



CONCEPT NOTE

3rd Youth Forum on SDG Implementation

11 & 21 November 2019
Incheon, Republic of Korea

1. Rationale

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages the Member States to develop ambitious responses to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Countries are encouraged to integrate the SDGs into their national development strategies and plans while taking into account their respective levels of development and capacities. The United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/69/327 further emphasizes the growing need to strengthen public institutions and public services in support of sustainable development.¹ The success of the SDGs depends on the coordination of implementation efforts through good public governance. Public governance can be defined as the exercise of economic, political and administrative authority to manage a country's affairs at all levels.² More governments seek to engage more of their stakeholders in decision making, moving from governing for people to governing with people³. Policies that employ collaborative efforts and early engagement with the public have shown higher levels of impact and integration.⁴

The overarching principle for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is leaving no one behind, engaging with the vulnerable and marginalized groups. Youth have traditionally been excluded from policy-making platforms and not adequately represented by their governments. The United Nations has long recognized that the imagination, ideals and energy of young people are vital for the continuing development of the societies in which they live.⁵

Young people can be a force for development as well as drivers of innovation and progress at the local, national and global levels. They tend to be among the first to embrace new ideas and innovation and frequently recognize the global and local dynamics of development. Their roles in ensuring inclusiveness and equality in societies is central to the overall efforts of the global community⁶.

1 United Nations General Assembly Resolution, A/RES/69/327 <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/69/327>

2 United Nations, World Public Sector Report 2015 <http://workspace.unpan.org/sites/Internet/Documents/UNPAN95253.pdf>

3 United Nations, Compendium of Innovative Practices in Public Governance and Administration for Sustainable Development, <https://publicadministration.un.org/publications/content/PDFs/Compendium%20Public%20Governance%20and%20Administration%20for%20Sustainable%20Development.pdf>

4 United Nations, STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND POLICY INTEGRATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, <http://workspace.unpan.org/sites/Internet/Documents/UNPAN98147.pdf>

5 United Nations, World Population Prospects 2017, <https://population.un.org/wpp/Download/Standard/Population/>

6 Ibid.

Failure to foster youth development in an inclusive manner or fulfill young people's rights can lead to inequalities with long-term economic and social consequences. For instance, it is recognized that the exclusion of young people from educational and employment opportunities negatively impacts their well-being and therefore damages social cohesion and stability.⁷

Critical to the success of the 2030 Agenda are the role of young people in engaging with local and national government in delivering on policies and programmes on the ground; the role of public-private partnerships in driving the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including financing and harnessing technology for data collection and utilization; and the role of youth participation in informing equitable and diverse policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.⁸

The United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), part of the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), hosted the speech contests under the theme of 'Youth engagement in SDG implementation' in 2017 and 2018, in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and Safety, the Ministry of Environment, and the Incheon Metropolitan City Government.

This year, UNPOG's youth programme has been further developed. Accordingly, in July 2019, UNPOG, the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) and K-ECO co-organized the SDGs Youth Summer Camp in Incheon and discussed the SDGs and the role of the youth in achieving the goals.

To engage the young people in policy dialogue, the "3rd Youth Forum on SDG implementation" will take place in Incheon on 11 and 21 November 2019. The youth session on 21 November 2019 will be organized as a special event in parallel with the UN DESA Symposium which will be attended by the Under-Secretary-General of UN DESA, ministers, and senior decision-makers from Asia and the Pacific. Consequently, the youth forum will be a platform to enable the youth to raise their voices and exchanges ideas to accelerate SDG implementation whereby focusing on the roles of public governance.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the Youth Forum will include but are not limited to:

- Enhancing awareness and knowledge of the youth on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.
- Incubating new ideas on the roles of youth and governments in implementing the SDGs.
- Fostering youth engagement in SDG implementation
- Expanding UNPOG's contribution and partnerships for promoting the SDGs.

3. Eligibility for Application

Young individuals born between 1993 and 2003, residing in the Republic of Korea are eligible to apply regardless of nationality and educational background.

⁷ Ibid

⁸ United Nations, World Youth Report 2018, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2018/12/WorldYouthReport-2030Agenda.pdf>

4. Forum Process



① Preliminary Round

- Submit the following documents to ewijeong.jeong@un.org by 18 October 2019.
 - Application with a short essay (maximum 3 pages)
 - Power Point Presentation (maximum 5 slides, saved as PDF and PPT both)
 - Consent to use personal information
- Successful applicants will be notified on 25 October 2019 individually.

Theme:

Leveraging Public Governance and Engaging All Stakeholders to Accelerate the Achievement of the SDGs – How Can the Youth Contribute?

Essay Guiding Question

What policy/government program would you like to propose?

- What challenges within public governance will need to be addressed to implement the proposal successfully?
- How will the youth and other marginalized groups be engaged?
- What partnerships would be helpful in continuous success? (NGOs, NPOs, CSOs, local/national government, private sector, etc)

**You may refer to specific SDG goals and targets that will be directly addressed.*

② Group Discussions and Presentations

- Date and venue: 11 November 2019, Songdo, Incheon
- Evaluation: Group discussions and individual presentations will be evaluated.

Time	Agenda
11:00-11:20	Orientation
11:20-12:00	Lecture
12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-14:00	Group Discussions
14:00-14:30	Break
14:30-18:00	Individual Presentations (10 minutes per person)

③ Participation in the Youth session during the UN DESA Symposium

- Date and venue: 21 November 2019, Songdo, Incheon
- Selected youth forum participants will perform the roles of keynote speakers, presenters, and panelists in the youth forum which will be organized as a special event of the UN DESA Symposium.

Time	Agenda
09:00-12:00	Attend the UN DESA Symposium
12:00-13:30	Individual Lunch
13:30-17:00	Youth Session & Awards Ceremony

5. Awards

- Ministerial awards by the Minister of the Interior and Safety, Republic of Korea
- Ministerial awards by the Minister of Environment, Republic of Korea
- Mayoral awards by the Mayor of Incheon Metropolitan City, Republic of Korea

6. Benefits

The awardees and selected participants of the youth session on 21 November 2019 will be invited to the 2020 United Nations Public Service Forum (UNPSF) and the United Nations Public Service Awards (UNPSA) in June 2020 in Busan, Republic of Korea. Domestic transportation, accommodation and meals in Busan will be covered.

UNPSF

The 2020 UNPSF will be organized by UN DESA and the Government of the Republic of Korea. The forum will organize parallel workshops and side events, inviting ministers and senior decision makers to reflect on how to advance progress in realizing the SDGs.

UNPSA

UNPSA promotes and rewards innovation and excellence in public services in support of the realization of the SDGs and the principle of leaving no one behind. It rewards the creative achievements and contributions of public service institutions that lead to a more effective and responsive public administration in countries worldwide. Through an annual competition, UNPSA promotes the role, professionalism and visibility of public service for the realization of the 2030 Agenda.

For more information <https://publicadministration.un.org/en/unpsa>

7. Organizers

- UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA
- Ministry of the Interior and Safety, Republic of Korea

8. Sponsors

- Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea
- Incheon Metropolitan City, Republic of Korea

9. Contact information

- Ms. Ewijeong Jeong (ewijeong.jeong@un.org / 070-4230-7337)

10. References

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

United Nations General Assembly Resolution, A/RES/70/1

https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_70_1_E.pdf

United Nations, Youth Programme on Youth

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/>

United Nations, 2018 World Youth Report

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2018/12/WorldYouthReport-2030Agenda.pdf>

United Nations, SDG Accelerator and Bottleneck Assessment,

https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/SDGs/English/SDG_Accelerator_and_Bottleneck_Assessment_Tool.pdf

United Nations Sustainable Development Group

<https://undg.org/2030-agenda/sdg-acceleration-toolkit/>