

UNITED NATIONS YOUTH DELEGATE PROGRAMME

WHAT IS THE UN YD PROGRAMME?

The United Nations Youth Delegate (UN YD) Programme is a critical channel for youth participation in UN processes. It enables young people to engage in intergovernmental meetings as part of their national delegations, empowering them to contribute to decision-making at the UN.

WHY HAVE UN YOUTH DELEGATES?

Youth Inclusion Drives Better Policies. When young people participate in official delegations, they contribute their experiences, perspectives and priorities, helping to shape youth-inclusive policies and enhance the UN's responses to youth issues.

WHAT IS A YOUTH DELEGATE?

A Youth Delegate is a “**young person selected by a Member State to participate in one or more intergovernmental meetings as their representative, normally as part of a delegation.**” As such, DESA works to prevent any distinction between them and other delegates, promoting meaningful and inclusive youth participation in these processes.



HOW DOES THE UN YD PROGRAMME WORK?

What is the role of **UN Member States**?



The decision to **establish a national YD programme** is made independently by each Member State. They are solely responsible for **choosing their YDs** and **defining the scope and terms of their mandates**. Member States must also **declare their national YDs to the UN** for their official registration and recognition.

What is the role of **UN DESA**?



DESA oversees the UN YD Programme at the global level, by **offering Member States guidance, best practices, and case studies**. DESA supports YDs by supplementing Member States' guidance, including by **organizing informational briefings and activities**.

What is the role of **UN Youth Delegates**?



The role of a youth delegate varies from country to country. Typically, YDs provide inputs to their delegation on issues related to youth and participate in their delegation's work through attending meetings and informal negotiations.

As part of their national delegation, YDs can participate in intergovernmental meetings at the UN, including the **General Assembly** and the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, such as the **Commission for Social Development**.

WHAT ARE THE ORIGINS AND EVOLUTION OF THE UN YOUTH DELEGATE PROGRAMME?

The General Assembly adopted the **World Programme of Action for Youth** in 1995, urging Member States to consider including youth representatives in their national delegations. This call for youth representations has been reinforced by **19 subsequent UN resolutions**.

YD participation continues to grow with an increasing number of Member States sending YDs to the UN. Regional balance remains an area for improvement to promote further inclusivity.

Number of UN YDs and Represented Member States at the UNGA in Selected Years (2002 - 2022)



HOW DO I BECOME A YOUTH DELEGATE?

Member States select Youth Delegates at the national level. Therefore, **the selection process and procedures vary across countries**. Check with your government body, often the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Youth Council, or United Nations Associations, for programme availability.

MORE INFORMATION

youth@un.org

[UN Youth Delegate Programme](https://www.un.org/youthdelegate)

#UN4YOUTH & #YOUTH2030



United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs