The world recently adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with a set of ambitious goals. Today, the discussion taking place is on how to translate those goals into concrete plans of action.

UNCTAD wants to give youth a voice — through its new initiative, the Youth Forum — to be a part of that discussion. By offering this platform, youth will be able to share their views and ideas on issues related to UNCTAD work that matter to them.

Under the theme “Shaping the world we want”, the Youth Forum will convene students and young professionals between the ages of 18 and 30 who have experience and/or are interested in trade and development-related issues. They will discuss topics they consider of concern following the 2015 United Nations global survey “My World”, namely education, more and better job opportunities and accountability of States.

DISCUSSION BEFORE THE FORUM

Prior to the Forum, a three-week online discussion will take place during which youth from around the world will debate on these topics. Its main outcome will be incorporated into a report that will be disseminated in early July and form the basis for the Forum held in Nairobi. Youth can also contribute with ideas and comments to the Forum using the social media accounts of the UNCTAD Youth Forum (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter).

DURING THE FORUM IN NAIROBI

One day before the start of the Forum, team-building activities will be held for 250 young participants from around the world to bond, while creating their own environment for discussion at the venue for the Youth Forum, located in a tent within the grounds of the Kenyatta International Conference Centre.

The Forum will start on 19 July with a high-level opening ceremony. During the first two days of the Forum, debates will take place through breakout sessions organized for each topic, using a public and private sector approach.
The outcome of the discussions will be incorporated into a **Youth Declaration** that will be presented by youth to eminent participants of UNCTAD 14 during the Forum’s high-level ministerial session on 21 July. The Forum will round off with a performance by a Kenyan rapper who has written a song exclusively for the Forum, followed by a high-level panel discussion on youth empowerment.

The formal sessions of the Forum will be guided by a **moderator**, Ms. Ory Okolloh, assisted by co-moderators. Sessions will be held mainly in English with informal interpretation, while French and Spanish interpretation will be available on the last day.

**HOW TO FOLLOW THE YOUTH FORUM**

News about the Forum can be found through @UNCTAD, #UNCTADYouth and #UNCTAD14 on Twitter, UNCTAD Youth Forum on Facebook and @unctadyouthforum on Instagram.

News, blogs and videos are made available at the unctad14.org website. Contributions for blogs and videos can be sent to unctad14@unctad.org.

During the Youth Forum, updates on meetings and other activities will be posted on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. There will also be web broadcasting through the unctad14.org website.

Media will be present during the Forum and interviews will be given in the interview corner of the Youth Forum tent.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

unctad14.org
#UNCTAD14

UNCTAD Youth Forum
@unctadyouthforum
unctad14@unctad.org