INTRODUCTION

As we stand at the midway of tackling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, The 29th Session of the AFS Youth Assembly will celebrate 50 years of empowering and changing the lives of young people across the globe with the backdrop of the upcoming United Nations Summit of the Future in 2024.

There is both urgency and an unprecedented opportunity to tackle the challenges during this mid-point of the 2030 Agenda. Global issues such as the Covid-19 pandemic, climate change, food insecurity, and the learning crisis have drastically impeded development efforts and livelihood for people around the world. Conflicts have forced millions of people to flee from their homes without basic necessities and live in increasingly unstable and deteriorating conditions. As a result, today we are faced with a growing number of humanitarian crises disproportionately affecting already vulnerable groups such as women and children. Conflicts are about “human life and dignity of life and how we approach life and value life. Every life matters, and how we approach it matters.”

FORGE OUR SHARED FUTURE

The theme of the 29th Session of the AFS Youth Assembly is “Forge Our Shared Future.” As global citizens we need to come together to save our planet, our people, our shared prosperity and create a peaceful world where we and future generations can live and thrive. The theme will be centered on solidarity and strong partnerships. “In this second half it’s all hands on deck,” as stated by the UN Deputy Secretary General, Amina J. Mohammed. We must come together before it’s too late.

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After consultation with hundreds of young leaders worldwide, four core areas were identified as the 29th program agenda where there are urgent challenges and exciting potential for young people to unite and take action.

1. Global Shocks: Tackling Humanitarian Crises
2. Future of Education: Leveraging Technology & Innovation
3. Save our Planet: Unite for Climate Action
4. Food Security: Strengthening Global Food Systems

The objectives of the 29th Session of the AFS Youth Assembly are:

- Connect and engage young leaders, experts, and practitioners from across sectors and world regions.
- Learn and develop skills to succeed in their projects.
- Take action and create impact by connecting with influential young leaders, experts, and practitioners from across sectors and world regions.
- Build partnerships and motivation by connecting with influential young leaders, experts, and practitioners from across sectors and world regions.

The outcomes of the 29th Session of the AFS Youth Assembly are:

- 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 within AFS Youth Assembly programs, becoming the change they wish to see in their communities, and leveraging these unique opportunities to young changemakers locally.
- The Youth Assembly is convened by AFS Intercultural Programs, the leading organization that empowers young people from all backgrounds with essential global skills and the passion for making a difference.

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