



Concept Note

International Youth Day 2025

Theme: *Youth Advancing Multilateral Cooperation Through Technology and Partnerships*

Date: August 8, 2025 | Time: 3:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Organized in collaboration with United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and AFS Intercultural Programs

Introduction

In today's rapidly evolving global landscape, youth are emerging as key drivers of change, harnessing the power of technology and strategic partnerships to address pressing international challenges. By 2030, the youth population is projected to comprise 57 percent of the global demographic, underscoring the urgent need to empower young people with meaningful roles in decision-making and global governance. This demographic shift positions youth not only as beneficiaries of multilateral policies but as essential partners in shaping them. The theme for International Youth Day 2025, "*Youth Advancing Multilateral Cooperation Through Technology and Partnerships*," highlights the vital role young people play in redefining multilateral diplomacy. By leveraging digital tools and fostering cross-sector collaborations, youth are not only amplifying their voices but also facilitating inclusive, impactful dialogue across nations, cultures, and institutions.

Digital platforms empower young people to transcend national boundaries, enabling real-time collaboration on global challenges such as climate change, health crises, and economic disparity. Through initiatives like virtual hackathons, open-source development, and cross-border social media campaigns, youth are not only raising awareness but also co-creating innovative solutions with youth across continents. Their digital fluency allows them to participate in global dialogues previously limited to diplomats and policymakers, positioning them as active stakeholders in shaping multilateral agendas. Youth-run digital platforms are being used to mediate conflict and promote intercultural understanding in regions of unrest. By embedding technology into the fabric of multilateral cooperation, and by forming dynamic alliances across sectors, the youth are not just participants, they are architects of a more collaborative and innovative global order.



This year's observance, organized in collaboration with UNITAR and AFS Intercultural Programs, provides a dynamic platform for young leaders, policymakers, diplomats, innovators, and civil society actors to engage in meaningful conversations on how technology and partnerships can strengthen global cooperation. Open to all through public registration, the event will encourage diverse participation, ensuring that voices from various backgrounds contribute to shaping a more connected and collaborative world.

Objectives

1. Highlight and empower the role of youth as active participants and leaders in international decision-making processes.
2. Explore how digital innovation enables youth to transcend geographical boundaries and foster effective diplomatic relations.
3. Encourage collaboration between youth, governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector to address global challenges.
4. Create a space where diverse perspectives are shared, promoting equity, mutual understanding, and cooperative action.
5. Motivate participants to develop initiatives and partnerships that continue beyond the event, contributing to long-term global cooperation.

Expected Outcomes

1. Enhanced understanding of how youth-led technological initiatives and partnerships can influence multilateral diplomacy.
2. New connections formed among youth, institutions, and stakeholders, fostering future joint efforts.
3. Encouragement of young participants to take active roles in diplomatic and global governance spaces.
4. Compilation of key discussion points and recommendations to be shared with relevant organizations and participants for continued engagement.

SPEAKERS

- 3:30 - 3:35 pm - Welcome: **Yumna Khan**, Director of the Youth Assembly and Strategic Youth Initiatives, AFS
- 3:35 - 3:40 pm - Introduction: **Daniel Obst**, President and CEO, AFS
- 3:40 - 3:50 - Remarks: **H.E. Mr. Philemon Yang**, President of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (pending)



- 3:50 - 3:55 pm - Remarks: **Mr. Felipe Paullier**, Assistant Secretary General for Youth Affairs, UN Youth Office (video)
- 3:55 - 4:05 pm - Remarks: **Permanent Mission of Malta to the UN**
- 4:05 - 4:15 pm - Remarks: **Mr. Samim Hamidy, UNITAR**
- 4:15 - 4:25 pm - **Mr. Eliot Minchenberg**, Director, New York Office & Representative to the United Nations, UNESCO (invited)
- 4:25 - 4:30 pm - Youth Remarks: **Ms. Daphne Frias**, Youth Advocate, Box The Ballot, Forbes 30 under 30
- 4:30 - 4:35 pm - Remarks: **Ms. Azza Karam**, Founding President and CEO of Lead-Integrity
- 4:35 - 4:45 pm - Remarks: **Ms. Jennie Magiera**, Global Head of Education Impact at Google

YOUTH PANEL SPEAKERS 4:45 - 5:55 pm

- Moderator: **Ali Mustafa**, AFS Intercultural Programs
- **Daphne Frias**, Youth Advocate, Box The Ballot, Forbes 30 under 30
- **Shah Chowdhury**, Co-Founder and President, Footsteps Bangladesh
- **Ilan Enverga**, Youth Representative on the UNESCO SDG4 High-Level Steering Committee and Founder & CEO of Global Changemaker Schools
- **Dana Al Anzy**, Qatar Youth Ambassador, AFS International Board of Trustees Member
- **Yugratna Shirawastwa**, Co-Chair Major Group of Children and Youth