

2026 High-Level Political Forum Official Side Event

Powering Participation: Youth2030 and the Pact in Action

Tuesday, 14 July 2026 | 1:15–2:30 p.m. | Conference Room 2

I. Background

A rapidly changing global context, marked by inequality, conflict, climate pressures, shrinking civic space and technological change, is increasing pressure on governments and institutions to act on sustainable development. Young people aged 15–35, 2.6 billion strong and making up over one third of the global population, are central to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. They are mobilizing, advocating, innovating and leading initiatives on sustainable development, human rights, peace and security and humanitarian action. In many contexts, however, they still face barriers to meaningful engagement in shaping the policies and decisions that affect their lives.

Youth2030, the United Nations Youth Strategy launched in 2018, provides a common framework for the UN system to work with and for young people. Its second phase (2025–2030) places young people at the centre of SDG acceleration efforts and strengthens how the UN system supports national governments and partners to implement the commitments of the Pact for the Future and achieve the 2030 Goals. It also places strong emphasis on transforming the UN itself, so that the Organization is better equipped, more responsive and more relevant to the realities and priorities of young people today and in the future.

The upcoming High-Level Political Forum, under the theme “**Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for a sustainable future for all**”, offers a key moment to take stock of global efforts to accelerate SDG implementation, including through stronger partnerships and innovation. It provides a platform for governments, young people, the UN system and other stakeholders to review progress, share practices and consider what more is needed with less than five years to 2030.

In this context, **Powering Participation: Youth2030 and the Pact in Action** will bring together Member States, youth-led organizations and UN entities to launch the Youth2030 Phase 2 Progress Report (2026), showcase youth-driven approaches to SDG implementation and Pact commitments, and explore practical ways to deepen meaningful youth participation in policymaking and decision-making at all levels.

II. Event focus

Convened by the UN Youth Office with Member States and youth networks, the HLPF side event *Powering Participation: Youth2030 and the Pact in Action* will serve as both an accountability space and a forward-looking dialogue. It will present key findings from the first Youth2030 Phase 2 Progress Report, showcase examples of youth leadership in SDG acceleration and Pact implementation, and generate exchange on what more is needed from the UN system, Member States and partners to enable meaningful youth participation in practice.

III. Objectives

The event aims to:

1. Launch the **2026 Youth2030 Phase 2 Progress Report** and highlight key findings on progress, gaps and critical priorities.
2. Showcase practical examples of youth leadership and meaningful youth participation in SDG acceleration and implementation of the Pact for the Future.
3. Strengthen dialogue and partnerships among Member States, the UN system and youth stakeholders on actions needed to advance youth leadership and meaningful participation in SDG acceleration.

IV. Participants

The event will bring together:

- Government representatives, including delegations participating in voluntary national reviews and Permanent Missions
- Young leaders and representatives of youth networks
- Representatives of the United Nations system
- Development partners and other relevant stakeholders

V. Format

The event will be held in person in an interactive, intergenerational dialogue format. It will also be live streamed on UN Web TV.

VI. Expected outcomes

- Increased awareness among Member States, youth and partners of the role of Youth2030 and progress, gaps and priorities in Phase 2.
- Greater visibility of youth-led and youth-inclusive approaches to SDG acceleration and delivery on the commitments of the Pact for the Future.
- Clearer actions and partnership opportunities for governments, the UN system and youth to strengthen youth leadership and meaningful participation in SDG implementation.

VII. Draft agenda

Time	Agenda
5 min	Opening segment
	Youth2030 video
	Welcome remarks
10 min	Segment 1: Launch of the Youth2030 Phase 2 Progress Report (2026)
	Youth2030 Progress: Key findings, gaps and priorities Format: Presentation
25 min	Segment 2: Youth-led initiatives driving SDG acceleration
	Spotlights on youth-led initiatives: Young leaders, Member States, UN Representatives Format: Interactive intergenerational dialogue / Short interventions
5 min	Artistic segment: Poem by a SDG young leader
25 min	Segment 3: Strengthening meaningful youth participation at the national level
	Examples from the field, including VNRs: Member States, Young leaders Format: Interactive intergenerational dialogue / Short interventions
5 min	Closing segment
	Key reflections and closing