

Future Makers: Youth Engagement and Youth Voluntary Reviews for Systemic Change

Organized by Italy with the co-organization of the Kingdom of Tonga and the European Youth Forum

14 July, from 13:15 to 14:30, CR11 – UN Head Quarters

[Registration form](#)

CONCEPT NOTE

The side event will present experiences from partners, European entities and the UN Youth Office in promoting meaningful youth engagement, in line with the Summit of the Future and the Declaration on Future Generations. Youth representatives will be at the centre, sharing experiences and outlining expectations for strengthened participatory pathways towards a collective and inclusive implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Italy will illustrate its first Youth Voluntary Review alongside its VNR. Coordinated by the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security, in partnership with the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and the Ministry of Education and Merit (MIM), the YVR is a governance process, involving over 1000 young people and engaging institutions, civil society, youth networks, and international partners.

The Kingdom of Tonga will present its experience in engaging youth through national consultations and community-based initiatives, particularly on climate resilience and sustainable development, strengthening youth participation in policymaking. In the leading up to UNFCCC COP 31 hosted also in the Pacific Region, partnering with youth becomes essential.

Italy will also showcase national initiatives to foster youth participation, such as the “Scuola Futura” travelling campus and the NextGen 2030 process guided by MIM, as well as territorial initiatives such as the AGORÀ role-playing approach for policymaking implemented in the Umbria Region.

The European Youth Forum has developed key tools such as the Youth Test assessing the impact of policies on young people and the Youth Progress Index measuring young people’s well-being by using across “beyond GDP” indicators, enabling institutions to evaluate policy impacts over time and better integrate intergenerational fairness into decision-making.

International organizations and multi-stakeholder platforms, including the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the UN Global Compact Italy, will contribute their perspectives on advancing youth engagement within global governance frameworks and across public-private partnerships.

Through examples and youth testimonies, the discussion will explore how youth participation can generate concrete policy outcomes and reflect on the role that Youth Voluntary Reviews can play in strengthening youth engagement processes.

Objectives of the Side Event

1. Showcase practices enhancing youth engagement within the HLPF framework and 2030 Agenda implementation
2. Showcase the contribution of European and international partners, including the European Youth Forum and UN Youth Office.
3. Give space to young participants to share their experiences, challenges, and recommendations.

Guiding Questions

- How can youth participation processes be designed to be both inclusive and impactful?
- What tools can help assess the generational impact of public policies?
- How can education systems contribute to meaningful youth engagement in 2030 Agenda monitoring and implementation?
- What role should Youth Voluntary Reviews play in the future architecture of the HLPF?

Draft agenda

10 min	OPENING High-Level Opening Remarks
10 min	Setting the scene <i>The international landscape and key global strategies for youth engagement, with a focus on priorities and approaches adopted by international organizations.</i>
15 min	PANEL 1: Practices and tools for youth engagement <i>Session dedicated to sharing concrete practices and experiences, presenting operational tools and methodologies to promote active youth participation in decision-making processes and public policies.</i>
30 min	PANEL 2: Youth Voices <i>Session centred on direct youth contributions, featuring testimonies and experiences that demonstrate the value of youth participation in shaping proposals and initiatives for sustainable development.</i>
10 min	Q&A and Closing - Interactive discussion with participants and closing