



Youth Forum



Date online 16 to 18 September 2021

Pull Up: Change di Riddim



Time of sessions is in Central European Summer Time (CEST)

Preliminary programme

16 September

13:00–13:10 **Welcome and icebreaker** (Closed session, registration required)

13:10–14:05 **Youth declaration** (Closed session, registration required)
Preparatory process

14:10–14:55 **What's your online avatar? Meet us at the Youth cafe**
Career building on how you present yourself only, and why it matters
with **Mr. Mathias Haas**, Founder, SuperSocial

Facilitator: **Ms. Tahirah Banks**, Founder, Why Thoughtful

15:00–16:00 **Opening of the Youth Forum**

Speakers **The Honorable Mia Amor Mottley**, Prime Minister of Barbados

Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General, UNCTAD

Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayke, United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy for Youth

Ms. Roshanna Trim, Barbados UNCTAD15 Youth Forum Lead

Ms. Arlette Verploegh, Youth coordinator, UNCTAD

16:00–17:00 **Where are we now? Equality, prosperity, COVID-19 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

Less than a decade stands between where we are and a global deadline of 2030. The COVID-19 pandemic has in many ways highlighted glaring inequalities among the world's populations and the vulnerabilities of the global south and small island developing states. What does a just, equal and prosperous world look like? How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted or altered the progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals? How can we reset, refocus and reengineer our approach to a world where no one is left behind?



Connect with us





- Speakers:** **The Honorable Mia Amor Mottley**, Prime Minister of Barbados
Ms. Roshanna Trim, Barbados UNCTAD15 Youth Forum Lead
Mr. Fredrik Asche-Kaada, Founder, Net Expert Hub
Ms. Kanika Sahijwani, Assistant Manager, Global Transmission Report
Mr. Gwasera Kusakwashe, Business Development Officer, Zimbabwe Informal Traders Council
Ms. Malou Legraet, Consultant, Trade Facilitation, UNCTAD
- Moderator:** **Ms. Krystal Hoyte**, Multimedia Journalist, CBC News
- 17:05–17:30** **Youth Action Hubs Talk at the Youth cafe**
What does it take as a youth to contribute to the 2030 Agenda at community level?
- Speakers:** **Ms. Aurelie Bruce**, Coordinator, Youth Action Hub Trinidad and Tobago
Mr. Matheus Falasco, Coordinator, Youth Action Hub Brazil
Mr. Vansh Madaan, Coordinator, Youth Action Hub New Delhi, India
- Facilitator:** **Ms. Catherine Onoselase**, Policy Adviser, Defra
- 17:30–18:15** **Driving a youth-inclusive economic growth**
How to build next generation economies that benefit everyone, including the youth, with job creating incentives, entrepreneurship and life skills training programmes.
- Speakers:** **Ms. Sade Jemmott**, Chairperson, Barbados National Youth Policy Coordinating Committee
Ms. Regina Cornish, Policy Officer, British Embassy Mexico City
Mr. Kristofferson Nunes, Co-Founder and CEO, UCA Limited
Ms. Wendela Rang, Youth Adviser
- Moderator:** **Mr. Amagou Aristide Agbor**, Project Coordinator, UNESCO Regional Office for Central Africa
- 17:30–18:15** **Accelerating digital transformation**
Digital technologies and innovation are critical to the advancement of youth development and the creation of inclusive knowledge societies.
- Speakers:** **Mr. Trevor Chung**, Head of Digital and UX
Ms. Janique-ka John, Women in Tech Caribbean Community
Ms. Zarja Vojta, Youth Programme Officer, UNCTAD
- Moderator:** **Mr. Rahym Joseph**, Student, University of West Indies, Cave Hill Campus
- 18:20–19:20** **Emerging opportunities within the GIG economy**



The GIG economy, comprised by short term jobs on online platforms (gigs) offers young people transitioning from education to the labour market unique opportunities to build 21st century skills and experience, and earn a living. Although a high number of students and young professionals chooses to start their career path with short term gigs, the easy enter into paid work is also characterized with low earnings and weak social protection mechanisms.

Given the global context of the gig economy and its rapid expansion across markets, this session aims to identify action points to improve institutional mechanisms and governance systems around gig employment to empower youth to shape their career paths and access meaningful job opportunities.

Speakers: **Mr. Drew Gardiner**, Employment Policies Specialist, ILO
Mr. Brian Wong, Managing Director, Seacliff Partners, Alibaba Global Initiatives Advisor
Ms. Francesca Chia, CEO, GoGet
Mr. Daniel Fadelle, Co-Founder, CheckWI
Ms. Shantal Martin, Soprano and Beauty Influencer

Moderator: **Mr. Thutukani Ndlovu**, Founder and Creative Director, Radioactive Blog

19:25–20:10 **Master your professional brand for career growth. Meet us at the Youth cafe**

Career building on how well you know yourself and how to get the job of your dream.

with **Ms. Ana Lokotkova**, Career Coach, CV Labs

Facilitator: **Ms. Jameela Hollingsworth**, Vice-President, Barbados Youth Development Council

20:10–21:10 **Youth and inclusive value chains: Unlocking untapped potential**

Young people are key to developing a robust, innovative and sustainable economy. While young people are known for their innovative capabilities, many do not benefit from economic opportunities. More needs to be done to meaningfully integrate young people into existing global value chains (GVCs)

44% of the world's entrepreneurs are between the age of 18 and 35 and young people are 1.6 times more likely to start a business than those above 35 years old (sources OECD and WTO). Considering the high number of youth-owned SMEs, investment in youth entrepreneurship and a resolute development of enabling environments are essential for the inclusion of youth in GVCs.

- *What youth-specific barriers continue to limit youth participation?*
- *In light of the economic fallout of COVID-19, what can institutions and governments do to enable and empower young people?*



- Overall, how do we create more inclusive and sustainable global value chains that meaningfully incorporate young people.

Speakers **Mr. Oluseye Adepoju**, Managing Partner/CEO of Strengths Africa Limited
Ms. Shirley Nzeh, Business Professional and Entrepreneur
Mr. Ken Shawa, Senior Economist for Africa, ILO
Ms. Mara Zhanet Michelo, Founder and CEO of Jacaranda Hub

Moderator **Ms. Meghan Theobalds**, CARICOM Youth Ambassador Barbados

21:15–22:00 **Innovating for the future**

Building back better requires thinking and creative ideas to advance global recovery efforts. Young people need to be engaged in political discussions and share best practices in innovation, projects, entrepreneurship to address collective economic and social development challenges.

Speakers: **Ms. Camilla Capassi Malagodi**, Operations Specialist, ING Bank
Mr. Kirk Anthony Hamilton, Co-founder and director, Tech Beach Retreat
Ms. Nancy Amunga, CEO, Dana Logistics

Moderator: **Mr. Tevin Sheperd**, Youth Specialist, US Agency for International Development

21:15–22:00 **Start-up your dream: Creating an ecosystem of youth entrepreneurship**

Many young people choose to set up their own businesses and pursue an unconventional career path due to their innovative nature or a lack of available employment opportunities. How can other stakeholders – investors, policymakers and fellow entrepreneurs better support young trailblazers starting their own businesses and help in their expansion to global markets?

Speakers **Mr. Bob Oganga**, Venture Development Associate, Outbox Hub, Uganda (Ye! Anchor Organisation)
Mr. Federico Perez, Founder and CEO, Platinum Capital, Colombia (Ye! Advisor to ITC from Colombia – mature stage youth entrepreneur)
Mr. Alieu Senghore, Managing Director, Gambia Angel Investor Network (GAIN), The Gambia
Ms. Judith Li, Global Programme Manager, Westerwelle Foundation
Mr. Antonio Duarte, Business mentor for the Ye! Community & Business Development Manager at OneStream

21:15–22:00 **Investing in youth businesses: Forging pathways toward a new-age economy**

Youth-owned enterprises often face unique challenges, access to finance being a key concern. Attracting investors and support from other stakeholders is a constant barrier as youth are often not deemed trustworthy or suitable for investment with limited access to their target market. What kind of financial



incentives are needed to support youth businesses and create a mindset shift?

Speakers: **Ms. George-Ann Ryan**, Chief Operations Officer, Ryan Group of Companies
Mr. Carlton Cummins, Co-founder ACELERON
Mr. Vansh Madaan, Co-founder, Saajhedaari
Mr. Kyle Maloney, Co-founder, Tech Beach Retreat

Moderator **Ms. Yvonne Lang**, Sustainability Consultant and Programmemaker, CirclNL

22:00–22:05 **Closing words of the day and see you tomorrow**

17 September

13:00–13:20 **Welcome to day 2** (*Closed session, registration required*)

13:20–14:05 **Youth declaration** (*Closed session, registration required*)
Preparatory process

14:05–14:50 **Exchange with Member States** (*Closed session, registration required*)
An informal exchange with government representatives on issues related to vulnerability and inequality. An opportunity for the youth to interact with member States and share their views.

Facilitators: **Mr. Thomson Ch'ng**, International Specialist Adviser, ASEAN Focus Group
Ms. Kurba-Marie Questelles, Peace and Security Specialist and Caribbean Coordinating Ambassador, One Young World

14:55–15:40 **Skills of the Future. Meet us at the Youth cafe**
Career building on how to prepare and adapt to changing career paths due to new technologies
with **Mr. Brian Wong**, Managing Director, Seacliff Partners, Alibaba Global Initiatives Advisor

Facilitator: **Ms. Sanya Rajpal**, Business Strategy Development Consultant FACTORY 42

15:45–16:15 **Youth o'Clock**
Conversation with **Ms. Isabelle Durant**, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Facilitator: **Mr. Ndusimo, Mngomezulu**, Founding Associate and Head of Strategy, the Associates

16:20–17:20 **Prioritizing funding for development in a post-COVID world**
Across the world, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected all populations and has the potential to derail the strides made towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. 255 million jobs were lost in 2020 (source ILO),



reinforcing and further widening economic inequalities, disproportionately impacting developing countries and vulnerable groups. The fallout from the pandemic has been catastrophic and an equal and prosperous future for all is only possible if there is a recommitment to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda which seeks to create a global framework for financing sustainable development. How can the international world support the development of the most vulnerable states on earth? What are the priority areas for funding for developing countries in a post-COVID-19 world? How should a youth-centric financial inclusion look like, and what needs to be done to equip young people with adequate knowledge and skills at the beginning of their career path?

Speakers: **H.E. Mr. Chad Blackman**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva

Mr. Mario Jordan (Magellan) Fetalino III, Chief Financial Officer, RCT5 Global Inc

Ms. Sanya Rajpal, Business Strategy Development Consultant, FACTORY 42

Mr. Nathaniel Lekatompessy, Senior Associate Deloitte Indonesia

Moderator: **Mr. Alex Downes**, Communications Officer, Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc.

17:20–18:05 **Negotiate your way. Meet us at the Youth cafe**

Career building on how to have powerful discussions

with **Mr. Stefan Eberhard**, Partner, Oberson Abels SA

Facilitator: **Ms. Fanta Jawara**, Lawyer, Ida D Dramesh and Associates

18:10–18:50 **Emerging employment trends**

As automation disrupts the world of work, what are the new jobs' prospects for youth employment and what needs to be done to prepare youth to meet the changing demands of the digital economy.

Speakers **Ms. Sophie Onyango**, Founder, Emploi

Mr. Chris Crichlow, Live Operations Manager, Europe TikTok

Ms. Elyza Amalia, Vice-Coordinator, Youth Action hub Indonesia

Moderator **Mr. Shamar Wedderburn**, Student, University of the West Indies

18:10–18:50 **Financing new models of youth empowerment**

Young people face a myriad of challenges transitioning into the labour market. Lack appropriate financing mechanisms and capacity building programmes hinders their access to positive and empowering employment prospects. What does youth-centric financial inclusion look like, and what needs to be done to equip young people with adequate knowledge and skills at the beginning of their career path.



- Speakers:** **Mr. Robin Kumar**, Youth Action Hub Mumbai Coordinator and Chartered Accountant
Ms. Ashma McDougall, President, National Youth Council of Dominica
Mr. Dalano DaSouza, Assistant Lecturer, The University of the West Indies
- Moderator:** **Ms. Serena Zheng**, Chief Architect and Data Management department, ABN AMRO Bank
- 18:55–19:40** **Paddle boarding for a better world. Meet us at the Youth cafe**
Hear from a changemaker how you can influence mindsets for a better world with Ms. Lizzie Carr, Founder, Planet Patrol
- Facilitator:** **Ms. Hillary Ann Williams**, Miss Universe Barbados 2020
- 19:45–20:40** **International trade: COVID-19 and opportunity**
The COVID-19 had and continues to have a massive impact on the international trade system, with the pandemic leading to 22% decrease in global trade levels. Though trade recovery has begun, it remains uneven with trade in the services sector lagging significantly behind trade in the goods sector as compared to pre-pandemic levels. The pandemic has also accelerated the trend of eCommerce and digital economy growth, and as such calls into question whether the old mantra of trade liberalization still holds in an increasingly digital era. What will the future of trade look like? What can economies do to capitalize on the shift in trade trends? What should be the priority of the WTO given the changes in trade? How can youth benefit from the change in international trade trends?
- Speakers** **Ms. Bora Kamwanya**, Deputy Secretary-General, an-African Youth Union
Mr. LeAundre Knight, Consultant, Coordinator of Youth Action Hub Barbados
Ms. Chenxi Zhu, Consultant
Mr. Doris Mwikali, Deputy Project Lead, UNSDSN-youth
- Moderator** **Ms. Aurelia Bruce**, Coordinator, Youth Action Hub Trinidad and Tobago
- 20:45–21:15** **Youth Action Hubs talking at the Youth cafe**
What does it take as a youth to contribute to the 2030 Agenda at community level?
- Speakers:** **Mr. Muhammad Sarim Raza**, Coordinator, Youth Action Hub Pakistan
Ms. Linda Okero, Coordinator, Youth Action Hub Kenya
Mr. Hanatou Well, Coordinator, Youth Action Hub Nigeria
- Facilitator:** **Mr. Arthur MacLean**, External Affairs and Legal Executive Specialist
- 21:20–22:05** **SHE SPEAKS: Addressing gender inequality beyond 2021**



Progress in reducing gender inequality over the 20th century was remarkable in basic achievements in health and education and participation in markets and politics. The Beijing Platform for Action during the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women celebrated much of this progress. As we celebrated the 25th anniversary since Beijing in 2020, many challenges to equality remain, particularly for enhanced capabilities that alter power relations and enhance agency. Pervasive gender inequality is a human development shortfall globally and many women and girls remain marginalized and lacking support for fundamental functions of human life. How can governments shorten the projection of gender equality?

Speakers:

Ms. Firhaana Bulbulia, Founder, Barbados Association of Muslim Ladies

Ms. Marina Kaelin, Associate, Project Leader Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, SRI

Ms. Amanda Abrom, Programme Manager, Global Schools Programme, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network

Ms. Ashlee Burnett, Writer, Teaching Artist and Blogger

Moderator:

Ms. Bareha Abbas, Research Analyst, Oxford Policy Management

21:20–22:05

Redefining trade governance

Making trade and international development a more inclusive space that benefits youth and vulnerable requires innovative incentives that support decent jobs and help young people transform ideas into businesses, while including them into existing value chains.

Speakers

Mr. Lawrence Njihia, Founder and Co-CEO, SHOPJJI

Ms. Alicia Nicholls, Junior Research Fellow, The Shridath Ramphal Centre

Ms. Asri Pebrianti, Student, Bandung Institute of Technology

Moderator

Mr. Ndusimo Mngomezulu, Founding Associate and Head of Strategy, the Associates

22:05–23:05

Climate resilience: Clearing the smog on those most affected

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face the brunt of the devastating effects of the climate crisis, while contributing less than 1% to Global Greenhouse Emissions. Barbados and other SIDS are beginning to experience this first hand with the rise in invasive Sargassum Seaweed, more intense hurricanes, rising sea-level and longer droughts. With attention being placed on the impacts of climate change and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, work must also focus on those nations and people most vulnerable to the beginning stage of the climate crisis. What can be done to mitigate the impact of climate change on SIDS? What commitments can and must be made from the world's largest polluters not only to slow the climate crisis, but also support those most vulnerable? What can SIDS and other vulnerable groups do to mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis? What is our continued role as youth?



- Speakers:** **Ms. Daniela Perozo Coste**, Project Management Specialist, Presidential Office for Information and Communication Technologies of the Dominican Republic
Mr. Steve Whittaker, STEM Instructor, Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College
Ms. Shanna Challenger, Offshore Islands Conservation Programme Coordinator Environmental Awareness Group
- Moderator** **Mr. Laurens Houwink**, Adviser, Oxfam
- 23:05–23:10 **Closing words of the day and see you tomorrow**

18 September

- 13:00–13:20 **Welcome to day 3** (*Closed session, registration required*)
- 13:20–14:05 **Youth declaration** (*Closed session, registration required*)
Finalization
- 14:05–14:50 **The secrets of high performance teams and leaders. Meet us at the Youth café** (*Closed session, registration required*)
Career building on mastering the art of teamwork
With **Mr. Simon Sinek**, Founder and Visionary, Simon Sinek Inc.
- Facilitator:** **Mr. Siphesihle Dube**, Education Policy Consultant and Programme Manager
- 14:55–15:40 **Elevator pitch. Meet us at the Youth cafe**
Career building on the power of storytelling
with **Ms. Désirée van Gorp**, Professor, Nyenrode University
- Facilitator** **Ms. Lucie Obtrelova**, Compliance Caseworker, HM Revenue & Customs UK
- 15:45–16:45 **What does an inclusive blue economy look like for youth?**
The blue economy is a sustainable ocean economy, where economic activity is in balance with the long-term capacity of ocean ecosystems to support this activity and remain resilient and healthy (Source Economist Intelligence Unit 2015). An inclusive blue economy provides diverse economic and employment opportunities for young people in a range of established and emerging sectors. Young people have a comparative advantage in the successful implementation of these sectors as a result of their unique technological and entrepreneurial skills. These established and emerging sectors which young people can be gainfully employed in include but are not limited to marine aquaculture, offshore wind energy, marine renewable energy, marine seabed mining, marine and coastal tourism and transport. However, our education system must seek to sufficiently provide the knowledge and skills for the highly qualified technical positions in the blue economy can create awareness on the broad range of opportunities in



coastal and ocean-based industries. So, the question is how do we create the enabling environment where young people can effectively participate in the growing prospects of the blue economy?

Speakers **The Honorable Kirk Humphrey**, Minister of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy, Barbados

Ms. Jacinta Gomez, Outreach and project Director, Oceana in Belize

Ms. Danielle Howell, Disaster Risk Management Consultant

Moderator: **Ms. Rhe-Ann Prescod**, Communication Consultant, Resident Coordinator Office, Barbados

16:50–17:20 **Youth o’Clock**

Conversation with **H.E. Ms. Elizabeth Thompson**, Ambassador, Barbados

Facilitator **Ms. Annetta Jackson**, Story Teller at Intersect Antigua

17:30–18:25 **Farm to fork: Building sustainable and inclusive food systems**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations defines a sustainable food system as one “that delivers food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generations are not compromised. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development places sharp focus on the need to transform agriculture and food systems in order to end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition. How can we innovate and reshape global food systems to be more productive, more inclusive of poor and marginalized populations, environmentally sustainable and resilient, and able to deliver healthy and nutritious diets for all.

Speakers **Ms. Keithlin Caroo**, Founder and Executive Director, Helen’s Daughters

Mr. Richard Rampersaud, Agribusiness and Value Chain Specialist

Moderator **Ms. Eugenia Novoa Zuberia**, Founder and CEO Digital Basis

18:30–19:00 **MentorMe: why having a mentor in your corner can propel your career. Meet us at the Youth cafe**

Career building on the importance of a sounding board in a safe environment

with **Mr. Loren Newman**, Government Affairs Lead, Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, World Economic Forum

Facilitator **Mr. Ajani Lebourne**, Country Head, HTEC Management Solutions

19:05–20:05 **Surviving to thriving: prioritizing mental health**

Is mental health the elephant in the room? With the COVID-19 pandemic changing the way we socialize and do business, life as we know it has changed. It is widely recognized that psychological well-being is a basic piece of a person’s general prospectus. Governments and communities at large need to move from acknowledging there is an issue to fast-developing whole



institutions approaches to the mental well-being, to provide a holistic and positive experience, even in the most challenging times.

How can we now work together, move forward and recover from the pandemic, as well as address the rising demands and expectations which presented itself before the pandemic?

Speakers:

Ms. Hayatun Nafysa, Programme Assistant, UNICEF, Indonesia

Ms. Lucy Fagan, SDG3 Focal, UN Major Group for Children and Youth

Mr. David Johnson, Founder, Let's Unpack It

Ms. Rukaiyah Abdullah, Solicitor, Herbert Smith Freehills

Facilitator:

Ms. Tember Cadette, Chairman and Founder, Do Something Different

20:10

Closing

Speakers

The Honorable Dwight Sutherland, Minister of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment, Barbados

Ms. Arlette Verploegh, Youth coordinator, UNCTAD

Ms. Roshanna Trim, Barbados UNCTAD15 Youth Forum Lead