



REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

13 – 14 MARCH 2024 | HYBRID EVENT | GENEVA & ONLINE

SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

Event title

Advancing the six transitions: What role for young people?

Background and Rationale

The 2023 SDG Progress Report has clearly shown our efforts to address global challenges and achieve a better and more sustainable future for all by 2030 very weak, insufficient; stalled or gone into reverse. Key findings in relation to young people include higher unemployment, low connectivity, limited digital skills, to climate change education not kept up with youth demand, youth not prepared for a greener future, and limited participation in decision-making.

In response, the Secretary-General of the United Nations has called for a “Rescue Plan for People and Planet” for ambitious actions and shifts to jump-start progress through strengthened multilateral cooperation and support for the United Nations development system.

The six transitions proposed are linked to food systems, energy access and affordability, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, and climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. These are priorities with catalytic and multiplier effects to accelerate SDG progress and require the full engagement of young people.

The 2024 RFSD is taking place against the backdrop of the outcome of the halfway review of the SDGs [in 2005 heralded as “a once-in-a-generation opportunity to take bold decisions”], but also looking forward to the “Summit of the Future” [also “a once-in-a-generation opportunity and a moment to mend eroded trust and effectively tackle current challenges] to forge a new international consensus to deliver better for present and safeguard the future.

Therefore, this side event will bring together UN agencies, policy makers and practitioners to discuss and showcase, how to cooperate better to deliver on the above aspiration and goals by placing young people at the center of the agenda, and explore how to meet the needs of young people through the six transitions while also preparing for the challenges of the future? How to build trust and accountability with young people on commitments made in the past to promote the right of young people and future generations to a healthy environment, and their meaningful participation in decision-making at all levels? How to use the energy, passion, creativity, and dedication of young people to bring about impactful solutions to accelerate the SDGs by empowering young people.

Session objectives and expected outcomes

Please outline what the objective and the expected outcomes of the side events are and whether the results of the latter serve as an input for another event (max. 200 words).

The side event is aimed at fostering collaboration among UN agencies, policymakers, and practitioners to explore how to better cooperate and engage with young people to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs and safeguarding the future by placing young people at the center of the agenda.



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It is expected to give practical steps needed to build trust and accountability with young people on commitments made in the past to promote the right of young people and future generations to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, as well as meaningful ways to use the energy, passion, creativity, and dedication of young people to bring about impactful solutions to accelerate the SDGs by empowering young people.

Organizers

Lead organizers: UNEP, UNESCO, UNECE, and Geneva Environment Network (GEN).

Contributors: Members of IBC-Adolescent, Government of Cyprus, and Youth, Youth Environment Europe (YEE)

Agenda and Structure

How does education for sustainable development (ESD) empower young people to change the way they see, think, and work towards a sustainable future? How can organizations integrate ESD programmes and perspectives into inter-generational dialogues, community planning, and decision-making processes?

What strategies can be employed to build trust and accountability with young people regarding commitments made in the past to promote their rights and meaningful participation in decision-making processes?

How do the six transitions specifically address the challenges faced by young people, such as unemployment, limited digital skills, and limited participation in decision-making processes related to climate action and climate justice?

How will the success of these efforts be measured and evaluated over time, and what mechanisms are in place to adapt and adjust strategies as needed? Do we need youth performance review like the UNECE Environment Performance Reviews?

What lessons can be learned from past experiences and halfway reviews of the SDGs to inform future strategies and decision-making processes aimed at achieving the SDGs by 2030?

What tools would you recommend to further empower and mobilize youth for addressing the six transitions?

If you could modify or add a new dimension to sustainable development to better address the six transitions, which would it be?

List of Panellists

Eimear Manning, National Youth Council of Ireland;

Andrianos Charalambous, Secretary General of Cyprus Young Greens;

Emma Pagliaruso, Youth and Environment Europe;

Aurora Audino Climate and Youth Advocate;

katja Cic, Youth Health Organization & WHO Europe Youth4Health network

Leyla Hasanova, Youth Climate Champion for COP29

Simon Herteleer, UNECE ESD Youth Network

Aravella Zachariou, Chair, UNECE ESD Steering Committee

Moderator: Wondwosen (Wondy) Asnake KIBRET -UNEP

Sign-up / Registration Link

<https://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/events/advancing-the-six-transitions-what-role-for-young-people/>