



Summit of the Future Action Days Side Event

The Future of Multilateralism: Empowering Youth & Building Resilience

Date: Friday, 20th September

Time: 16:45-18:00 EST

Venue: UN HQ - CR3

Organized by:

[Major Group for Children and Youth \(MGCY\)](#), [Sendai Stakeholders Engagement Mechanism \(SEM\)](#), [European Union \(EU\) Delegation to the UN](#), [Permanent Mission of Kenya to UN](#), [Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the UN](#), [World Vision International](#), [UN Office on Disaster Risk Reduction \(UNDRR\)](#), Women and Gender Stakeholder Group, [Action Aid International](#), [Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction \(GNDR\)](#), [ARROW](#)

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TWO PAGE MAXIMUM

Background on the event (one paragraph)

The Sendai Framework, together with other key global frameworks, has made significant progress in addressing critical hazards and risks. However, inclusive and participatory governance mechanisms still need to be strengthened to ensure meaningful youth leadership and participation at global, regional, and national levels. Youth must be included in the monitoring and implementation of policies that address risks and build resilience at all stages. During the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework, stakeholders emphasized that improving political and economic support, reducing knowledge gaps, and fostering collective action are essential to progress on Disaster Risk Reduction. By addressing these areas, multilateral efforts can be enhanced, to ensure a more robust and adaptive governance architecture that effectively mitigates risks and builds resilience for all. In all these steps, the meaningful engagement and participation of youth is essential. The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)

Programme of Action underscores the importance of investing in young people to drive sustainable development and build resilient societies, with a focus on gender equality, inclusion, and partnerships. This was reaffirmed at the Global Youth Dialogue on ICPD30 in Cotonou, where young leaders emphasized the vital role of youth, particularly young women peacebuilders, humanitarians, and climate activists, in promoting peace and tackling urgent issues like the climate crisis, migration, and the need for inclusive humanitarian efforts.

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

1. How young people can actively participate in and influence multilateral processes and decision-making.
2. What is working and what is not in terms of youth participation in global policy.
3. The barriers and opportunities to youth engagement in global policy-making on risk and resilience.
4. How youth and stakeholders can help drive forward the implementation of the Pact for the Future.
5. Strategies to encourage collaboration between youth, governments, and organizations to achieve sustainable development goals.
6. Reinvigorating trust in multilateralism through youth-led engagement.
7. Propose actions to serve as guidance to ensure youth voices are at the forefront of building a resilient and inclusive global future.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

Youth is not just a stage of life; it is a symbol of potential. The United Nations defines ‘youth’ as those between the ages of 15 and 24. However, youth extends beyond a specific age range—it encompasses the mindset of innovation, courage, and the spirit of change. **We, the youth, are at the intersection of the present and the future.** Our energy, creativity, and adaptability make us uniquely equipped to address the pressing global challenges of our time.

In **Chapter 4** of the Pact for the Future, young people are recognized as agents of transformation. This acknowledgment is not just symbolic; **it’s a call to action.** To advance the implementation of the Pact, the youth must be fully integrated into decision-making, policy development, and advocacy. We must move from tokenism to true representation, **where our voices are heard, valued, and acted upon.**

Increased Political Inclusion

Youth must be integrated into formal political processes, not only as participants but as decision-makers. This includes expanding youth seats in parliaments, creating youth advisory boards in government institutions, and ensuring that young leaders are part of global summits like this one. When young people are included, policies become more inclusive, sustainable, and forward-thinking.

Capacity Building and Education

Governments and organizations must prioritize the **education and training** of young

people, equipping them with the skills necessary to lead. This includes both formal education and non-formal opportunities like leadership programs, mentorship, and capacity-building initiatives. The **Pact for the Future** highlights the importance of investing in the youth as custodians of future generations, and this can only happen if we empower them with knowledge, tools, and opportunities.

Partnerships Across Sectors

To drive political support for the Pact and the 2030 Agenda, youth engagement cannot happen in isolation. We must foster **multi-stakeholder partnerships** between governments, private sector, civil society, and youth organizations. These collaborations will help ensure that policies are co-created with the input of young people, making them more sustainable and aligned with our aspirations for the future.

Youth as Advocates for Accountability:

The youth are often at the forefront of holding leaders and institutions accountable. Through grassroots movements, social media advocacy, and youth-led organizations, we have shown our ability to mobilize and demand change. Our generation is not afraid to challenge the status quo, and this makes us powerful allies in ensuring that the commitments made in the Pact and the 2030 Agenda are realized. We must continue to leverage our platforms to amplify the call for **sustainable development, climate action, and social justice**.

Youth as Innovators:

Technology, creativity, and innovation are the currencies of our generation. We are digital natives, and our ability to develop and deploy solutions to complex problems is unparalleled. From social enterprises to green startups, young innovators are already driving progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Governments and stakeholders must invest in youth innovation ecosystems, providing the necessary resources to scale impactful projects that directly align with the Pact's goals.

Youth as Peacebuilders:

We live in an era where conflict, inequality, and displacement affect millions worldwide. The Pact for the Future emphasizes the importance of peace and security for all, and youth must be at the forefront of these efforts. Young people are already involved in **peacebuilding** initiatives in conflict-prone regions. As we strive to meet SDG 16—peace, justice, and strong institutions—our role as peace advocates and community builders cannot be ignored.

Webpage to find more information:

[‘The Future of Multilateralism: Empowering Youth & Building Resilience.’ - SOTF Youth Side-Event — Major Group for Children and Youth \(unmgcy.org\)](https://www.unmgcy.org/en/2023/09/14/the-future-of-multilateralism-empowering-youth-building-resilience-sotf-youth-side-event-major-group-for-children-and-youth)