



Economic and Social Council Youth Forum

**“Youth shaping sustainable and innovative solutions:
Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in
times of crises”**

SIDE EVENT AT THE 2024 ECOSOC YOUTH FORUM

Empowering Youth in Catalyzing Faith-inspired Approaches to Achieving SDGs 16 and 17 in the Climate Change Agenda

**Organized by the Religions for Peace, the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF), and
the International Islamic Fiqh Academy**

**Wednesday, 17 April 2024 | 1:00PM – 2:15PM EDT
Church Centre for the United Nations, 8th Floor & Zoom**

1. Background

Faith-based organizations (FBOs) and religious leaders play a crucial role in addressing climate change at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties. Their involvement demonstrates that religious and spiritual communities are integral to global efforts against climate change and are essential partners in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

The commitment to achieving the SDGs emphasizes the importance of cultivating inclusive societies and forming sustainable partnerships. Within this framework, the emphasis on SDG 16, which promotes peaceful and inclusive societies with access to justice, and SDG 17, which focuses on strengthening the means of implementation for sustainable development, is of paramount importance. Aligned with these goals, this side event aims to highlight the pivotal role of young women and youth in realizing the climate change agenda and fostering sustainable global partnerships from a faith perspective.

This side event aims to provide a platform for open discussion and collaboration, recognizing the role of youth in faith communities in achieving climate action goals outlined in SDGs 16 and 17. Through this discussion, we hope to foster inclusivity, efficiency, and sustainable partnerships for a more resilient and climate-conscious future.

2. Objectives of the side event, including relation with the SDGs identified in the Guidelines

- Create awareness about the role of SDG 16 in promoting inclusive and peaceful societies within the context of the climate change agenda and discuss the potential of youth in faith communities as catalysts for positive change in achieving justice and inclusivity in climate action.

- Provide a shared platform for reflection and knowledge exchange on the role of youth from faith communities in promoting inclusive approaches within the climate agenda, with faith as a catalyst for the realization of peaceful and just societies.
- Discuss and explore available resources and opportunities within youth serving faith organizations that can be used to catalyze meaningful inclusion of young boys and girls as partners, alongside other stakeholders, in the realization of SDG 17 within the climate agenda.
- Explore case studies and best practices where youth serving faith organizations have successfully mobilized youth in collaboration with other stakeholders to contribute to the implementation of sustainable development initiatives in the context of climate change.

3. Program

Light refreshments will be served at the venue from 12:00PM – 1:00PM.

1:00 – 1:01	Moment of Silence
1:01 – 1:19	Welcome and Opening Remarks
1:19 – 2:05	Panel Discussion
2:05 – 2:10	Q&A
2:10 – 2:15	Closing Remarks

4. Guiding Questions for Discussion/s

- What is the critical role of faith communities in the climate change discourse and agenda?
- What are some concrete examples of successful youth-led climate initiatives that advanced SDGs 16 and 17, in collaboration with faith-based organizations and actors?
- What is the role of spirituality and faith in catalyzing action and promoting environmental stewardship among the younger generation in the context of climate change?

5. Venue Address and Registration

Venue Address: Church Center for the United Nations, 777 United Nations Plaza, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10017

Registration:

- Those in the New York area are encouraged to attend the event **in-person** by registering through this link: <https://forms.gle/Lvjf2nskaHb4jffJ8>
- Other participants can register to attend **virtually** through this link: https://religionsforpeace.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yN1uUpHgTfGT9wWyRATpxw