



Sandwiches and light drinks will be served at 13.00



Adolescents and Youth as partners to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

1st March 2018

13:15 – 14:30

International Conference Centre of Geneva (ICCG), room: 3

Note about the event:

This side-event will be organised by the UN SDG Action Campaign in cooperation with the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, the European Youth Forum, several UN Youth Delegates and the Regional UN Issue Based Coalition on Adolescents and Youth. It will discuss and share best practises on how Member States can work together with adolescents and youth as partners on the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and in specific in the process of drafting Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), and in their delegations to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

Background:

Each year, Ministers from all over the world gather in July at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to review the progress made in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals at the High Level Political Forum. In 2017, the number of Member States reporting on their progress substantially increased to 43. While several Member States mentioned youth and adolescents as important stakeholders in their official implementation and monitoring processes of the SDGs at the national level, as well as in the presentations of the national voluntary reports, many countries are yet to take this step. The objective of this side-event is therefore two-fold:

Objectives:

1. To provide a platform for young advocates who have led their own monitoring and accountability processes inside and outside of formal Government structures, where they can showcase their recommendations for Governments to further increase youth engagement in the SDGs including within the Voluntary National Review process.
2. Champion Governments and the processes they have used to meaningfully engage young people in the SDGs, and within their Voluntary National Review process, sharing best practices and key learnings.

Expected outcome:

Given the high interest among Member States to include youth and citizens in their SDG implementation strategies, the UN SDG Action Campaign, the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, Regional UN Issue Based Coalition on Adolescents and Youth, and the European Youth Forum expect the event to boost the inclusion of youth and adolescents in implementation



and monitoring of the SDGs, including the drafting of VNRs to the HLPF. Concretely, the event will inform governments on best practises and strategies that can be utilized to ensure that youth and citizen voices are represented.

Participants:

Member States, International Organisations, UN system, UN Youth Delegates, NGOs & Civil Society

Programme: *The event will be moderated by Henrietta Flodell (Swedish UN Youth Delegate) and Dejan Bojanic (Vice-President European Youth Forum)*

OPENING

13.00 - 13.15

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13:15 – 13:20

Opening remarks by the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth ([via video](#)) set the stage→ emphasizing the importance of including youth, citizen voices

13:20 – 13:25

UN system supporting young people to engage in SDG implementation, review and reporting at regional and global level Alanna Armitage, UNFPA Regional Director, and Afshan Khan, UNICEF Regional Director - both are Co-Chairs of the Regional UN Inter-Agency Coalition on Adolescents and Youth

13:25 – 13:35

Country in Focus

Joined contribution from Franc Matjaž Zupančič (State Secretary, Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy of the Republic of Slovenia) and Sabina Carli (Slovenian UN Youth Delegate)

13:35 – 13:45

Digital Innovations:

Ukrainian U-Reporters speak up and shape policies to achieve the SDGs. Richard Herts, young U-Report Activist from Ukraine (with real time demonstration)

13:45 – 14:25

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

The main interactive discussion questions are:

- What are good practices for Governments and international institutions to further increase youth participation in the follow-up and review of SDG implementation including within the Voluntary National Review process?
- What are good practices for youth activists and youth organisations to hold governments accountable in SDG implementation including within the Voluntary National Review process?

Panelists:

- Sabina Carli (Slovenian UN Youth Delegate)
- Alanna Armitage (UNFPA Regional Director)
- Richard Herts, U-Report activist from Ukraine
- Afshan Khan (UNICEF Regional Director)

14:25 – 14:30

CLOSING

Summarizes event, call to action and closing