



Shaping our Future

Conference on the collaboration between local governance and youth and future generations in addressing key development challenges in the run-up to the UN Summit of the Future

Objectives

- Innovative solutions to increase the influence of youth in intergovernmental decision-making processes through local governments.
- Collaboration between young individuals, local governments, international networks and intergovernmental organisations on the role of youth and future generations in local governance to unlock the potential of youth and future generations and address the development challenges they are facing.

Preliminary programme

09:30 Registration

10:00 **Official opening**

Local Cultural Act

Chairman of the Day

- Tako Rietveld, Youth Correspondent

Speakers of the Day

- Sharon Dijksma, Mayor of the host city of Utrecht and President of VNG, the Association of Dutch Municipalities
- Kimberly Snijders, President of the Board, National Youth Council
- Emilia Saiz, Secretary General United Cities and Local Governments
- Dyfed Aubry, Head of UN-Habitat Europe
- Mert Kumru, Campaigner World's Youth for Climate Justice
- Fatimetou Mint Abdel Malick, President of the Region of Nouakchott and member of the UN Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments

10:45 To the break-out rooms with coffee and tea to go

11:00 **Break-out sessions round 1:**

Sidetrack 1: Climate resilience and sustainability

Explore the role of youth in promoting sustainable development, environmental conservation, and climate action at the local level, with a focus on creating resilient communities and preserving natural resources for future generations.

Moderated by Silvia Assalini, expert Sustainable Energy Systems (ICLEI)

- Judith Maas, Director of SDG Netherlands
- Henrieke Buenger, Deputy EU Front Coordinator World's Youth for Climate Justice
- Lauren Banham, Program Director Legal Pact for the Future
- Luís Almeida Capão, Director Cascais Environmental Agency, ICLEI representative
- Annika Kamilla Bellot, Climate Advocate, YOUNGO representative

Sidetrack 2: Equality and inclusion: equal opportunities for all young people

Addressing challenges related to social inclusion, diversity, and equity in youth participation in local governance, with a focus on marginalized and underrepresented youth populations. Address issues of intergenerational equity, social justice, and inclusivity in local governance, ensuring that policies and decisions reflect the needs and interests of diverse populations, both present and future.

Moderated by Kevin Eustatia, Youth Representative (National Youth Council)

- Silvia Fuentes Piccolo, Development Manager One Young World
- Lala Safarli, Youth Advisory Board UN-Habitat
- Lot Platteel, SDG-voice Utrecht4GlobalGoals
- Meskerem Girma, Team Leader Ethiopia Social Accountability Program
- Yared Berhe Gebrelibanos, Executive Director Alliance of Civil Society Organizations of Tigray
- Judith Geerling, Regional Manager VNG International

Sidetrack 3: Education, employment and innovation

Explore strategies to empower youth through education, leadership development, and civic engagement, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to become effective agents of change and champions for future generations. Harness the power of youth-led innovation and technology to address local challenges, foster economic growth, and enhance quality of life for future generations through digital literacy, entrepreneurship, and social innovation.

Moderated by Fenna Timsi, Youth Representative (National Youth Council)

- Ahmed Ismael Muhumed, Livelihood and Food Security Sector Coordinator OWDA, Ethiopia
- Olga Tsaplina, Communication Specialist Children & Youth, UN-Habitat
- Koen Stoop, Policy Advisor Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Kim Romijn, Municipalities4GlobalGoals Youth Representative of The Association of Dutch Municipalities (VNG)
- Birkneh Wolde Hailu, Programme Manager Progress Integrated Community Development Organization

Sidetrack 4: Impact and decision-making: empower voices at the local level through youth engagement today

Identifying strategies to empower young leaders, build their leadership capacities, and create opportunities for meaningful involvement in decision-making processes at the local level. Exploring innovative approaches to promote youth participation and civic engagement in local governance, including youth-led initiatives, community organizing, and advocacy campaigns.

Moderated by Lotte Prins, board member international affairs (National Youth Council)

- Abaynesh Mersha Leeche, Local Councilor Nifas Silk Woreda, representative of PICDO, Ethiopia
- Inés Yabar, Lead Next Generation Fellow, UN-Foundation
- Dennis de Vries, Alderman Municipality of Utrecht
- Francine Farrugia, Young Elected Official Committee of CEMR/PLATFORMA
- Daniel del Valle Blanco, Youth Advisory Board UN-Habitat
- Kaina Lounis Teillier, representative Parisian Youth Council

12:30 **Plenary feedback session**

- Intervention by Sandra Pellegrom, National SDG Coordinator, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Video message by Guy Ryder, UN Under-Secretary-General for Policy

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Break-out sessions round 2

Sidetrack 1: Climate resilience and sustainability

Sidetrack 2: Equality and inclusion: equal opportunities for all young people

Sidetrack 3: Education, employment and innovation

Sidetrack 4: Impact and decision-making

15:15 Coffee and tea break

15:45 Closing ceremony

- Marie-Christine Lemardeley, Deputy Mayor City of Paris and involved with the UN Secretary General Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments
- Renske Steenbergen, Deputy Director VNG-International
- Sharon Dijksma, Mayor of Utrecht and President VNG & Kimberly Snijders, President of the Board of the National Youth Council

16:30 Reception

