INTRODUCTION

It’s been seven years since the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals were introduced. The world is only a short 7-year window to make the SDGs a reality by 2030.

Young people today feel a sense of privilege; that progress is lagging behind. They believe that young people around the world who also follow the track of the hvordan has not made progress towards building a better future. Global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts, climate change, learning crisis, and surging unemployment have dramatically intensified development efforts and efforts to resolve the issue of inequalities in all parts of life, everywhere. There is both urgency and an unprecedented opportunity to tackle the challenges during this pivotal mid-point.

The United Nations Secretary General, António Guterres states that “humanity faces a stark and urgent choice: breakdown or breakthrough. The choices we make — or fail to make — today will result in further breakdown and a future of perpetual crises, or we can reframe it as a better future.” The United Nations calls for global action to make a breakthrough necessary to these challenges.

Today, youth are actively standing up for issues affecting them and their communities both locally and globally. They need to be included and heard in places where decisions are made. They need to drive decision-making for issues affecting them today and those that will affect their futures. The United Nations Secretary General’s Our Common Agenda calls for removal of solidarity particularly with younger generations, and the Youth 2030 Progress Report 2022 demonstrates how the UN system is working with governments in advancing global commitments for and with youth. This momentum should be accelerated to realize meaningful transformation for people and the planet before it’s too late.

The talent, drive, and innovation of youth is key to achieving a better world. For the past 19 years, The Youth Assembly has been a platform for young people to take action and accelerate change to build a future for all. The Youth Assembly brings together the world’s most talented young leaders to learn, engage, and take action. This conference will also provide opportunities for young people from across the globe with new knowledge, skills, and networks needed to lead and inspire youth worldwide.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE YOUTH ASSEMBLY HERE.

BREAKTHROUGH TO A BETTER FUTURE

The 28th Session of The Youth Assembly will be centered on coming together to amplify young people’s engagement, resources and opportunities they need to become equal partners in achieving change.

Anchored around a celebration of International Youth Day, the theme of the 28th Session of The Youth Assembly is “Breakthrough to a Better Future.” Through discussions, skill-building workshops, network and idea-generation, and with the support and guidance of the field’s most talented young leaders, they will gain the relevant skills and opportunity they need to take on the challenges during this pivotal mid-point.

It is with this spirit that we truly will break through to a better future. After consultation with hundreds of young leaders worldwide, five core areas were identified as the 28th program agenda where there are urgent challenges and exciting potential for young people to make a breakthrough:

1. Reducing Inequalities: Tackling Poverty and Gender Inequality
2. Education & Employment: Skills for the Future
3. Protect Our Planet: Climate Action
4. Global Trust: Peace & Reconciliation
5. Global Solidarity: Multilateralism and Regional Cooperation for a Better Future

The outcome of The Youth Assembly is a powerful platform where there is urgent action needed to mobilize a breakthrough to a better future for all. The Youth Assembly brings together the world’s most talented young leaders to learn, engage, and take action. This conference will also provide opportunities for young people from across the globe with new knowledge, skills, and networks needed to lead and inspire youth worldwide.

The Youth Assembly aims to empower and equip young people to make a breakthrough to a better future.

We expect participants to experience The Youth Assembly experience as an event, but also as a journey that helps them make positive change on the ground in their communities and across the world. To continue their impact journey, Delegates are encouraged to stay connected with our global alumni community, as part of an international movement of young changemakers developing groundbreaking solutions to tackle the world’s greatest challenges.

Furthermore, Delegates are encouraged to take on leadership roles in their local youth assemblies, becoming the change they seek in their communities, and bringing these unique opportunities to young changemakers locally.

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The Youth Assembly is convened by AFS Intercultural Programs, a global non-profit that empowers young people worldwide with intercultural education and the passion for making a difference.

THE OBJECTIVES

Over the course of The Youth Assembly, delegates will pursue the following objectives:

Connect and engage: Build partnerships and collaboration between influential young leaders, experts, and practitioners from across sectors and world regions.

Take action and create impact: Co-create solutions and engage in new initiatives and opportunities to accelerate your impact in local communities and the world.

Learn and develop skills: Discover groundbreaking ideas, knowledge, and tools to succeed in your projects.

Find out more about The Youth Assembly here.