HLPF 2016 Side Event - Young people powering the SDGs

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) co-organized with the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth (OSGEY), on behalf of the Inter-agency Network on Youth and the SDGs (co-chaired by UNDP and OSGEY), in collaboration with the UN Major Group for Children and Youth (UN MGCY) and the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations, an event titled "Young people powering the SDGs", on 18 July 2016, at the UN.

This multi-stakeholder event, en marge of the first UN High-level political forum on sustainable development, was co-chaired by Sarah Poole, Deputy Director of UNDP Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, and Ahmad Alhendawi, UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. In the first segment, global avenues for young people's involvement in the SDG follow-up and review were explored, with UN MGCY (Annisa Triyanti, Indonesia), the Netherlands (Max van Deursen, official Dutch youth delegate) and Restless Development (Rosanne White, Head of Policy and Practice); the second segment focused on the role of young people as early starters at the national and local levels, with a mix of representatives from government at national and local levels (Morten Jespersen, Under-Secretary for Global Development and Cooperation, Denmark, and Maria Fernanda Olvera, Director of the Youth Institute, Mexico City) and young leaders from civil society (Richard Dzikunu, Youth Accountability Advocate, Ghana, and Kornelija Maceviviute, Vice-President of the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations, Lithuania).

This platform provided an excellent opportunity to showcase examples of how young people, their organizations and movements, are already making significant gains and ensuring that nobody is left behind. The centrality of Goal 16 was highlighted, reaffirming the need to place young people at the very heart of development policies and programmes to build inclusive and resilient societies and sustain peace.

More information: youth@undp.org and #youth2030