



Youth Forum



Date: online, 16–18 September 2021

How to apply for the UNCTAD15 Youth Forum



Application deadline: 31 August 2021

The UNCTAD15 Youth forum will take place online from 16 to 18 September 2021 as part of UNCTAD's 15th quadrennial conference hosted by Barbados, scheduled for 3 to 7 October 2021.

The theme of the forum is *Pull up: Change di Riddim*.

The forum is open to students or young professionals aged 18 to 30, who are interested in trade and development issues and want to debate with other youth from around the world.

Objectives of the Forum

- Facilitate the exchange of experiences among the youth and strengthen a network of future leaders from around the world.
- Foster an interactive dialogue between the youth and global players working towards the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, offering the youth a platform to express their views on issues of concern and areas where they wish to see greater action, including through a Youth Declaration.
- Raise greater awareness on youth-led projects and how to enhance youth involvement in sustainable development programmes.

Programme of the Forum

The world stands at a critical point, with inequalities in sharp focus as the COVID-19 pandemic and its socioeconomic impacts continue to increase unresolved challenges. Global leaders are now tasked with deciding whether the global agenda will focus on the resumption of business as usual or a redefined collaborative mission that translates the hopes and aspirations of people around the world into new opportunities and lasting prosperity for all.



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APPLICATION



The forum will bring together youth from around the world to exchange local and global experiences, ideas and best practices. It will provide a platform for the perspectives of the youth to be presented to the wider UNCTAD 15 debate. This will be through plenary sessions, breakout sessions, Youth o’Clocks and Youth cafes. Forum participants may also attend the conference itself, where the Youth Declaration will be presented.

Participation Criteria

UNCTAD will pre-select forum participants, who should meet the following criteria:

- Be between the ages of 18 and 30.
- Be able to speak and understand English.
- Have experience (from their studies or work) in the areas of UNCTAD’s work/focus. Evidence of projects related to trade and development (academic and professional) will be considered as experience in the field. Participants will then be invited to describe their experiences in a video (please see the application process section below).

Application process

Click [here](#) and fill in the online application form. Please ensure that you:

- Create a short video (of maximum duration of two minutes and in mp4 format only) explaining your motivation for wanting to participate in the UNCTAD15 Youth Forum. Creativity and originality are encouraged. Upload the video to either YouTube or Vimeo as explained below:
 - To **YouTube**:
 1. Sign into your YouTube account.
 2. Click on Upload at the top of the page.
 3. Select the video you would like to upload.
 4. Click Publish to finish uploading. Set the video privacy setting to Unlisted.



5. Click Done to finish the upload and click Share to privately share your video.

For more guidance, please click [here](#).

- To **Vimeo** :

1. Sign into your Vimeo account.
2. Click the Upload video button located on the home page of the site.
3. Once you click the Upload link, you will be taken to the upload page.
4. Click the Choose a File to Upload button, which will launch an upload dialog box. Choose the file that you want to upload and then click on Select.

For more guidance, please click [here](#).

- Fully complete the online application form, including the URL of your video and send it.

Selection Criteria

The UNCTAD15 Youth Forum is designed for youth participants from around the world. The selection criteria will be based on principles of equitable geographical representation, balanced gender distribution, diversity of backgrounds (e.g., age, areas of studies and additional experience), and the quality of the supporting materials submitted with applications (e.g., the originality in the video).

An UNCTAD committee will select the forum participants. If you are not selected to attend the forum online, you can still participate through its preparatory discussions and follow the event via social media (Facebook and Twitter @UNCTADYouth and Instagram @UNCTADYouthForum).

Successful applicants will be notified no later than 10 September 2021. An announcement will be made on social media once the selection process is completed.

Conditions to Participate

Full-time attendance of the forum by the selected participants is encouraged. Participants should be committed to invest time to prepare for and actively participate in the forum.



**Youth
Forum**



Once selected, participants of the forum will receive an email explaining how to register to receive a link to the Youth Forum's platform.

Deadline for Submissions of Applications

All applications must be submitted by **31 August 2021 at 5 p.m. Geneva time (UTC+2)**.