

UNIS-UN 2026
50th Annual UNIS-UN Conference
Concept Note

Event Title: *"The Price of Progress: Rethinking the Next 50 Years of Global Economics"*

Date: 17 and 18 March 2026 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
United Nations Headquarters, General Assembly Hall

Context:

The UNIS-UN Conference was founded in 1976 by Ms. Sylvia Gordon, a visionary UNIS teacher. Ms. Gordon's dream was to create an event that would draw attention to the world's most pertinent issues while embodying the values of education and cross-cultural understanding shared by UNIS and the United Nations. Five decades later, her vision endures. UNIS-UN has grown into the largest student-run conference held in the United Nations General Assembly Hall, welcoming more than 600 students each year from six continents.

Objectives:

- Address how economic systems evolve in a rapidly changing world.
- Explore how nations grapple with technological innovation, shifting labor markets, and the growing tension between economic growth and sustainability.
- Provide an opportunity for reflection on how the global economy can adapt to serve future generations. To Discuss and debate, the forces shaping prosperity, inequality, and cooperation in the decades ahead.

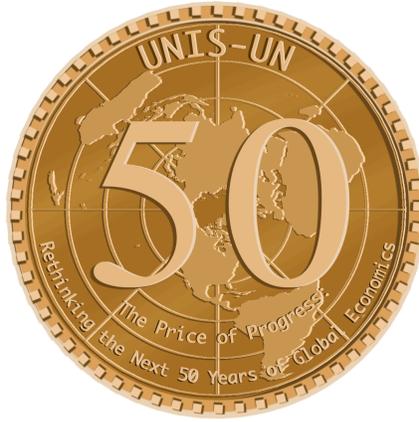
Location: United Nations Headquarters, General Assembly Hall

Event Format:

Student-Led two day programme includes student address, expert speakers, two student debates, student presentations, panel discussion and interactive sessions modeled on the work of the Economic Council. See programme below:

Total Capacity: 630 students and 150 adult chaperones

Target Audience: High School students ages 14 to 18 from local, domestic and international schools



Tuesday, 17 March 2026
United Nations General Assembly Hall

09:55 - 10:00 Security Announcement

10:00 - 10:05 Hahnah Hochman and Ulysse Rombaux Pérez, UNIS-UN Co-Chair Welcome

10:05 - 10:10 Dr. Dan Brenner, UNIS Executive Director, Opening Remarks

10:10 - 10:20 UNIS-UN Co-Chairs, Conference Overview

10:20 - 11:00 Dominique Bichara, Director of Corporate Affairs and Administration in the
Corporate Secretariat of the World Bank Group

11:00 - 11:20 Jade Cui and Konatsu Kashiwal, International School of the Sacred Heart, Making
CENTS of Change Student Presentation

11:20 - 12:10 Economic Council Simulation Project

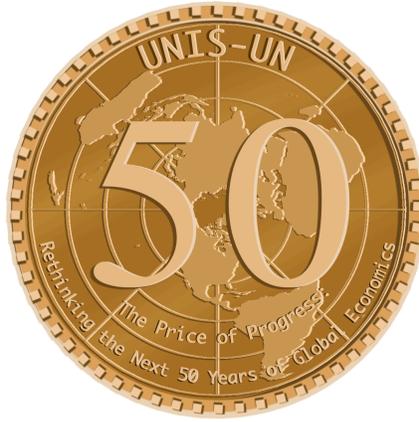
12:10 - 13:50 Lunch

14:00 - 14:40 ASG Marcos Athias Neto, Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Policy
and Programme Services of the UNDP

14:40 - 15:25 Student Debate: *Adopting green technologies will result in stronger economic
growth than pursuing conventional industrialization.*

15:25 - 15:55 Etsub Kassie, UNIS '23, Harvard University '27

15:55 - 16:00 UNIS-UN Co-Chairs, Day 1 Closing Remarks



Wednesday, 18 March 2026
United Nations General Assembly Hall

09:55 - 10:00 Security Announcement

10:00 - 10:05 Hahnah Hochman and Ulysse Rombaux Pérez, UNIS-UN Co-Chair Welcome

10:05 - 10:50 David Firestein, CEO of the George H. W. Bush Foundation for US-China Relations

10:50 - 11:10 Matteo Dourlen and Tiphaine Ungari, Lycée International de Londres, Making CENTS of Change Student Presentation

11:10 - 11:40 Perspectives in Practice: Engagement Activity

11:40 - 12:00 Scarlett Nicholl, UNIS '26, Making CENTS of Change Student Presentation

12:00 - 12:05 UNIS-UN Documentary Trailer

12:05 - 13:40 Lunch

13:45 - 14:45 Student-Moderated Stakeholder Panel

- ❖ H.E. Mr. Fergal Mythen, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations
- ❖ Rebecca Riddell, Senior Policy Lead, Economic Justice, OXFAM
- ❖ Daniel Longoria, International Baccalaureate Economics Teacher, UNIS
- ❖ Ana Gibert Medina, Frederic Mistral–Técnic Eulàlia Student

14:45 - 15:05 Lorenzo Ilardi '26 and Will Blezard CGPS '28, Making CENTS of Change Student Presentation

15:05 - 15:50 Student Debate: *Digital currencies will reduce economic inequality between developing and developed nations.*

15:50 - 15:55 Economic Council Simulation Project Recognition

15:55 - 16:00 UNIS-UN Co-Chairs, Conference Closing Remarks