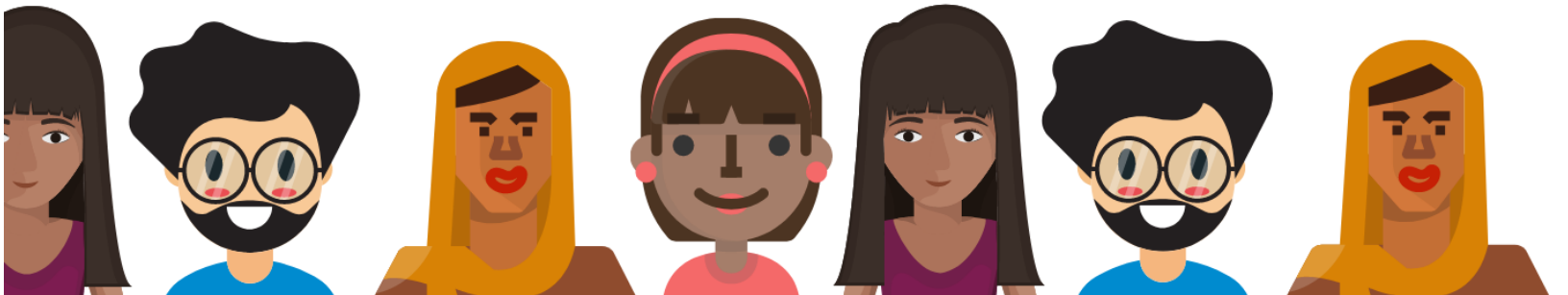
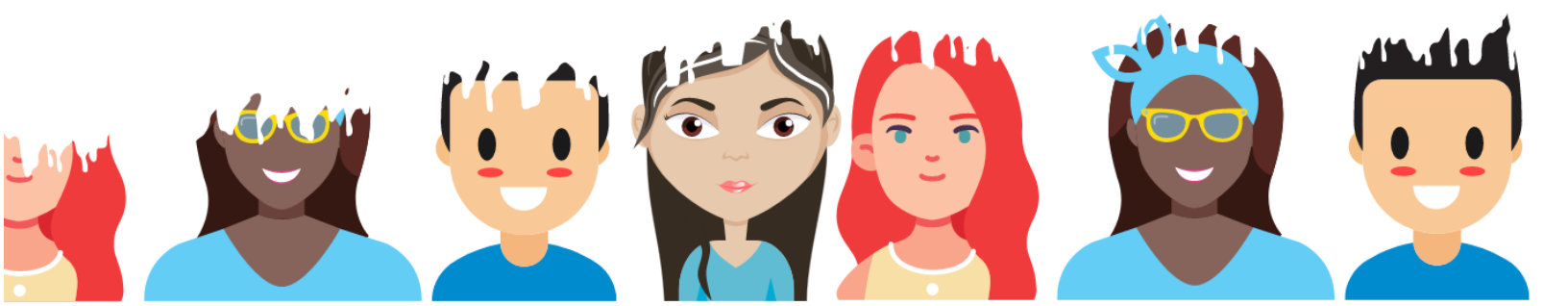




Youth Position Paper for SDG Summit 2023 - *Version I*





Youth Position Paper for the SDG Summit - Version 1

Inputs to the *Co-Facilitators' elements paper for the consultations on the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit*

Background

Mandated by the UNGA, [Major Group for Children and Youth](#) serves as the mandated space for youth and youth organizations to engage at certain policy processes at the UN. Based upon the invitation from UN DESA (secretariat of the UN SDG Summit 2023), we are pleased to present our inputs for the Elements Paper compiled as Youth Position Paper for the SDG Summit - Version 1.

We welcome the efforts being undertaken by the co-facilitators and UN DESA towards the SDG Summit. This paper highlights youth perspectives and inputs on the [elements paper](#) prepared by the co-facilitators of the SDG Summit and further suggests matters / issues to be included in the zero draft of the Political Declaration being prepared. Further subsequent versions of the paper will be prepared as well in consultation with young people worldwide - including those most at risk of being left behind.

Inputs on Section - *Our Shared Resolve*

Under this section of the elements paper, we suggest the following:

- Implementation of the 2030 Agenda is incomplete without full and meaningful engagement of young people and catering to needs of the future generations. While youth issues have received political attention in the multilateral system, it's important to transform words into concrete action. We therefore suggest the following language to be reflected:
 - *We recognise that young people are agents of change and the importance of meaningfully engaging the youth constituency across the implementation of 2030 Agenda*
- While the Shared Resolve section reflects some key intergovernmental frameworks, we further suggest that reference to more frameworks, especially those in review/focus, be added. This includes those such as the Food Systems Stocktaking Process, Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, etc.
- There is need for inclusion of clear reference to the role of Major Groups and Stakeholders, with last paragraph reading the following:
 - *We commit to carry out durable global, regional, and national partnerships for Sustainable Development Goals that engage and strengthen meaningful involvement of all major groups and other stakeholders, civil society, the private sector, academia, and youth.*



Inputs on Section - *Our Changed World*

Under this section of the elements paper, we suggest the following:

- Lack of education (in the formal and informal education spaces) and information pose a huge challenge to young people, while the relationship between studies and the job market is also at times not clear. As such, there is continued risk that future jobs may not correspond to what is being taught now, especially in light of rapid technological advances. We therefore suggest the addition of language on education and jobs, especially how they have been impacted due to the COVID19 pandemic under this section.
 - *Reference to the importance of education, including non-formal education, in achieving the 2030 Agenda*
 - *Reference the importance of decent jobs for youth*
- While a lot of factors have impacted and “changed” our world in the midst of multiple crises faced, it is clear that young people, especially young women and children continue to be the **most harmed and least heard** in these processes. We would therefore like to request for explicit reference to the impacts of these various crises on children and youth.
 - *Crises have hit vulnerable populations the most, especially affecting countries in special situations and vulnerable populations including women, children and youth*
- Accountability is critical. In the paragraph that refers to the efforts and announcements toward the SDG Summit, we highlight that it is important to have clear follow-up and reporting mechanisms for the commitments and initiatives that are announced at the Summit.

Inputs on Section - *Turning Our World Towards 2030*

Under this section of the elements paper, we suggest the following:

- We highlight the importance of the section on Strengthening the High Level Political Forum as it's the mandated body that brings together system-wide efforts on sustainable development. More coherence and alignment is needed, and we suggest a language that reads along the lines of
 - *We call upon efforts to strengthen the High Level Political Forum as the body with highest authority on sustainable development in all its dimensions - economic, social and environmental. Efforts must be made to align the preparatory processes and outcomes of high-level meetings and other special events in the UN system to have further coherence and synergies with the High Level Political Forum.*
- We also highlight that while certain topics and themes are highlighted in the section, others such as food systems (noting the Food Systems stocktaking process this year), sustainable consumption and production, gender, health, migration and related issues need better referencing.



- Finally, we suggest that there is a clear reference / addition made in the political declaration on synergies with the Summit of the Future 2024 and Social Summit 2025.

Paragraph on the ECOSOC Youth Forum

- We further suggest for the paragraph on the ECOSOC Youth Forum to highlight the *Voices of Youth* report which is the official outcome document prepared by the youth constituencies:
 - *We note with appreciation the outcomes of the ECOSOC Youth Forum organized by the UN and youth partners, especially the recommendations in the Voices of Youth report produced by youth organizations*

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