



Deutsche Gesellschaft
für die Vereinten Nationen e.V.
United Nations Association of Germany

Call for Applications

Stronger United Nations: Youth Advocates Workshop (online)



Youth Participation and Empowerment in African Countries for stronger United Nations (2020)



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United Nations Association of Germany

The United Nations Association of Germany (UNA Germany) is delighted to announce the call for applications for a Youth Advocates Workshop to promote youth participation and empowerment for strong United Nations in the African region. The event will take place online via different virtual communication tools.

As UN Secretary General Guterres said, young people are critical agents of change. It is for this reason that we see the exchange between young and engaged individuals as highly effective in the further promotion of youth participation in their countries and potentially as youth delegates at the United Nations. The online workshop provides a chance for young people who are passionate about youth participation for the UN to meet, share their experiences and learn together throughout and beyond the workshop. In cooperation and with the support of the United Nations Association (UNA) they design new projects to empower young people, to participate at UN forums and advocate for youth rights.

Application Process

Applicants should have the following qualities:

- Be youth activists committed to youth participation between the ages of 18–27 years;
- Interested in international affairs, particularly in youth issues;
- Passionate about solving the world's most pressing problems and working to engage young people in this important agenda;
- Residents of a country in the African region with an active UNA/UNYA*;
- Able to actively and continually take part in a three days online workshop from September 07 – 09, 2020).

Skill and qualification requirements:

- Civil society engagement, preferably in the area of youth participation;
- Support from the UNA/UNYA in your home country*;
- Knowledge of current international affairs;
- Proven ability to work collaboratively with others;
- Fluency in English;
- Excellent writing, communication, organisational, and interpersonal skills
- Experience with online conference software and ability to communicate in a virtual environment;
- Culturally competent.

We strive for gender balance and strongly encourage applications from women.



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All applications must include (in English language):

- Curriculum Vitae (please attach a PDF);
- Letter of Motivation (2000 characters in online form);
- Short Analysis on “Opportunities and Challenges for Strengthening UN-related Youth Participation in your Country” (please attach a PDF);
- Letter of support from your UNA/YUNA (please attach a PDF).

Submitting Application: All applications must be submitted via our online form on <https://dgvn.de/index.php?id=3368> by **5 p.m. CEST on August 16, 2020.**



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Background Information

Youth Advocates Workshop (online)

Youth participation is one of the essentials in creating and shaping the world. With their unique perspective, one can recognize young people as a major human resource for development and key agents for social change, economic development and technological innovation. Youth participation is an effective tool for achieving enduring solutions and is key for future development. The significance of the youth has to be valued and needs to be reflected in the United Nations system. Young people as experts on youth concerns need to be engaged in the process of decision-making.

It is for this reason that in 1981 the General Assembly addressed the member states to include youth delegates in their national delegation. Further steps were reached in 1995 with the adoption of the resolution 50/81 for the World Program of Action for Youth by the General Assembly. With this attempt, the United Nations is endorsing young people to stand up for their beliefs and create an impact on an international level. Incorporating youth delegates in the national delegations of each country is prior to successful debates and reaching objectives. More than 25 countries have so far established a youth delegate program due to the resolution. But it represents barely 15 percent of the total number of Member States, which is obviously not enough! Young people need to be given a voice and should be encouraged to support local UNA's or approaches for creating youth delegate programs in their countries and to have an impact on their future.

Young people are far from being inactive in this struggle. As UN Secretary General Guterres said, young people are critical agents of change. It is for this reason that we see the exchange between young and engaged individuals as highly effective in the further implementation of UN Youth Participation in their countries and potentially as youth delegates at the United Nations. We hope to create an environment, conducive to this exchange. A chance for young people who are passionate about youth participation for the UN to meet, share their experiences and learn together throughout and beyond the online workshop.

We target the Youth in particular, as it can:

- Create awareness and communicate the goals to their peers and society at large
- Identify solutions, innovate approaches and take action
- Enrich the political discussions with new perspectives, creativity, energy and idealism
- Make a valuable contribution to successful and sustainable political decisions
- Promote intergenerational partnerships and design-focused activities to make youth participation a reality
- Develop youth-friendly information materials



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By bringing together young people from different countries and backgrounds we aim at furthering and deepening youth participation. Through follow-up activities, we hope to empower participants to create a network to share experiences and know-how with. The impact of the event thereby gains long-lasting influence and strong impact. Thereby, UNA Germany, and upon completion also the participants, will be able to share their knowledge and truly enact change internationally.

What are youth advocates?

Mission: Inform, Engage, Empower.

Youth Advocates are young multipliers for the promotion of the United Nations in their country and local communities. Their mission: Inform, Engage, Empower. In cooperation and with the support of their national UNA they design new projects to empower young people to participate at UN forums and advocate for youth rights.

What are the main questions the online workshop will tackle?

- What is youth participation and how do we manage volunteers? Which structures for youth participation already exist?
- How do we set up our own national programs of UN Youth Advocates and build a strong country team?
- Which state and civil society agencies can be involved in the establishment of such a program? How can the respective decision makers in a country be convinced of funding efforts for stronger youth participation?
- Which international partners and networks are there?

With the online workshop, we want to support the development of key skills of the young participants and help them to become national multipliers and lobbyists for the work of the United Nations.

***UNAs** are national civil society organizations that provide a link between the citizens of the world and the United Nations by seeking to ensure that the UN is relevant to the lives of the peoples it exists to serve. UNAs have different programs and a variety of constituencies, such as individual members, member organizations, and partner schools and universities. Find out about the UNA in your country here: <http://www.wfuna.org/worldwide-members>.

Please note: There is no UNA/UNYA in your country? Why not starting one? If you are interested in establishing a UNA, the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) can support you. There are already many examples of successful UNAs who were started by young people committed to the aims of the United Nations in various countries worldwide! Please send an email to WFUNA at youth@wfuna.org