



Summit of the Future Action Days Side Event

Elevating Youth Voices: Shaping Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future

20 September, 2024, 09:00 – 11:00am ET, Online

Organized by: the Principles of Responsible Management Education ([PRME](#)) and the Higher Education for Good Foundation ([HE4G](#))

Background on the event (one paragraph)

To capitalize on the important occasion of the Summit of the Future, the Principles of Responsible Management Education (PRME) together with the Higher Education for Good Foundation (HE4G) held a side-event entitled “Elevating Youth Voices: Shaping Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future” to present a preliminary analyses of HE4G’s Youth Talks data, providing insights on the sustainability mindsets of youth, the values youth deem important for future careers, and how technology can impact their mental health and well-being. The insights are useful for educators, policy-makers, UN officials, the private sector, and more focused on transforming higher education to develop responsible leaders.

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- **Focus on Youth Leadership:** A central theme was empowering youth to take leadership roles in shaping a sustainable future. The session underscored the need for youth to have an active voice in global discussions, specifically on sustainable development.
- **Youth Talks Initiative:** The event featured HE4G’s ["Youth Talks"](#) initiative, which was a consultation of over 45,000 youth to answer open-ended questions. The consultation highlights crucial understanding of youth perspectives on leadership, sustainability, and future opportunities.
- **Data-Driven Insights:** A key part of the discussion involved presentations by researchers from the PRME community who used the Youth Talks data to provide insights on how educational programs and sustainability initiatives can respond to the needs and demands

of youth. This research-driven approach ensures that youth voices are backed by evidence and can lead to tangible outcomes.

- **PRME's Global Impact:** PRME's role in leading research and facilitating partnerships across its global network of signatories was highlighted. This reinforces its commitment to reshaping management education for sustainable development.
- **Call for Institutional Accountability:** The webinar stressed the importance of higher education institutions regularly reporting on their progress toward the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring transparency and commitment to real change.
- **Partnerships and Regional Action:** There was a strong focus on the need for global and regional collaborations, with PRME encouraging institutions to work together on solutions that address specific regional challenges, especially in the context of sustainability education.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- **Create Dedicated Platforms for Youth Leadership:** Establish spaces within institutions and global forums where youth can lead conversations, propose solutions, and take ownership of initiatives aimed at addressing sustainable development challenges.
- **Integrate Sustainability into Education Curricula:** Revolutionize educational models to ensure sustainability is at the core of all academic programs, preparing students with the knowledge and skills to drive systemic change.
- **Strengthen Global and Regional Partnerships:** Actively collaborate with global institutions, businesses, and academic networks to scale up efforts in aligning educational practices with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Launch Youth-Led Action Plans:** Encourage and support youth in developing and executing actionable projects at local, national, and international levels that directly contribute to sustainable development.
- **Promote Accountability and Transparency in Higher Education:** Encourage institutions to regularly report on their progress toward sustainability goals, creating a culture of accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement.
- **Foster Inclusive and Equal Representation:** Ensure that youth from diverse backgrounds, particularly from underrepresented and global south regions, have equitable opportunities to contribute to discussions and lead change initiatives.

Webpage to find more information:

<https://www.unprme.org/news/prme-elevates-youth-voices-at-the-un-summit-of-the-future/>