



UNCTAD/OSG/MISC/2021/4
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NOTIFICATION
Third UNCTAD Youth Forum
Change di riddim
16–18 September 2021

The UNCTAD Youth Forum will be held with remote participation from 16 to 18 September 2021.

The third meeting of the Youth Forum is jointly organized by UNCTAD and the Government of Barbados, in collaboration with their partners. It is held in the lead up to the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, hosted by Barbados, to be held with remote participation from 3 to 7 October 2021 and the theme of which is “From inequality and vulnerability to prosperity for all”.

The first meeting of the Youth Forum was held during the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, hosted by Kenya in 2016, at which 250 young women and men from over 70 countries participated. The main points of the Youth Forum Declaration prepared at the meeting became an integral part of the outcome documents of the Conference. The second meeting of the Youth Forum was held in 2018. The Youth Action Hubs programme, a youth-led initiative, was launched at this meeting.

There are over 1.8 billion young people in the world, the largest youth population recorded to date. Recognizing their potential, the UNCTAD secretariat believes that young people can play a major role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Since the first meeting of the Youth Forum, UNCTAD has continuously reached out to youth worldwide and created a youth network that provides a platform through which young people can interact, voice their concerns, share their ideas, collaborate and contribute to major United Nations events and discussions.

At the third meeting of the Youth Forum, under the theme of “Change di riddim”, young men and women will gather online to participate in youth o’clocks, interactive discussions and informal youth café talks on innovation, inclusion and the empowerment of youth for developmental transformation, as well as career-building sessions. The meeting will also assess the progress made under the Youth Action Hubs programme.

The main outcome of the Youth Forum will be a Youth Forum Declaration that will be presented at the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Member States of UNCTAD are requested to help disseminate information about the Youth Forum to the relevant stakeholders in their countries, including ministries and institutions focusing on youth at the national level, to encourage the participation of their nationals of between the ages of 18 and 30.

For enquiries related to the Youth Forum and upcoming activities of the UNCTAD youth network, please contact Ms. Arlette Verploegh, Chief, Communications and External Relations and UNCTAD Youth Coordinator, email: unctadyouth@un.org. Additional information on the Youth Forum is available at <https://unctad15.org/youth-forum>.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isabelle Durant', with a small dot at the end.

Isabelle Durant
Acting Secretary-General of UNCTAD
16 August 2021