Foreword

Dear Participant,

Thank you for joining us for the WFUNA International Model United Nations Geneva Online 2021 conference. We are excited that you are interested in being involved with Model UN, and WIMUN in particular, during the ongoing global health pandemic.

While we are sad that we will not be able to welcome in-person, we look forward to an incredible online experience with you. This resource guide provides you with useful links and resources to help you prepare for the upcoming discussions during WIMUN Geneva Online.

We recommend that you take a careful look at all of them and use the provided information to guide your additional research.
Topic Description

The UN defines ‘youth’ as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years. The world today is home to the largest generation of young people in history, 1.8 billion. Close to 90 per cent of them live in developing countries, where they constitute a large proportion of the population.

On 21 September 2020, following several months of negotiations, world leaders adopted the Declaration on the Commemoration of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations (UN75 Declaration). This groundbreaking document included 12 commitments one of which focused on youth:

“We will listen to and work with youth. A UN Youth Advisory Council is needed to elevate the voices of youth in international decision-making and to ensure youth inclusion in programming across the UN system. It would offer advice and oversight in advancing the 2018 UN Youth Strategy and serve as an advocacy body for young people’s rights around the world.”

One recommendation by a think tank is to create a UN Youth Council as an advisory body to the UN General Assembly. The advisory body would support the implementation of the UN Youth Strategy and ensure meaningful youth participation in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

WIMUN is the first Model UN in the world to incorporate a simulation of the UN Youth Council which has been proposed by think tanks but not yet implemented. It is part of a new initiative to include futuristic simulations of entities that could one day become part of the UN system to strengthen its global governance.

The focus of the first simulation of the UNYC will be on youth participation in peace processes. The majority population in countries with ongoing peace processes are typically young people. While peace
negotiations remain central to decision-making in a peace process, young people continue to be politically marginalized, excluded, and undervalued in these negotiations.

This simulation will include delegates representing leading youth organizations around the world that are involved in some way in peacebuilding to highlight the active engagement of youth in peacebuilding initiatives to advocate for youth inclusion in processes that aim to prevent violence and achieve sustainable peace agreements. These WIMUN UNYC delegates will work together to reach consensus on what the UN Member States need to do include youth in the political processes that aim to rebuild peace, trust and reconciliation.
UM Resources

Reports of the Secretary-General


Summary: This study was conducted by UN experts and advisory groups, who conducted consultations, focus groups and discussions with young people to learn about their views on peace and security. The results showed many were interested in taking part in peace processes and ensuring the safety of their country. Read the full report here. Published date: 2018


Summary: This report acknowledges the challenges the youth faces to get involved in peace processes and recommends member states how to be inclusive of young voices while highlighting there is a lot of potential and commitment from the young population to get involved. Published date: 2020

The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security

Summary: Independent Progress Study by the UNFPA on Youth, Peace and Security that presents definitions to the central concepts used to discuss the topic of Youth Participation in Peace Processes, such as ‘youth’, ‘political inclusion’, ‘peace and security’, and ‘youth engagement’. Published date: 2018

Report of the Secretary-General - Policies and Programmes Involving the Youth - E/CN.5/2021/5
Summary: The ECOSOC 2021 report looks at how the Youth has gotten engaged in policies and regional programmes as well as detailing the challenges they have faced amid the COVID-19 crisis, poverty, the global economy and national law. Published date: 2021

Security Council Resolutions

Security Council - Resolution 2250

Summary: The 2015 resolution acknowledges the importance of including the youth in peace process dialogues and urges members to find ways to increase youth participation in these processes. Published date: 2015

Security Council - Resolution 2419

Summary: This 2018 resolution reaffirms the UN’s commitment to include the youth in peace processes and highlights the importance of young people to spread and cultivate a culture of peace and tolerance. Published date: 2018

UN Websites

United Nations Peacekeeping - Promoting Youth, Peace and Security

Summary: The United Nations Peacekeeping Corps has implemented regional missions around the globe to empower and teach young populations, showing them how to get involved in peacekeeping and ways to advance and implement policies that achieve peacemaking. Published date: 2020

The Youth Solidarity Fund - United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

Summary: Established in 2008, this fund supports actions led by young civil society leaders, aged 18 to 35. These projects have impacts on entire communities, affect policy-making and challenge the national
status quo while focusing on the young population. Published date: 2020

A Global Call - Compact for Young People: The United Nations Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth

Summary: This initiative, supported by the Envoy on Youth, helps bring young people together to join humanitarian causes and focuses on relieving children and women targeted by violence. Published date: 2021

UN Publications

Youth 2030 - A Global Progress Report:

Summary: This report analyses how the United Nations (UN) has been making progress on improving youth participation in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and how the UN is responding to the needs of young people around the world. Publish date: 2021
Youth 2030, The United Nations Youth Strategy - Working With and For Young People:

Summary: This strategy aims to increase the actions towards addressing the needs and rights of young people while empowering the youth to work on implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda. Published date: 2018

Global Policy Paper - We are Here: Youth Participation in Peace Processes

Summary: This paper serves as a way to understand how young people engage with mediation and negotiation processes, and aims to find how they can get more involved in peacemaking. Published date: 2019

UN-NGO Publications

Inter-agency Working Group on Participation in Peacebuilding - Guiding Principles of Youth Participation in Peacebuilding (Infographic)

Summary: Inter-agency Working Group on Participation in Peacebuilding infographic folder with the guiding principles on the topic “Youth Participation in Peace Processes”. Published date: 2016

Inter-agency Working Group on Participation in Peacebuilding - Practice Note on Youth Participation in Peacebuilding

Summary: Inter-agency Working Group on Participation in Peacebuilding practice notes on programmes, plans and policies that can be efficient in boosting youth participation in peace processes. Published date: 2016
Non-UN Resources

Final Report of the Youth as Peacebuilders - United Nations Association in Canada

Summary: After hosting Youth’s Peacebuilders forum in 2018 in Canada, the United Nations Association highlighted the key issues, recommendations and priorities to take into account when including the youth in peacemaking processes. Published date: 2018

New and innovative forms of youth participation in decision-making processes

Summary: Research by Anne Crowley and Dan Moxon, published and printed by the Council of Europe, which contains a summary with recommendations for policymaking on the topic of Youth Participation in Peace Processes, review of some concrete cases on the matter, as well as debates and perspectives for the future. Published date: 2017

Youth, Peace & Security Research Network – UNOY

Summary: United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY Peacebuilders) Journal with academic researches on Youth, Peace and Security in different contexts and countries. The countries and regions encompassed are the following: Latin America, Maldives, Tunisia and Kyrgyzstan. Published date: 2021

Common Ground/ Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security - History of the Decision-making on Youth, Peace and Security

Summary: Common Ground/ Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security document on the history of advocacy and decision-making on the topic “Youth, Peace and Security” from 2000 until 2020. Published date: 2021
Further Reading

UN Youth Envoy’s Workplan: Vision Statement

Youth, Political Participation and Decision-making - Fact Sheet