



Media Advisory

Africa Youth Side Event at the UN Summit of the Future, New York – 20 September 2024

Theme

Our World, Our Future: African Youth at the Summit of the Future. "Transforming Africa with Youth-Driven Solutions."

Rationale/Background

To contribute to and shape the outcome of this once-in-a-generation engagement, African Youth will host a side event at the United Nations Summit of the Future, scheduled to take place in New York from 23 to 24 September. African youth are projected to make up 42 per cent of the global youth population by 2030. However, they continue to face challenges, including slow progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This underscores the urgent need for a new dialogue to facilitate transformative and innovative solutions to accelerate progress towards achieving these Global Goals, particularly in Africa, a critical focus of the Summit.

The United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres, underscores the need for the Summit of the Future, saying "We cannot construct a future for our grandchildren with a system designed for our grandparents."

In line with the UN Chief's call, the Summit of the Future, therefore, offers an opportunity for African Youth to reclaim their rightful place at the centre of the global agenda, shape and lead the exchange, leveraging the outcomes of the African Youth Forum, where over 250 youth organizations participated in last April, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to generate ideas, which are pegged to the Summit's five thematic areas and captured in the "[African Youth Declaration on the Summit of the Future](#)." The Summit's outcomes, including the Pact for the Future, are also expected to feature youth-led policy recommendations that drive structural transformation and ensure Africa's active role in reshaping global governance.

Event Objectives

Guided by the "African Youth Declaration on the Summit of the Future" the side event will ensure the following:

- Engage critical stakeholders and mainstream African voices and aspirations in the outcome of the Summit;
- Assist in aligning the outcome of the Summit with the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP) of Agenda 2063;
- Mainstream African youth voices, views, and aspirations in the Summit's deliberations;
- Explore pathways for empowering African Youth to implement the Summit's outcome and
- Offer opportunities to empower African Youth to enhance sustainable development.

Programme

The event is divided into a morning and an afternoon session including the participation of African youth leaders and advocates, including from the Pan-African Youth Union. Partners from member state delegations, the African Union and the United Nations will also contribute.

MORNING SESSION

When: 20 September, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. New York local time (EDT)

Where: Conference Room 7, United Nations Headquarters, New York and online on [UN WebTV](#)

AFTERNOON SESSION

Theme: “Navigating the Crossroads: Youth Perspectives Shaping the Pact for the Future”.

When: 20 September, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. New York local time (EDT)

Where: Millennium Hilton New York, One UN Plaza, New York.

The most up-to-date version of the programme, including a detailed speaker’s line-up is available online at: bit.ly/SOTFAfricanYouth

Invitation

Media houses are invited to cover the event.

Media Contacts

- Rado Ratovonarivo: ratovonarivo@un.org
- Ernest Cho Chi: chi@un.org

The event is supported by the African Union Commission (AUC), the Pan African Youth Union (PYU), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Malawi, the current Chair of the Bureau of the AU Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Youth, and Nigeria, a member of the AU STC on Youth.



United Nations