



# HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



## Major Group for **Children and Youth** the space for children and youth in the United Nations

Meaningful youth participation at the UN  
Thursday 8 July, 7:30-9:00 AM EDT (11:30-13:00 GMT)  
High-level Political Forum 2021 Side Event

Zoom link:

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYldO2grT0rG9WE893LbqgFoaBv07\\_hRrkG](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYldO2grT0rG9WE893LbqgFoaBv07_hRrkG)



### **Context:**

Young people have the attention of history at the moment. Youth engagement is one of the twelve priorities of Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda. Member States and UN agencies are interested in engaging youth. No one wants tokenism. Young people seem to be everywhere. So why are young people still so frustrated? What is missing? Why do young people still not have a voice and agency? Join us to learn evidence-based, step-by-step, specific actions Member States and UN agencies can take to be a friend of meaningful youth participation.

### **Objectives:**

- Explore why young people still do not have a voice and agency despite the increased attention on young people.

- Listen to young people on evidence-based, step-by-step, specific actions Member States and UN agencies can take to give a voice and agency to young people.

#### **Expected Outcomes:**

- Publication of a summary report of what was presented and circulated among Member States and UN agencies.

#### **Outline of event:**

##### **7:30 - 7:35 Introduction & Meeting Outline (5 minutes)**

- **Moderator: Steve S.J. Lee** Organizing Partner, Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY)

##### **7:35 - 8:30 Solutions Proposals/Presentations (5 minutes each)**

1. Aish Machani, Next Generation Fellow, UN Foundation.  
Presenting: [Our Common Agenda](#)
2. Dragica Mikavica, Senior Advocacy Adviser, Save the Children UN Advocacy Office in New York  
Presenting: [Paper on Ensuring Children's Inclusion in the High-Level Political Forum: Participation and agency to achieve the SDGs](#)
3. Steering Committee of the Children and Youth Major Group of UNEP
4. Anja Fortuna, Vice-President, European Youth Forum
5. OSGEY
6. UN Youth Delegate
7. Lucha Sotomayor, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children
8. Nina Jacobs, SDG7 Youth Constituency  
Presenting: [White Paper on Meaningful Youth Engagement in the Intergovernmental Energy Space](#)
9. ICMYO org
10. UN Youth Delegate
11. Mandated constituency

##### **8:30 - 8:55 Open Discussion with Audience (25 minutes)**

(Send targeted invitations to Member States and UN Agencies to provide responses here. If we get them, they go first and then we start taking questions from the audience.)

#### **Guiding Questions**

- We're sure this is not the first time you're hearing about these ideas for a more meaningful youth engagement. What are the barriers that

you faced in the past that prevented you from undertaking these ideas or if you did, why did it not work out?

- Is this something each Member State or UN agencies can act one-by-one or is system-wide strategy and action imperative? Either way, what would those actions look like?

**8:55 - 9:00 Conclusion and Next Steps (5 minutes)**