



General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 July 2025

Original: English

Seventy-ninth session

Agenda item 134

Report of the United Nations Youth Office

United Nations Youth Office*

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The present report is the third report of the United Nations Youth Office since its formal establishment in accordance with General Assembly resolution [76/306](#) and presents the work of the Youth Office from 1 June 2024 to 31 May 2025.

The report outlines key milestones in consolidating the Office's institutional structure, implementing its system-wide mandate and starting to deliver on its strategic plan (2025–2028).

The report also highlights the leadership of the Office in driving progress on Youth2030: The United Nations Strategy on Youth, supporting the implementation of the Pact for the Future, advancing the youth and peace and security agenda and scaling up youth engagement in intergovernmental processes, policy frameworks and field operations.

Despite operating with one of the leanest structures in the Secretariat, the Office delivered a strong impact through institutional mobilization, partnerships and sustained advocacy.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 8 August 2025; previously issued under the symbol A/80/118.

** The present report was submitted to the conference services for processing after the deadline in order to reflect the most recent information and data.



I. Introduction

1. The formal establishment of the United Nations Youth Office in 2022 marked a turning point for United Nations prioritization of and engagement with young people. For the first time, the system has a dedicated entity with a mandate to coordinate, advocate and accelerate efforts on youth across all pillars of the Organization's work. The work of the Youth Office is grounded in the recognition that young people are essential to the future of multilateralism and that their participation must be institutionalized and resourced. The present report sets out a synthesis of progress made, challenges encountered and strategic directions for the road ahead.

2. In 2024, the Office completed the transition from the Office of the Envoy on Youth to the United Nations Youth Office, which began in 2023. The Youth Office has successfully concluded this foundational phase, recruiting a full team of 16 regular budget posts and building internal pathways to support the implementation of its mandate. Under the leadership of the Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, the Office launched its strategic plan 2025–2028 and began full-scale operations.

3. Building upon the intergovernmental framework established in the Pact for the Future, which was adopted at the Summit of the Future in September 2024, the Office concentrated its efforts on institutionalizing meaningful youth participation across intergovernmental processes, strengthening youth-inclusive policy frameworks and advancing political and public advocacy to ensure that young people are actively engaged in shaping global decisions that affect their futures.

4. The Youth Office launched its strategic plan for the period 2025–2028, which was introduced to Member States during an informal in-person briefing hosted at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 1 May 2025. The briefing brought together representatives from more than 70 delegations. During the briefing, the Youth Office team presented the plan, which sets out the Office's priorities across three key areas: strengthening meaningful youth engagement; enhancing system-wide coordination and accountability; and promoting socioeconomic opportunities for young people.

5. Working across the United Nations system and in collaboration with Member States, civil society, youth-led organizations and regional bodies, the Office delivered results in all its core areas of work. These include system-wide coordination under Youth2030, support for United Nations country teams in incorporating youth affairs into the work of the United Nations in the field, the facilitation of youth participation in global decision-making and advancement on the three pillars – peace and security, sustainable development and human rights.

6. During the reporting period, the Youth Office met bilaterally with representatives from more than 80 permanent missions to the United Nations, spanning all regions. It also engaged with key regional groups on issues central to the United Nations youth agenda. At the national level, the Office interacted with Member States through high-level meetings involving Heads of State, as well as ministers of youth, education and foreign affairs, among others.

7. The Office has streamlined its engagement with nearly 100 international youth-led and youth-serving organizations across all regions and supported their engagement in various policymaking processes spanning the three pillars of the work of the United Nations. Collectively, these networks of organizations engage hundreds of millions of young people around the world on an annual basis.

8. To advance its work on meaningful youth participation, the Office inaugurated its first Youth Reference Group, comprising diverse youth representatives. This

advisory body serves as a sounding board for the Office, ensuring that young people are not only consulted but are active partners in shaping the priorities, strategies and actions of the Office, institutionalizing youth leadership and ensuring that youth perspectives are integral to its operations.

9. The Youth Office has one of the leanest structures within the United Nations system and exemplifies intergenerational leadership by empowering young staff and achieving ambitious targets. During the reporting period, the Office mobilized an additional \$2,125,275 in voluntary contributions from various Member States, enhancing its capacity to implement initiatives focused on meaningful youth engagement and the youth and peace and security agenda.

II. Strengthening system-wide coordination and accountability

10. The implementation of Youth2030: The United Nations Strategy on Youth continued to gain momentum across the United Nations system in 2025, with 62 United Nations entities and all 132 United Nations country teams actively advancing its priorities and reporting annually on progress. The fifth annual edition of the *Youth2030 Progress Report*, launched in July 2025, provides a comprehensive overview of progress on the Youth Strategy and highlights areas requiring further attention for commitments to be met by 2030.

11. Building on the first interim review of the Youth Strategy, conducted in 2024, the Youth Office – in collaboration with the High-level Steering Committee for the United Nations Youth Strategy and its joint working group – developed a strategic framework to guide the second phase (2025–2030) of the Youth Strategy. In 2025, the second phase of the Youth Strategy, Youth2030 Phase 2, was officially launched to accelerate the implementation of the Youth Strategy. It introduces a results framework and six strategic priorities aimed at deepening system-wide impact, addressing persistent gaps and driving transformative change with and for young people.

12. The six strategic priorities of Youth2030 Phase 2 are: (a) empowering and engaging youth meaningfully; (b) boosting Sustainable Development Goal implementation with and for youth; (c) advancing knowledge and enhancing capacities for working with and for youth; (d) unlocking resources for the youth agenda; (e) transforming the United Nations workforce and organizational culture; and (f) strengthening accountability systems for working with and for youth.

13. The Office facilitated system-wide governance mechanisms, including the High-level Steering Committee, the joint working group and task teams of the Youth Strategy, with the participation of United Nations entities at different levels, including Headquarters, resident coordinator offices and United Nations country teams. Through the task team on establishing a system-wide youth marker, a youth marker for tracking investments across the United Nations system has been designed and is undergoing pilot testing. The youth marker will serve as a key accountability tool to support the effective delivery of the second phase of the Youth Strategy – across the whole system.

14. To increase accountability for commitments and results, the Office also supported the integration of youth indicators into agency results frameworks, conducted peer learning exercises and shared good practices across the system. These efforts have contributed to a more coherent and measurable approach to youth programming at the global, regional and country levels.

15. Youth2030 progress data indicates a significant surge in youth engagement across the United Nations system. Engagement with young women's and girls' networks continued to progress. In total, 82 per cent (41 out of 50) of United Nations

entities and 83 per cent of country teams (109 out of 132) engaged with these networks. Engagement with young persons with disabilities also saw improvement, with 54 per cent of entities and 79 per cent of country teams reporting substantive collaboration with networks of young persons with disabilities.

16. The Youth Office and the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, continued to co-chair the global working group on workforce rejuvenation, which made significant progress in developing a holistic strategy for attracting, recruiting and retaining young people for careers at the United Nations. The aim of the holistic strategy is to create a more versatile, multigenerational work environment aligned with the vision of United Nations 2.0.

17. The Youth Office actively supported the proposal to restructure internships in the Secretariat included in the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Review of the United Nations Secretariat Internship Programme” (A/79/566/Add.1). Through advocacy efforts with Member States and other United Nations entities, the Office reaffirmed its commitment to rejuvenating the United Nations workforce and strengthening internships for the meaningful, inclusive and effective engagement of young people in the United Nations. Specifically on the advocacy on internships, the Office engaged with 29 Member States, as well as regional groups.

III. Engagement with United Nations country teams

18. In close collaboration with the Development Coordination Office, the Youth Office provided technical assistance to United Nations country teams across all regions. During the reporting period, the Youth Office engaged with youth focal points from at least 85 United Nations country teams, offering targeted briefings on emerging priorities and delivering bilateral support during key moments – such as the development of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, reporting on the implementation of the Youth Strategy and building national and regional capacities on youth engagement.

19. The Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs conducted multiple field visits to engage with stakeholders, assess challenges, maintain dialogue with youth constituencies and identify scalable solutions for youth development. These missions also helped elevate the understanding of the mission of the Youth Office and its work in advancing youth priorities at the national and regional levels.

20. Youth engagement in United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks processes rose significantly – from 7 per cent in 2020 to 57 per cent in 2024. Data also showed increases in youth participation in planning, monitoring and evaluation activities, as well as stronger linkages between youth issues and national development strategies.

IV. Advancing youth engagement in intergovernmental processes

21. As part of its strategic plan and in line with efforts to accelerate the implementation of youth-related commitments under the Pact for the Future, the Youth Office continued to serve as a conduit and convener, leveraging expertise, platforms and networks to amplify the voices, visions and contributions of young people in all their diversity. A key priority of the Office has been to enhance youth participation in intergovernmental bodies, mechanisms and processes across the United Nations system. This included organizing dedicated youth briefings and dialogues on key processes such as the Summit of the Future, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council Youth Forum, the Fourth

International Conference on Financing for Development and the peacebuilding architecture review in the 2024 and 2025 period.

22. Youth Action Day was held on 20 September 2024, at the Summit of the Future, which highlighted young people's leadership in driving global commitments and translating the Pact for the Future into action. Convened by the Office in collaboration with United Nations entities, civil society and youth networks, the event engaged 2,447 registered participants under the age of 30, making it the largest youth gathering in United Nations history. Anchored in chapter IV of the Pact for the Future, and the Declaration on Future Generations, the event amplified youth voices, fostered intergenerational dialogue and strengthened accountability for commitments. It culminated in a Youth Action Day outcome document outlining more than 20 recommendations across three principles: inclusion, equity and trust; and six key themes: gender equality; technology and digital infrastructure; intergenerational solidarity and equity; climate and environmental sustainability; governance; and humanitarian action. These efforts positioned young people as co-creators in shaping global policy and the future.

23. Following the adoption of the Pact for the Future at the 2024 Summit of the Future, the Secretary-General designated the Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs to chair the Pact for the Future Implementation Working Group on Youth, tasked with advancing the commitments outlined in chapter 4 of the Pact. Since December 2024, the Working Group has convened regular meetings under the leadership of the Assistant Secretary-General, bringing together representatives from 26 United Nations entities and their respective youth representatives. This collaborative effort has helped to make significant strides in operationalizing the youth-related actions of the Pact, with initial deliverables scheduled for presentation by September 2025.

24. The sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 10 to 21 March 2025. As part of its ongoing commitment to safeguarding and advancing gender equality, the Youth Office organized and collaborated with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on many different initiatives in the lead-up to and throughout the session, ensuring that young people's contributions were integral to discussions on accelerating progress towards the goals of the Beijing Platform.

25. In collaboration with UN-Women and feminist youth groups, the Office organized a comprehensive virtual youth briefing that was conducted in all six United Nations official languages with sign language interpretation, specifically targeting marginalized communities that may have had limited prior knowledge of the processes of the Commission on the Status of Women or historically lacked accessible pathways to engage with intergovernmental mechanisms. With more than 2,500 registered attendees, this initiative served as a measure towards the road to democratizing young people's access to knowledge as a basis for engaging and influencing important spaces.

26. In addition, the Office collaborated and co-organized nine side events, including one on "Accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action: the role of the Commission on the Status of Women" (see [E/CN.6/2025/14](#)). With more than 350 attendees, this high-level dialogue highlighted the necessity of meaningful youth participation in advancing intergovernmental commitments.

27. The Youth Office collaborated with the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, in the organization of the 2025

Economic and Social Council Youth Forum, held from 15 to 17 April at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Forum was convened in close partnership with the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, the Major Group for Children and Youth, and the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations, with technical input from a broad range of youth organizations. The Forum marked a record-breaking number of participation and engagement, bringing together more than 1,000 youth leaders and advocates, along with 60 ministers from different Governments, 37 high-level government officials, 15 members of parliament and congress and 18 representatives of national youth councils, inter alia, becoming the most highly attended Forum in the event's history.

28. A total of 123 side events were held on the margins of the 2025 Economic and Social Council Youth Forum, with an enriching programme of in-depth discussions as well as valuable opportunities for networking and collaboration. The proceedings of the Forum have received more than 14,000 live, on-demand and online views, further extending its impact and accessibility to a global audience. The Youth Office hosted a high-level ministerial breakfast on the theme "Together for youth: advancing policy and action" which convened more than 150 participants, including government ministers, youth delegates and representatives of youth-led and youth-serving organizations, for a dialogue on strengthening youth participation in policymaking at all levels. The Office co-organized the plenary session "#YouthLead: from local to global: meaningful youth participation in policymaking and decision-making" alongside the Major Group for Children and Youth, the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations and the Youth Reference Group of the Youth Office. The session gathered expert input on the core principles of meaningful youth participation and showcased good practices for youth participation in policymaking at various levels. Ministers responsible for youth affairs and other high-level government representatives, United Nations leadership, civil society partners, young parliamentarians and young people participated actively in the discussions. The session served to underscore a growing consensus among youth, Member States and other partners that youth participation must move beyond symbolic gestures and become institutionalized, inclusive and resourced.

29. The Youth Office directly supported the participation of more than 70 young individuals in key intergovernmental processes during the reporting period, in addition to facilitating the participation of hundreds of other young people through partner networks. This support encompassed assistance for in-person engagement and the creation of platforms for youth to contribute directly to global decision-making forums. By enabling their involvement, the Office ensured that youth perspectives were not only heard but also integrated into policy discussions, operationalizing the United Nations agenda of inclusive and participatory governance.

V. Advancing the youth and peace and security agenda

30. The Youth Office continued its close collaboration with United Nations partners, Member States, civil society and youth-led organizations, to implement the youth and peace and security agenda. Those efforts entailed leading strategic communications and high-level advocacy, as well as coordinating and collaborating with the United Nations system and civil society organizations, including youth-led and youth-serving groups.

31. In June 2025, the Youth Office, in collaboration with the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), signed an agreement to strengthen their collaboration and formally establish a dedicated secretariat using the existing structure and resources of the three parties aimed at

enhancing and streamlining the United Nations system-wide coordination on youth and peace and security. This joint initiative represents a significant step towards more coherent, effective and inclusive action on the youth and peace and security agenda across the United Nations system.

32. Building on the third report of the Secretary-General on youth and peace and security ([S/2024/207](#)), the Youth Office continued to serve as the technical support for the group of champions of youth and peace and security, co-chaired by Jordan and Finland. Through this role, the Office reinforced advocacy efforts and strengthened coordination on youth and peace and security-related issues both within the United Nations system and with external partners, contributing to a more unified and impactful global approach to the youth and peace and security agenda.

33. The Youth Office is closely collaborating with the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs on the development of the second United Nations system-wide study on youth and peace and security, as called for in the Pact for the Future. The study represents a critical opportunity to assess global progress on youth and peace and security since the first report in 2018, identify persistent gaps and chart a path forward for more coordinated, youth-centred action across the United Nations system.

34. Through engagement with the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security and youth-led organizations, the Office strengthened dialogue and coordination. It supported youth consultations as part of the peacebuilding architecture review and launched two regional youth and peace and security studies in the Middle East and North Africa to inform national action plans and the second independent progress study on youth and peace and security.

35. In partnership with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and the United Network of Young Peacebuilders, the Office also advanced research on financing youth-led peacebuilding and supported cross-sector dialogues to advocate for increased and sustained investment.

VI. Promoting human rights and inclusive participation

36. Chapter IV of the Pact for the Future sets out concrete commitments to advance youth affairs, including actions to enhance meaningful youth participation at the international level. Complementing these commitments, the Human Rights Council adopted its biennial resolution on Youth and Human Rights (Council resolution [57/30](#)), in which it underscored the importance of the active, meaningful safe and inclusive participation of young people in decision-making processes.

37. In this context, the Youth Office is committed to advancing structured and meaningful youth participation in the Human Rights Council and collaborated with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and UNFPA on organizing inaugural expert discussions between youth advocates and Member State representatives to develop a road map to strengthen youth engagement at the Council.

38. In collaboration with OHCHR, the Youth Office continued to promote the meaningful and safe participation of young people at the United Nations. As part of its commitment to safeguarding youth engagement, the Office also developed internal guidance on the prevention of reprisals and established a protocol to respond to cases of intimidation or retaliation against young people engaging with the United Nations.

39. To enhance the preparedness and safety of youth participants in intergovernmental processes, the Office has established a robust collaboration with OHCHR. This partnership encompasses comprehensive pre-engagement briefings, ad hoc case support and the provision of practical guidance, ensuring that young

delegates are well equipped to engage effectively and securely in global decision-making forums.

40. The online training course “Engaging safely at the United Nations”, developed by the Youth Office in collaboration with the United Nations System Staff College, was updated with new content, including a module on reprisals, and is now available on the E-Lounge platform. From mid-December 2024 to the end of May 2025, more than 2,000 young people registered for the training course, which received an average satisfaction score of 5.53 out of 6 (93 per cent). Notably, more than 99 per cent of the survey respondents said that they would recommend the training to others.

41. During the reporting period, advocacy for the meaningful youth engagement of young persons with disabilities was strengthened under the leadership of the Youth Office, in collaboration with different United Nations partners. Young leaders with disabilities engaged in high-level United Nations spaces such as the seventeenth Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in collaboration with Member States, United Nations entities and other strategic partners. Based on the work of the Youth Office and the Youth2030 Task Team on Young Persons with Disabilities, the global research on youth with disabilities was strategically leveraged for the Pact for the Future to mainstream a youth and disability approach in its text.

VII. Intergenerational leadership, climate action and youth political participation

42. The Youth Office continued to engage actively with diverse youth-led and youth-serving organizations at the global, regional, national and local level, with a view to bringing the United Nations closer to young people and young people closer to the United Nations.

43. In collaboration with the St Gallen Symposium and the Club of Rome, the Youth Office launched a new report in May 2025, entitled “How intergenerational leadership unlocks innovation and sustainability in business”.¹ Drawing on research and real-world examples, the Office emphasizes in the report that the inclusion of younger generations in organizational decision-making is not just a matter of fairness; it is a strategic imperative. Practically, in the spirit of United Nations 2.0, the Office suggests a continuum of concrete actions that organizations can take to make intergenerational leadership work, including: consultation (through mechanisms such as reverse mentoring and youth advisory boards); co-leadership (integrating younger voices directly into decision-making structures); and embedding (building intergenerational collaboration into culture, systems and strategy).

44. As part of its efforts to promote meaningful youth participation in climate processes, the Youth Office, working in coordination with the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Climate Action Team of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, continued to support and amplify youth-led networks and constituencies. This included convening regular inter-agency meetings with United Nations partners and youth groups such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change youth constituency YOUNGO, the United Nations Climate Change Conference Presidency youth climate champion team and the Secretary-General’s Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change.

45. The Youth Office supported the Climate Action Team of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General in the management of the third cohort of the Secretary-

¹ Available at www.un.org/youthaffairs/en/article/future-business-intergenerational.

General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change. The Youth Office facilitated dialogue between the Youth Advisory Group and United Nations leadership, supported the Group's advocacy initiatives and helped amplify their recommendations to the United Nations resident coordinator system, policymakers and other stakeholders.

46. The Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs participated in key youth-focused engagements at the nineteenth Conference of Youth and the twenty-ninth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, demonstrating the Office's solidarity with youth on climate action, advocating for youth inclusion in decision-making at all levels, raising awareness of the youth agenda among high-level stakeholders and building synergies with global and local youth initiatives.

47. The Youth Office continued to advocate the meaningful engagement of young people in public life and politics throughout 2025. To mark the conclusion of the "Be seen, be heard" campaign, the Office held a high-level side event titled "Advancing youth political participation" on the margins of the Summit of the Future on 23 September 2024, bringing together more than 100 participants from more than 30 countries and territories. The event was a remarkable opportunity to convene youth activists (60+), Ministers (20+), secretaries of State, presidential counsellors, young parliamentarians, senior civil society representatives, United Nations partners and private sector leaders – all of whom shared a commitment to advancing youth rights and political participation.

48. The Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs participated in various forums focused on youth political participation, including the tenth Inter-Parliamentary Union Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, held in Armenia in September 2024, advocating for and reaffirming the importance of better representing young people, in particular young women, in public life and highlighting the need for equal care and equal participation.

49. The Youth Office continued to promote young people's right to participate in public affairs by being part of relevant inter-agency groups, such as the Inter-Agency Coordination Mechanism for United Nations Electoral Assistance, and by strengthening collaboration with key partners in the field of political participation, such as the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance and the Club of Madrid.

50. As part of efforts to enhance youth inclusion in democratic processes, the Youth Office initiated the research project "Global political youth participation: insights from a novel comparative data set". Based on data from 18 countries, the study indicates that youth are more engaged in non-institutional political activities than formal elections, with lower trust in democratic institutions, especially in high-performing democracies. Economic well-being and inclusive governance are key to meaningful youth participation. The study also contributes to a broader exploratory initiative to develop an international "youth in politics" index, as recommended by the Secretary-General in his report entitled "Our Common Agenda" ([A/75/982](#)).

51. The Youth Office launched a project to develop a youth in politics measurement tool in the Middle East and North Africa region. The tool has the potential to have a transformative impact, by providing timely information about progress regarding young people's political participation and by tracking the opening of political spaces in countries in the region.

VIII. Communications, outreach and public engagement

52. The Youth Office has worked closely with all divisions of the Department of Global Communications and across different teams to strengthen targeted outreach to young people globally, building strong alignment in narratives and leveraging existing capacities and resources to more systematically disseminate youth-related communications content through existing networks.

53. Throughout the reporting period, social media remained a key tool used by the Office to meaningfully engage with young people worldwide. The Office's social media channels (@UNYouthAffairs) continued to grow, with a collective following of approximately 896,000 people across Instagram, Twitter/X, Facebook, TikTok, Threads and LinkedIn – reflecting a growth rate of approximately 12 per cent from the previous cycle.

54. In 2025, the Office launched its new website (www.un.org/youthaffairs), which saw steady traffic throughout the year. The website serves as a central hub for information about the work of the Office, resources for young people and opportunities for engagement with the United Nations.

55. To diversify the communications channels and ensure more consistent mechanisms to engage with young people around the world, the Office grew the readership of its Youth2030 Pulse newsletter, which brings together unique opportunities for young people, curated from across the United Nations system. As at May 2025, the newsletter reached more than 100,000 subscribers every month, which represents a growth rate of more than 60 per cent from the previous cycle. The newsletter has an average open rate of 84 per cent and a click-through rate of 14 per cent, well above the industry average.

56. To celebrate International Youth Day 2024, the Youth Office, in partnership with the United Nations Futures Lab Network, invited young people around the world to join an interactive foresight activity: “Let #YouthLead for the Future”. The exercise served to emphasize that tackling the complex crises facing our world today requires urgent action, systemic shifts and enabling environments that elevate the role of young people as the leaders of today and tomorrow. However, current power systems have continued to prioritize short-term thinking and benefits at the expense of our shared future. Youth foresight and futures thinking are key tools at our disposal to change this narrative. By helping to better understand probable and possible futures, this exercise mobilized young people around the world to help define what preferred futures to collectively and collaboratively work towards.

57. Leading up to the Summit of the Future with a view towards rebuilding trust and restoring hope in multilateral institutions at this critical moment for people and planet, the Youth Office launched an advocacy campaign in the form of an open letter from youth and allies to world leaders, with a focus on elevating young people's voices and demands. Through the open letter, nearly 10,000 young people and partners raised their voices, calling for stronger youth participation in global decision-making spaces.

58. The Youth Office collaborated with the Sustainable Development Goals Action Campaign and HUG, a global community for artists, to invite artists from around the world to submit artwork that reimagines and recalibrates political, economic, social and environmental systems for a peaceful, just and inclusive present and a hopeful future. The selected artworks, from more than 1,500 submissions, were showcased during key milestone events, including the high-level week of the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly in New York.

59. Since 2014, World Youth Skills Day (15 July) has annually marked the importance of equipping young people with essential skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship, as well as for addressing global challenges and advancing sustainable development. In 2024, the Office partnered with the Permanent Missions of Portugal and Sri Lanka to the United Nations, together with the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), to host a virtual panel event reflecting on the transformative progress made in youth skills development over the past decade, but also the gaps that remain and the challenges that still need to be addressed, in the context of a constantly evolving world of work. The Office also partnered with Generation Unlimited to create awareness of how our collective future is far more prosperous when youth are equipped with the skills that they need to thrive. This month-long campaign highlighted that investment in #SkillsRightNow can transform futures for youth and shape a better future for all.

60. The Youth Office partnered with The Elders on an intergenerational dialogue and blog series focused on spotlighting intergenerational perspectives on global challenges and solutions. The initiative amplifies diverse voices and fosters intergenerational solidarity through co-authored pieces by young changemakers and members of The Elders. By addressing critical issues with impactful storytelling, the blog series is aimed at engaging global audiences and inspiring actionable change catalysed by the power of collaboration across generations. The series consists of 10 blog posts to be published throughout 2025.

61. The Office continued to engage directly with diverse student groups throughout the past year, helping to raise awareness on the work of the United Nations system with and for youth, and to help young students understand the scope of opportunities to engage with the work of the United Nations. This included various engagements with schools and universities, as well as engagements with various Model United Nations convenings.

IX. Flagship initiatives

62. On a biennial basis, the Youth Office recognizes outstanding young leaders from around the globe in various sectors for their agency, courage and ingenuity in finding lasting solutions to the world's greatest challenges as part of the Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals initiative. The flagship initiative brings together a group of 17 young people from around the world who contribute to implementing the 2030 Agenda, fostering resilience in their communities, proposing innovative solutions, driving social progress and inspiring political change. Over the course of their tenure, the 2022 cohort of Young Leaders – whose term concluded in September 2024 – participated in more than 600 global-level engagements and more than 250 engagements at the regional and national levels. The Young Leaders were also brought together for the final time as a full cohort during the Summit of the Future in September 2024 for a working retreat at United Nations Headquarters. The retreat provided an opportunity for meaningful exchange of stories of impact, lessons learned and opportunities for continued growth as alumni of the initiative. In March 2025, the Office launched a call for the next cohort of Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals, receiving more than 33,000 applications from young people across more than 180 countries – a sixfold increase as compared with the previous edition of the initiative.

63. In 2025, the Office is launching two new flagship initiatives: on meaningful youth engagement, the United Nations Youth Compass; and on the mental health and well-being of young people. The meaningful youth engagement flagship is designed

to develop standards, practices and tools to support Governments, United Nations entities and civil society in embedding youth participation systematically across policymaking and implementation. The mental health and well-being flagship is aimed at strengthening system-wide efforts on mental health by promoting youth-led solutions, advancing policy coherence and improving services for young people.

64. These initiatives serve as critical tools to build momentum, raise visibility and foster trust in global processes among young people, while addressing emerging and underprioritized dimensions of the youth agenda.

X. Conclusion and way forward

65. The year 2025 marks a significant step forward in the consolidation and growing impact of the United Nations Youth Office. Following the completion of its establishment phase in 2024, the Office has focused on implementing its mandate, strengthening partnerships and delivering tangible results for young people around the world.

66. Moving forward, the Office will focus on the implementation of its strategic plan for 2025–2028, advancing youth affairs in the United Nations system and strengthening meaningful youth engagement at all levels.

67. The ongoing implementation of the second phase of the Youth Strategy will ensure that the United Nations system works collectively to accelerate efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, with and for youth at every step of the way.

68. As the Office looks to the future, the ongoing support and collaboration of Member States, stakeholders, in particular young people from various backgrounds, will be crucial in shaping its priorities. Championing the cause of young people and fostering an inclusive, equitable and sustainable world, in which their contributions are recognized and valued, are key areas where the Office will continue to make a positive impact. The Secretary-General reaffirms his commitment to this mission and calls upon the General Assembly to continue to support the pivotal work of the United Nations Youth Office.
