



Summit of the Future Action Days Side Event

“Your Voice, Your Future” International Youth Summit

[Friday 20th September, 9am-12pm ET, Virtual]

Organized by:

International Baccalaureate (Festival of Hope)

United Nations International School, New York

Background on the event (one paragraph):

The Your Voice, Your Future International Youth Virtual Summit hosted by the IB Festival of Hope and United Nations International School summit on September 20th took place from 9am-12pm EST and was led by UNIS students. It was attended by over 700 schools and 5000 youth from across the globe. They connected around their shared interests for a better world, listened and engaged with inspiring youth speakers on the mainstage, in a global lounge with six youth leaders from across the globe and worked together across 20 breakout workshop sessions to draft recommendations for youth action. The purpose of this virtual summit is to encourage dialogue around meaningful youth engagement topics. In particular, through the lens of SDG 4, this Youth Summit brings young voices to the table in conversations shaping global education policies and issues including climate change, peace initiatives, and overall sustainability practices.

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points):

- How do you define "meaningful youth engagement," and what criteria should be used to assess whether youth participation in decision-making is truly impactful?
- What mechanisms can be put in place to ensure that youth participation in policymaking is not merely symbolic but results in tangible outcomes that reflect young people's priorities and concerns?
- What role should the United Nations and other international organizations play in creating opportunities for youth engagement and ensuring these opportunities lead to concrete actions and changes?
- What past examples of youth engagement have you seen and can serve as models or lessons, and how can these inform current efforts to involve young people in global decision-making?

- What steps can be taken to build trust between youth and decision-makers to ensure a reciprocal relationship where youth input is valued and acted upon?
- How can you position yourselves as knowledgeable and credible contributors?
- What allies can you engage to help amplify your message?
- How can you effectively use media, technology, or storytelling to make your policy recommendations more compelling?

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points):

This summit was entirely created and led by UNIS students. Following a series of interactive programming, guest speakers, and collaboration, we aim to work over the next few months to use the insights from our virtual summit to implement several actions:

- We are developing a report based on inspiring stories of youth participants being leaders in their own communities crowdsourced from the 5000 youth who attended our summit.
- The organizers will draft a proposal centered on youth engagement and pledge to take ACTION(s) for the Pact of the Future including Social Media campaigning through a variety of channels. Our youth attendees will present summit highlights at their respective schools, proactively sharing real-time updates of tangible actions taken within their communities.
- Follow the virtual engagement with in-person presentations to the UN and educational stakeholders in the coming months.

Webpage to find more information:

- Zoom Events page: [International Youth Summit: 9 am-12 pm EDT \(zoom.us\)](#)
- Policy Insights - Meaningful Youth Engagement: Time to Deliver (p84/5) - <https://resources.norrag.org/resource/view/895/475>
- IB Festival of Hope: <https://ibo.org/festival-of-hope/>