

Youth in the Arab Region and the Transformation towards Sustainable Societies

Wednesday 25 April 2018 | 11:00 – 12:30 | MZ Meeting Room | UN House, Beirut

Background:

Youth between 15-29 years make up around 30 per cent of the overall population in the Arab region. Future generations will be greatly affected by decisions taken today, yet youth continue to be almost entirely excluded from the decision-making process, while most Arab countries lack a strategic vision for youth development. It is therefore important to engage youth with the 2030 Agenda by providing them with a platform to define their role in transformative change that will lead to achieving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Session Objective:

Highlight current key opportunities and explore ways to optimize investment in youth skills and youth-related innovation while looking at the transformative change required from a youth perspective to accelerate the pace of SDG implementation in the Arab region.

Themes of Discussion:

1. The role of youth in pushing for transformative change:

- Identify what youth can do in the face of the challenges outlined above and discuss the use of science, technology and innovations in facilitating youth engagement;
- Discuss how youth initiatives help to change patterns of consumption and production of natural resources and why this is important; and
- Explore rights-based approaches to ensure that youth have the right skill set to be empowered to participate equally and meaningfully.

2. Emerging opportunities for youth

- The future of employment opportunities related to natural resources, including emerging markets such as the green economy; and
- Showcasing successful examples of current opportunities/initiatives which invest in youth skills, rights & innovation.

Facilitator:

- [Mr. Samir Anouti](#), Regional Advisor on Youth, UNFPA-ASRO
- [Ms. Alya Alaali](#), Regional Youth Expert and Co-founder of Bayanat Box

Opening Presentation:

- [Ms. Nancy Ezzeddine](#), Policy Researcher, Bayanat Box

Panelists:

- [Mr. Luay Shabaneh](#): Regional Director, UNFPA-Arab States Regional Office
- [Ms. Zeina Saab](#), Innovator and Entrepreneur, Nawaya Network
- [Mr. Nabil Hendy](#), Representative from Y-Peer International Youth Development Center- Arab States based in Jordan
- [Ms. Nouhad Awwad](#), Representative of the Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network

This Special Session will be live-streamed.