



Youth International Day

12 August 2020

3:00pm – 4:15pm



Session name

General Guidelines

Description

The global theme of International Youth Day 2020 is “Youth Engagement for Global Action.” The theme is aimed at showcasing the engagement of young people at the local, national and global levels with intentions of showing that young people across the globe have enriched national and multilateral institutions and processes. While there is a significant amount of need to increase this engagement, the theme is also meant to reflect on lessons of how their representation and engagement in formal institutional politics can be significantly enhanced.

The world has only one decade remaining to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and as 2020 marks this milestone, the world has seen trust in public institutions eroding.

At the international level, against the backdrop of an increasingly polarized world, the international system of governance is currently undergoing a crisis of legitimacy and relevance. In particular, this crisis is rooted in the need to strengthen the capacity of the international system to act in concert and implement solutions to pressing challenges and threats (examples include some of the worst contemporary conflicts and humanitarian emergencies, such as Syria and Myanmar, as well as global challenges, such as the COVID-19 outbreak and climate change).¹

The context in the Arab States is no different, as youth still face major barriers to social and economic inclusion making their engagement as partners for achieving the SDGs difficult. International Youth Day gives an opportunity to both discuss the current theme within the Arab states context and celebrate young peoples’ voices, actions and initiatives and engagement.

UNDP Arab States Regional Bureau is organizing a two-part virtual panel discussion. Prior to the discussions, UNDP through its large youth networks at the regional and national levels will invite young people to submit videos or graphics highlighting how they “engage for action” in support of their communities and for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Creative submissions will be shared on UNDP’s regional and country-level social media pages. The best submissions will be invited to speak as panelist in the 2nd virtual panel.

The first virtual panel discussion will consist of experts from UNDP, the Arab Barometer and a young person to dive into the findings of the 2016 Arab HDR on youth, youth perspectives and its evolution as they emerge from the Arab Barometer waves and one young person perspectives and experience engaging for action. The second virtual panel discussion will be predominantly youth and the aim would be to highlight young people’s engagement at three levels- global, national and local levels in the areas Pandemic Response, Climate Action, and Political and Civic Engagement.

¹ Retrieved from: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/iyd2020.html>

UNDP will both invite the general online public and its youth networks to view the panel discussions and participate through Q&A.

A test run of the presentation, the online connection and quality sound of microphones must be done beforehand with each presenter at a scheduled time.

Pre-session tasks and set up

Before the session starts:

- Please test the webinar set up, microphone and access
- Send your short bio to Linda Haddad Linda.haddad@undp.org

Structure of the Session

Break down the session:

- While people are signing into the webinar- play the creative submissions received over the week.
- 15:00 - 15:05 Welcome and Framing (Linda Haddad)
- 15:05 - 15:15 Presentation on findings of the Arab Barometer (Amaney Jamal)
- 15:15 - 15:25 Presentation on updated findings of the 2016 Arab Human Development Report on Youth (Adel Abdellatif)
- 15:25 – 15:35 Intervention of Young Person from Arab Region Perspectives and examples
- 15:35 – 15:55 Question and Answer/Dialogue
- 15:55 – 16:05 Final remarks
- 16:05 – 16:10 Closing

During the Session

Step 1. Linda Haddad will facilitate the virtual panel discussion and begin by briefly introduces the webinar with its objectives, as well as frame the discussion.

Step 2. Adel Abdellatif will present an update of the findings of the 2016 Arab HDR on youth with some highlights on the status of youth representation and engagement in formal institutions.

Step 3. Amaney Jamal will present youth perspectives and their change over time, as they emerge from the Arab Barometer waves.

Step 4. Nadine Khaouli to share their experience engaging for action and some of their perspectives on how young people can be further supported for greater engagement.

Step 5. Linda Haddad to facilitate Q&A to the panellists (questions will be taken from the chat box).

Contextual Guidelines

Objectives of the Session

- With the current unprecedented context the world and the Arab region is living through, it is important to highlight barriers, perspectives and experiences of youth's engagement for solutions in response. With several youth initiatives both at the regional and country-level, UNDP Arab States region sees young people as partners for the achievement of the SDGs. Therefore, International Youth Day is an opportunity to highlight young people's context and actions seen in the larger development agenda. UNDP Arab States will invite its network of youth-serving

organizations and youth across the Arab region, for an opportunity to engage them in a discussion as part of International Youth Day celebration.

Additional Information

- This first virtual panel discussion will take place on 12 August at 2pm Jordan time. The second panel discussion will be held on 17 August. A youth call for creative submission identifying how they are “engaging in action” to the three themes will happen over the span of 1 week. Submissions will then be published on 12 August- International Youth Day. Three youth with the “best” submission will be selected to participate in a panel discussion the following week on 17 August.