processes (Initial, Main Forum, Post consultative forum): A sub-regional and national consultative process (18th April), the main regional consultative forum (26th -27th April), and the post consultative forums during the PYU Youth Leaders consultative dialogue in May 2025. By facilitating meaningful dialogue, collaboration, and action across sub-regional, regional, and post-forum platforms, this process seeks to harness the collective wisdom, energy, and creativity of Africa's youth to shape a brighter future for the continent and the world.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS:

- 1. African youth position paper:** The summit aims to produce a consolidated position paper articulating African youth views, ideas and key recommendations in the five areas of the Summit of the Future. This position paper will serve as a valuable input to the upcoming UN Summit of the Future and the corresponding Goals of Agenda 2063, specifically focusing on its second ten-year implementation plan.
- 2. Enhanced Youth Participation in UN Summit of the Future processes:** The consultative forum seeks to ensure meaningful participation of African youth in global decision-making by amplifying their voices, whilst immersing themselves in African issues and perspectives in advancing the tracks of the pact of the future and the expected outcomes of the UN summit of the future, through various outreach engagements (radio, TV, social media webinars) and campaigns geared to address knowledge gap and mobilize youth participation. This increased participation will foster a sense of ownership and empowerment among African youths, reinforcing their role as key stakeholders in shaping the future of their continent and the world.

3. **Capacity enhanced:** Through capacity-building sessions and workshops on subject matter before immersion sessions, participants will gain valuable contextual deep dives, leadership, advocacy, and negotiation skills essential for effective engagement in policy dialogue, community development initiatives, and youth-led projects in advancing SDGs and Agenda 2063.
4. **Recommendations (Interventions):** The forum will produce a set of policy recommendations, intervention recommendations and advocacy strategies, highlighting actionable steps for policymakers to promote youth empowerment, inclusivity, and participation in accelerating SDGs.

FORUM ORGANISING PARTNERS DESCRIPTIONS

1. **Pan African Youth Union (PYU):** A coordinating body for youth matters across Africa.
2. **United Nations agencies:** The UN ECA and UNDP Africa Regional Office.
3. **African Union Commission:** Directorate of Women, Gender & Youth.
4. **Ministry responsible for youth (Ethiopia):** Federal government representative to the forum.
5. **National Youth Council Ethiopia:** Represents the interests of Ethiopian youth and contributes to the discussions and outcomes of the forum.

SUPPORTING PARTNERS (Proposed):

- United Nations agencies: UN OSAA, UNFPA, UNESCO,
- Civil Society Organizations:
- Regional Youth Platforms: Youth CSOs, RECs Youth Platforms
- Academic Institutions: AFLEX

BACKGROUND: PAN AFRICAN YOUTH UNION (PYU).

Around 60% of Africa's population is younger than 25, and more than a third is between 15 and 34. By 2100, Africa should still have the youngest population worldwide, with a median age of 35 (MIF,2020). In 2023, Africa's population under 35 represented almost a billion people (540.8 million 0-14-year-olds and 454.5 million 15-34-year-olds), 22.7% of the world's total youth population. By 2100, Africa's youth will be equivalent to twice Europe's entire population, and almost one-half of the world's youth will be from Africa.¹

Pan African Youth Union (PYU) is a **continental coordination body** for African youth organizations. It acts as the focal agency of the African Union on youth matters and was endorsed by the **African Union Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec 292 (IX)** and further recognized by the **African Union Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec**

¹ <https://www.prb.org/resources/africas-future-youth-and-the-data-defining-their-lives/>

468 (XIV). PYU strives to support and reinforce the values and ideals of the African Union (AU) in fostering Unity, Peace, Democracy, Sustainable Development and African Integration since 1962.

UN SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE

The high-level event will bring together UN Member States, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), academic institutions, the private sector, and youth **under the theme**, '*Summit of the Future: Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow*'. The Summit aims to forge a new global consensus on what our future should look like, and what we can do today to secure it.

A central principle of the 2030 Agenda is the assurance that “no one will be left behind.” The Sustainable Development Goals are meant for all nations, all peoples of all ages, and all societies. The 2030 Agenda's universal nature entails that youth should be considered across all Goals and targets.

This once-in-a-generation opportunity serves as a moment to mend eroded trust and demonstrate that international cooperation can effectively tackle current challenges and those that have emerged in recent years or may be over the horizon. At the request of Member States, this summit aims to reinvigorate international cooperation and governance, culminating in the development of the Pact of the Future.

THE BASIS OF UN SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE

We already have the "what" in the form of many existing agreements and commitments, starting with the UN Charter and including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and many others.

The Summit of the Future will examine the "how"—how do we cooperate better to deliver on the above aspirations and goals? How do we better meet the needs of the present while also preparing for future challenges?

As the world prepares for this historic event, engaging and amplifying youth voices is crucial. The African Youth consultative forum is a pivotal platform for youth engagement, enabling meaningful participation in shaping the summit's outcomes and fostering sustainable development across Africa.

WHY THE SUMMIT MATTERS?

1. The world is **not on track to meet the goals** we have already set for ourselves, and we are not effectively responding to new challenges or opportunities.
2. The **speed and complexity of developments** have **outpaced** our **systems** for cooperating and coping.
3. The **benefits and opportunities of progress** are **spread unevenly**, with the majority of people left behind.

4. The **risks and threats are also unevenly felt**, disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable.
5. Extreme **poverty and hunger** are on the march. **Global emissions** are at their **highest levels in human history**, as are levels of human displacement.
6. **Multilateral governance**, designed in **simpler, slower times, is inadequate for today's complex, interconnected, rapidly changing world**.

ANATOMY OF THE 'UN SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE':

COMMON AGENDA POLICY BRIEF:

- 1.Future Generations
- 2.Emergency Platform
- 3.Youth Engagement
- 4.Beyond Gross Domestic Product
- 5.Global Digital Compact
- 6.Information Integrity
- 7.International Financial Infrastructure
- 8.Outer Space
- 9.New Agenda for Peace
- 10.Transforming Education
- 11.UN 2.0

MODALITY OF THE UN SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE:

The Summit of the Future would adopt a concise, action-oriented outcome document entitled "A Pact for the Future", agreed in advance by consensus through intergovernmental negotiations:

Decides that the scope of the Summit of the Future will encompass the following elements, and that these elements will be reflected in the outcome document, entitled "**A Pact for the Future**", comprising a chapeau and **five chapters**, as follows:

1. Sustainable development and financing for development;
2. International peace and security;
3. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation;
4. Youth and future generations;
5. Transforming global governance.

POLICY BRIEFS: OUR COMMON AGENDA POLICY BRIEFS BY THEME

In recent years, major global shocks and setbacks to progress on the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) have increasingly underscored our shared vulnerabilities. International cooperation is needed more than ever, yet our collective problem-solving mechanisms do not match the pace or scale of our challenges. Today's complex, interconnected, and rapidly changing world requires a more effective multilateral system – with the United Nations at its core.

[Member States](#) have rallied to [take action](#) across several areas. The Summit of the Future in 2024 is a critical opportunity to reaffirm and bolster shared principles and advance solutions to deliver for the people and planet more effectively. Member States have committed to adopting a Pact for the Future at the Summit to cement collective agreements and showcase global solidarity for current and future generations.

At the [invitation of Member States](#), the Secretary-General is now issuing a series of Policy Briefs to provide more detail on certain proposals contained in Our Common Agenda and to support them in their deliberations as they prepare for the [Summit of the Future](#). These briefs will include an analysis of the proposal's impact on implementing the Sustainable

Development Goals. They will be informed by the [United Nations Charter](#) and the [Universal Declaration on Human Rights](#), with [gender equality](#) as a cross-cutting theme.²

AFRICA YOUTH CONSULTATIVE FORUM ON UN- SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE

The forum is expected to convene youth (leaders, experts, researchers, innovators), policy and decision makers from the United Nations, governments, development partners and stakeholders, businesses, academia, and Civil Society organizations from across Africa.

This forum will be a crucial platform for African youth to engage in discussions, deliberations, and planning processes related to the upcoming UN Summit of The Future, allowing exchange of ideas, and develop concrete proposals and recommendations for inclusion in the summit's agenda and shaping the outcome by embracing the UN Summit of the Future framework approach.

MAIN THEME: 'Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow'.

THEMATIC FOCUS OF THE FORUM

1. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT:

Exploring strategies to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063 and ensure inclusive economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social progress. The forum aims to identify innovative approaches to sustainable development tailored to Africa's unique context and challenges with a focus on innovative financing solutions to support these endeavors.

2. INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY: Addressing Africa's unique and global challenges to peace and security, including conflict resolution, peacebuilding, disarmament, and counterterrorism efforts. Topics include conflict resolution, peacebuilding initiatives, preventing violent extremism, disarmament, and counterterrorism strategies, emphasizing Africa's role in promoting stability and security in the region.

3. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION: Harnessing the potential of science, technology, and innovation to drive progress and address emerging challenges, such as digital cooperation and ethical AI development.

4. YOUTH AND FUTURE GENERATIONS: Empowering youth as key stakeholders in shaping the future, promoting intergenerational dialogue, and ensuring active participation in decision-making processes.

² <https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda/policy-briefs>

5. TRANSFORMING GLOBAL GOVERNANCE: Reforming and strengthening multilateral institutions and global governance frameworks to enhance effectiveness, transparency, and inclusivity in addressing global issues.

In line with Africa's commitment to multilateralism and global cooperation, discussions will revolve around reforming and strengthening global governance frameworks. The forum aims to advocate for Africa's interests on the global stage, enhance the country's participation in international decision-making processes, and contribute to shaping a more inclusive and effective global governance system.

FORMAT OF THE PROCESSES

Phase 1: Sub-Regional and National Consultative Process (18th April)

The first phase of the African Youth Consultative Forum on UN Summit of the Future kicks off with a series of simultaneously undertaken national consultative meetings by respective national youth coordinating mechanism/national youth council scheduled for the 18th of April. These meetings serve as vital platforms for engaging youth representatives and leaders at the grassroots level across the 54 member states. Through online interactive sessions, interviews and discussions, participants will have the opportunity to articulate their perspectives, concerns, and aspirations regarding the future of the continent. Key themes from these consultations will be synthesized and integrated into the main regional forum agenda, ensuring that the voices of diverse African youth are heard and represented.

Phase 2: Main Regional Consultative Forum (26th - 27th April)

The centerpiece of the African Youth Consultative Forum on UN Summit of the Future is the main regional consultative forum, scheduled for the 26th and 27th of April. Bringing together a diverse array of youth leaders, activists, policymakers, and experts from across Africa and the diaspora, this forum provides a dynamic platform for in-depth discussions, collaboration, and consensus-building. Participants will engage in plenary sessions, thematic workshops, and interactive dialogues focused on the forum's five tracks. By fostering dialogue, knowledge sharing, and networking, this forum aims to generate a position and actionable recommendations and proposals to inform the UN Summit of the Future agenda and shape Africa's collective vision for the years ahead.

Phase 3: Post-Consultative Forums during the PYU Youth Leaders Consultative Dialogue (May 2025)

The final phase of the African Youth Consultative Forum on UN Summit of the Future extends beyond the main regional forum to include post-consultative forums during the Pan-African Youth Union (PYU) Youth Leaders Consultative Dialogue in May 2025. Building on the momentum and insights gained from the main forum, these post-consultative forums offer a platform for further reflection, refinement, and action

planning. Participants will have the opportunity to delve deeper into specific thematic areas, identify concrete priorities and strategies, and establish partnerships for implementation. This forum will serve as a bridge between the regional consultation process and ongoing youth-led initiatives, ensuring continuity and sustained engagement in advancing Africa's youth agenda on the global stage.

FORMAT OF THE MAIN FORUM (26TH -27TH APRIL, UNCC)

The forum will adopt a dynamic and interactive format designed to facilitate meaningful engagement, dialogue, and collaboration among participants. The forum will include the following components.

1. PLENARY SESSIONS (3 PLENARIES): Keynote addresses, panel discussions, and presentations by experts and stakeholders on thematic areas.

A. Opening plenary: 26th April

Theme: *'Summit of the Future: Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow', 'Africa's perspective'.*

Keynotes: UN DSG, UNECA, UNDP, Ministry, Summit Co-Chairs, AUC, PYU

Panel Discussion: 4 Speakers, 1 Moderator/discussant

B. Closing plenary: 27th April

Theme: "Youth Perspectives: Charting Pathways for Africa's Collective Action, Building Better".

Keynotes: UNECA, UNDP, Ministry, Summit Co-Chairs, AUC, PYU

Panel Discussion: 4 Speakers, 1 Moderator/discussant

2. CAUCUS SESSIONS (5 TRACKS): Small-group discussions and workshops focused on specific topics within the five thematic areas, namely: sustainable development and financing for development; international peace and security; science, technology, innovation, and digital cooperation; youth and future generations; and transforming global governance. These sessions will facilitate in-depth exploration and idea generation, fostering meaningful dialogue and collaboration.

FORUM PARTICIPANTS: 120 Participants

- **Lead Presenters/Experts:** 10
- **Youths:** National youth councils :54
- **Other youth organizations:** 20
- **Key Stakeholders & other UN agencies:** 20
- **PYU Team:** 10
- **ECA, AUC & UNDP:** 20

YOUTH & EXPERTS PARTICIPANTS RATIONALE AND SELECTION OBJECTIVES:

1. **Inclusive Representation:** Ensuring diverse representation from all African member states and the diaspora, reflecting the continent's rich cultural, linguistic, and socio-economic diversity.
2. **Expertise and Experience:** Inviting participants with proven expertise and tangible contributions in the forum's five tracks, ensuring productive and informed discussions.
3. **Youth Empowerment:** Priority in involving young leaders and changemakers, offering a platform for the voices and ideas of the next generation.
4. **Gender Equality:** Gender balance among participants to ensure that both male and female perspectives are equally represented and valued.

YOUTHS & EXPERTS PARTICIPANTS SELECTION JUSTIFICATION MATRIX

1. **Geographical Representation:** Ensure all African regions (North, South, East, West, and Central) are represented, including specific outreach to the diaspora.
2. **Expertise in Forum Tracks:** Participants with demonstrated expertise or significant interest in at least three of the forum's tracks.
3. **Youth Leadership and Involvement:** Priority on young leaders and activists who have shown exceptional leadership or have made significant contributions to their communities or fields.
4. **Gender Balance:** Balanced mix to achieve gender parity among participants to ensure diverse viewpoints and equitable representation.
5. **Representation from Marginalized Communities:** Inclusion of participants from marginalized or underrepresented communities, including but not limited to individuals with disabilities, indigenous populations.
6. **Engagement and Motivation:** Select participants who are highly motivated to contribute to the forum and to the implementation of its outcomes.

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