

CONCEPT NOTE

Youth Talks – State Accountability

QUESTIONS

- How do we increase youth civic engagement in accountability structures in the post-covid world?
- Which formal mechanisms do you feel are most effective for youth participation in public processes?
- How can young people contribute to strengthening the role of global institutions in promoting transparent and inclusive governance?
- Can the media help promote the accountability of states and businesses?
- Do you think local organizations could play a stronger role in monitoring policy outcomes?

DESCRIPTION

Strong accountability mechanisms provide platforms for young people to participate in meaningful ways in processes that affect their future. Building the capacity of youth to engage in policy making grants individuals an opportunity to take active part in the governance of their communities and advances the principles of inclusion, transparency and responsiveness.

Sustainable Development Goal 16 as a stand-alone focus, illuminates the importance of having strong institutions and accountable states. This makes state accountability an indispensable precondition for international and domestic players to effectively work towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and strengthen foundations for a participatory democracy.

As the current political climate has put pressure on international cooperation mechanisms, the global community is faced with the need to improve accountability processes at all levels to ensure an effective policy delivery. In order to effectively address global challenges, the inclusion of young people in policy cycles and monitoring processes can present a unique opportunity to drive transformative change and foster a culture of active citizenship.

Youth Talks is a project that is part of the preparations for the UNCTAD15 Youth Forum. Its outcomes will be fed into a report addressed to UNCTAD member States and contain the views of the youth. It will run until 3 October 2021. Participation guidelines to the Youth Talks online discussion platform and the subscription link are available on the Youth Talks webpage.