ECOSOC Partnership Forum

Summary of Spotlight Session
Youth Driving Change: Intergenerational Collaboration for the SDGs

31 January 2023, 3pm – 4pm EST (New York & Online)

Background on the event (one paragraph)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations in New York co-hosted *Youth Driving Change: Inter-Generational Collaboration for the SDGs*, an "informal spotlight session" at the ECOSOC Partnership Forum, in collaboration with Generation17 young leaders and Samsung Mobile, the Moonshot Platform and the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY). The event aimed to:

- Showcase young leaders' experience in leading transformational change to support efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda through technology, innovation, and partnerships with the private and public sectors.
- Create a space for interaction and exchange with different stakeholders, youth networks and initiatives.
- Stocktake points, on inter-generational collaboration, that are pertinent to be consistently and sustainably brought up in various forums on sustainable development agendas.

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Young people make up a large proportion of the world population and they play an important role in leading change and creating innovative solutions that can benefit their communities on both local and global levels. Therefore, engagement and recognition of their role as positive agents of change are essential. Their work provides great potential to support states in addressing the various challenges pertaining to development, and to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.
- Intergenerational collaboration and partnerships are needed to recognize and acknowledge young people's positive contribution towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- Working with older generations will help move progress along faster by leveraging their existing knowledge, while working with younger generations ensure that processes are inclusive and take into account children and youth needs and priorities.
- Genuine, meaningful, agile and sustained collaboration between different stakeholders, including the United Nations, national governments, private and public organizations, civil society and youth-led organizations, movements and networks is essential in order to make progress towards creating a better world.
- Technology should be used to open up possibilities for positive change and innovation, enabling everyone to contribute meaningfully towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Examples discussed included how technology, including artificial intelligence, have the potential of supporting people with disabilities (e.g. SPOTER Sign Language), connecting

young people growing up in favelas and in other vulnerable and left-behind situations (e.g. Favela.Labs), improving access to water, sanitation, and hygiene resources (e.g. Awareness 360) and reducing poverty and leaving no one behind (e.g. the Millennials Movement and Kafe be Kafak).

- Youth-led organizations, movements and networks can amplify young people's voices and support children and youth in unlocking their potential and create lasting positive impacts on society at large. This is the case of youth constituencies as part of SDG processes, such as the Major Group for Children and Youth, flagship initiatives such as Generation17, a partnership between UNDP and Samsung, and the Moonshot Platform.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- Youth empowerment should be promoted both as a means and an end. Investing in youth is crucial, including for young people themselves, if we are to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.
- Meaningfully supporting youth, among others, is about financial support, nurturing inclusive ecosystems and listening to young people's ideas to enable them to lead meaningful and positive change at local, national and global levels.
- National governments, international, regional and local organizations and other relevant entities should consider including young people in decision-making processes, as a way to reduce structural barriers to meaningful participation.
- Young people should be included in the design process of solutions that they or the broader society will benefit from.
- Partnerships between businesses, not-for-profit organizations and the UN, local/national governments and other relevant institutions are paramount for young people to access greater and diverse opportunities around the world.
- Technology should be harnessed not only as a tool to support young people's work, but also as a way to foster a more inclusive world.