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## Fifth International Youth Forum

22-23 August 2025  
Bangkok, Thailand

### Concept Note

#### I. Background

The **International Youth Forum (IYF)** is a globally recognized, inclusive platform that engages young leaders, policymakers, civil society actors, and international organizations in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Since its inception in 2017, the forum has evolved into a dynamic space for dialogue, collaboration, and youth-led action, supporting the implementation and review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from the perspective of young people.

Held annually, the forum empowers youth—particularly from marginalized and underrepresented communities—to influence policies, share innovations, and strengthen accountability for sustainable development and human rights. It brings together delegates from over 90 countries, including youth activists, ministers, UN officials, ambassadors, educators, and civil society leaders, who collectively contribute to shaping global and national development agendas.

The **5th International Youth Forum (IYF 5.0)** will take place under the theme: “**Empowering Youth for a Just, Inclusive and Sustainable Future**”, convening from 21-22 August 2025 at the **United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC)** in **Bangkok, Thailand**. Aligned with the priorities of the 2030 Agenda and key global forums such as the Second World Summit for Social Development and High Level Political Forum, IYF 5.0 will feature interactive plenaries, skill-building workshops, policy dialogues, and networking opportunities focused on accelerating youth participation and leadership in achieving the SDGs. IYF 5.0 will assess youth engagement and solutions in advancing the following SDGs under review in 2025: **SDG 3** – Good Health and Well-being, **SDG 5** – Gender Equality, **SDG 8** – Decent Work and Economic Growth, **SDG 14** – Life Below Water, **SDG 17** – Partnerships for the Goals.

The forum will also serve as a platform for sharing youth-led solutions, building cross-sectoral partnerships, and preparing recommendations that reflect the aspirations and insights of the world’s young population. Through this collective engagement, IYF continues to ensure that youth voices are central to global development conversations and that no one is left behind.

#### II. Context

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In an era marked by complex global challenges—ranging from climate change and social inequality to conflict, unemployment, and digital disruption—youth play a critical role in shaping sustainable and inclusive solutions. With nearly half of the world’s population under the age of 30, young people are not only the most affected by today’s crises but also the most capable of leading transformative change. Recognizing their potential, international frameworks such as the United Nations 2030 Agenda, the UN Youth Strategy, and various national youth policies emphasize the importance of youth participation in development and decision-making processes. Since its inception in 2017, the International Youth Forum (IYF) has served as a vital platform for amplifying youth voices, fostering global solidarity, and advancing youth-led action on human rights, peace, and sustainable development. As the world enters a critical phase of SDG implementation, IYF 5.0 offers an essential space for collaboration, innovation, and leadership to empower the next generation of changemakers.

### III. Objectives

The 5th International Youth Forum (IYF 5.0) aims to empower young leaders to actively contribute to global development by enhancing their knowledge, leadership, and advocacy skills in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It seeks to promote human rights, social justice, and inclusive development by mobilizing youth action and leadership across various sectors. The forum fosters intercultural dialogue, global solidarity, and the exchange of best practices by creating a diverse and inclusive space for youth from across the world. It also aims to strengthen partnerships between youth, policymakers, civil society, and international organizations, while advocating for greater youth participation in decision-making processes at all levels. Through dynamic discussions, policy dialogues, and showcasing of youth-led innovations, IYF 5.0 aspires to influence global development agendas and ensure young voices are at the center of building a just, peaceful, and sustainable future.

**Empower Youth for Global Leadership :** Equip young leaders with the knowledge, tools, and networks to take active roles in shaping policies and initiatives aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Promote Human Rights and Social Justice :** Foster a deep understanding of human rights principles and encourage youth-led advocacy for justice, equity, and dignity for all, especially marginalized communities.

**Accelerate Youth Action on the SDGs :** Mobilize youth-driven solutions and initiatives to advance the Sustainable Development Goals, with a focus on the 2025 HLPF review goals

**Foster Intercultural Dialogue and Solidarity :** Create a safe and inclusive space for dialogue among youth from diverse backgrounds to promote peace, tolerance, mutual respect, and global citizenship.

**Build Strategic Partnerships :** Strengthen collaboration among youth, governments, UN agencies, civil society, academia, and private sector actors to co-create innovative and inclusive solutions.

**Enhance Youth Participation in Decision-Making :** Advocate for stronger youth representation in national, regional, and international governance structures to ensure meaningful youth participation in shaping the future.

**Showcase Youth Innovations and Best Practices :** Provide a global platform for youth to present their success stories, projects, and innovations that contribute to sustainable development and community transformation.

**Influence Global Development Dialogues :** Consolidate youth perspectives and policy recommendations to feed into international processes such as the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), COP summits, and other UN-led platforms.

## **IV. Forum Highlights**

The 5th International Youth Forum (IYF 5.0) will feature a range of dynamic and impactful sessions designed to inspire and engage participants. Highlights of the forum include keynote sessions delivered by global thought leaders, UN officials, policymakers, and young changemakers, setting the tone for transformative dialogue. A High-Level Panel comprising ministers, UN representatives, ambassadors, and civil society leaders will explore policy frameworks and collaborative strategies to advance youth development and leadership globally. Participants will engage in interactive workshops and skill labs focused on leadership, advocacy, innovation, and entrepreneurship, equipping them with practical tools for action. The forum will also host roundtable dialogues on critical themes such as peace education, climate resilience, inclusive governance, and youth diplomacy, encouraging deep reflection and collaboration. A vibrant cultural exchange program will celebrate the diversity, traditions, and creative expressions of youth from around the world. One of the key outcomes of IYF 5.0 will be the Youth Declaration and Call to Action—a collective policy document shaped by participants to reflect their shared vision and priorities. In recognition of exceptional impact, the Global SDG Awards will honor outstanding youth-led initiatives driving positive change in their communities.

## V. Participants

The forum will bring together:

- Young leaders aged 18–35 from over 90 countries.
- Representatives from UN bodies, international NGOs, governments, and academia.
- Youth-focused organizations, social entrepreneurs, and media partners.
- Special delegates from marginalized and underrepresented communities.

## Expected Outcome

The 5th International Youth Forum (IYF 5.0) is expected to result in a strengthened global youth network committed to advancing sustainable development and peacebuilding. The forum will produce documented policy recommendations and youth-led solutions, serving as valuable inputs for global and regional development agendas. It will also facilitate the formation of action groups to sustain momentum through follow-up regional and thematic engagements. Furthermore, the event will enhance collaboration between youth and multilateral institutions, fostering meaningful partnerships for long-term impact.

## VI. Conclusion

The 5th International Youth Forum (IYF 5.0) stands as a beacon of hope and action, bringing together diverse young voices from across the globe to collectively shape a more just, inclusive, and sustainable future. By fostering dialogue, building leadership, and strengthening partnerships, the forum aims to not only inspire but also equip youth to become proactive agents of change in their communities and beyond. As we navigate an increasingly complex global landscape, IYF 5.0 reaffirms the critical role of youth in global governance and development, ensuring that their perspectives, solutions, and aspirations are placed at the heart of transformative action.

### For Focal Point

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