



Department of Economic and Social Affairs

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

2024 YOUTH DIGITAL SOLUTIONS

International Youth Day 2024

Future Forward: Youth Leading the Change on Digitalization for Sustainable Development



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FUTURE FORWARD

Youth Leading the Change on Digitalization for Sustainable Development



Aug 12, 2024 | 10:00-17:30 (EAT) | Nairobi, Kenya, and online | #YouthDay #DigitalSolutions #YouthLed

Concept Note

Date: 12th August, Monday

Time: 09:00-17:00

Location: Conference Room 4, UN Office at Nairobi, Kenya

Moderated by: Lydia Achieng, UNFPA Youth Advisory Panel Chairperson and Jonathan Oriki, UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board

Background

On 12 August 2024, the world will celebrate International Youth Day (IYD), a day dedicated to recognizing youth and addressing the opportunities and challenges they face in today's world. This year's theme, **"From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development"**, highlights the key connection between digitalization and accelerating SDG progress, emphasizing the pivotal role of young people in this transformative process, and centers on digital engagement, strategically aligned to build

momentum toward the **Summit of the Future**, where the Sustainable Development Agenda will be revisited, and the social contract between generations renegotiated.

The International Youth Day 2024 aims to:

- *Explore the instrumental role of technologies and data in accelerating efforts towards achieving SDGs, including the role of young people in advancing digital transition in urban planning and climate response actions;*
- *Showcase diverse youth-led and focused digital solutions and innovations at the global and national levels that contribute to sustainable development;*
- *Facilitate knowledge exchange among different stakeholders, such as youth, civil society, private sector (industry), academia national and county governments as well as relevant UN agencies.*

The event is a collaboration of UN Kenya including International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and UN Habitat who have come together to host this year's IYD celebrations at the UN Office at Nairobi and also virtually, connecting young people from around the world. The IYD *Future Forward* event aims to amplify the voices of youth, showcasing their local experiences within a global context. By involving diverse youth in roundtable discussions, providing opportunities to engage with experts, and documenting their local expertise in outcome documents, the event will ensure that youth perspectives are central to the dialogue.

The event's objectives:

1. Promote participation of youth in global development agenda, putting the celebrations on the occasion of the International Youth Day 2024 in perspective to the upcoming global milestone events such as Summit of the Future (SOTF), 12th Special Session of AMCEN, Urban October celebrations, World Urban Forum 12 (WUF), COP29 and UNCCD COP16;
2. Foster partnerships between youth and various stakeholders - government, civil society, expert community, private sector, UN institutions - on equal terms, emphasizing intergenerational justice;
3. Promote knowledge exchange on best practices in meaningful youth engagement in youth digital-led response to global challenges;
4. To document and showcase the transformative approach of the UN jointly working together with young people on amplifying their voices on youth engagement and sustainable development.

Programme

Time	Activity	Speakers	Description
8:30-10:00 REGISTRATION AND ARRIVALS			
10:00-10:30	Opening statements by UN representatives, co-moderated by Youth Advisors of UN-Habitat and UNFPA	<p><i>Susan Gardner</i>, Director, Ecosystems Division</p> <p><i>Dr. Stephen Jackson</i>, UN Resident Coordinator in Kenya</p> <p><i>Edlam Abera Yemeru</i>, Chief, Knowledge and Innovation Branch, UN-Habitat</p>	
10:30-13:30 THEMATIC SESSIONS			

<p>10:30-12:00</p>	<p>Thematic session I</p> <p>Empowering Youth for the Future of Work: Skills and Jobs in the Era of Digitalization</p>	<p><i>Sheilla Birgen</i>, Innovation-Driven Market (IDM) Director, Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) – (virtual)</p> <p><i>Isra Alvi</i>, Program Coordinator in Kenya, Na'amal</p> <p><i>Allan Maonga</i>, Inclusive digital skills and jobs, Next Step Foundation</p> <p><i>Bruno Otiato</i>, Head of Communications, Central Organization of Trade Union (COTU)</p> <p><i>Mumbi Ndung'u</i>, Executive Director, Power Learn Project</p> <p><i>Emman Atwa</i>, Product Manager, M-PESA Groups Platform, Safaricom</p>	<p>The session will explore the necessary skills for digitalization, the changing landscape of jobs, and the strategies to ensure that young people are prepared for the future of work. Highlight growing industries, such as AI, cybersecurity, e-commerce, and digital marketing, and discuss how youth can prepare for careers in these fields.</p>
<p>12:00-13:30</p>	<p>Thematic session II</p> <p>Youth digital pathways for environment</p>	<p><i>Irene Mwoga</i>, Regional Digital Transformation Programme Coordinator, Africa, UNEP</p> <p><i>Jeremy Muchilwa</i>, Tide Turner champion, Co-founder Osiepe Sango and Project Lead for W.A.L.T.E.R (Waterborne Autonomous Litter and Trash Extraction Robot) (online)</p> <p><i>Rushali Khilrani</i>, Tide Turner champion, and Founder of Menorganic (online)</p> <p><i>Alice Mueni</i>, Nairobi Game Development Centre</p>	<p>The session will explore diverse youth-led and youth-focused digital solutions to address the triple planetary crisis, including showcasing how youth movements and youth groups are leveraging online platforms to advance environmental causes and act; and how youth reaching industries like video gaming are taking real-world action for the environment.</p>

		<p><i>Immanuel Kiilu</i>, Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP</p> <p><i>Joseph Nguthiru</i>, HyaPak Ecotech Ltd.</p> <p><i>Brilliant Chepkirui</i>, Co-Chairperson of Green Chepalungu</p>	
13.30-14.30 LUNCH BREAK			
14:30-15:00 INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY			
THEMATIC SESSION			
15:00-16:30	<p>Thematic Session III</p> <p>Road to a Sustainable Urban Future in a Digitalized World</p>	<p><i>Michal Mlynár</i>, DED of UN-Habitat - video message</p> <p><i>Jonathan Oriki</i>, UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board (YAB)</p> <p><i>Safrina Waceke</i>, Mto Wangu</p> <p><i>Nikolas Lanjouw</i>, Minecraft Expert, UN-Habitat</p> <p><i>Young Gamechanger from Jatni, India</i> (online)</p> <p><i>Lydia Achieng</i>, UNFPA</p>	<p>This session is dedicated to preparations for the Children & Youth Assembly at World Urban Forum 12, with its outcomes contributing to the DeclarACTION of Urban Youth. Key topics include SDG localization, public space and urban health, youth in civic processes, and urban governance.</p>



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16:30-17:00	Closing session	Host UN agencies Youth representatives	
17:00-18:00 – INFORMAL NETWORKING			