# 8th Economic and Social Council Youth Forum

## ONLINE REPORTING

### LATIN AMERICA

8 April 2019  
Trusteeship Council Chamber, 1.45-3.45 p.m.  
United Nations Headquarters, New York

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<td><strong>Session focus</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Session lead</strong></td>
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## CURRENT LANDSCAPE

What is the current landscape for this region or SDG, including issues, opportunities, recent trends, gaps, challenges?
The ECOSOC Youth Forum’s Latin American breakout session was nurtured by the preparatory virtual debate for Latin America, which counted with the participation of young people from the region, where they discussed opportunities, recent trends and challenges for different SDGs identified.

The young people from the Latin-American region recognize the need of intersectoral cooperation between governments, private sector, academia and young people, guaranteeing access to education and employment for the youth. Moreover, they acknowledge that young people should be launching entrepreneurship initiatives not by necessity but by choice, linking entrepreneurship and social security and including technical training for entrepreneurship within university courses.

The participants underline the necessity to educate young people with sustainable approaches about innovation, entrepreneurship and human rights, as well make them active players in their achievement and in influencing public policies in this area.

The young people also recognize the need to strengthen the youth leadership programmers and volunteering activities for education and training.

In addition, it is remarked that new technologies are also generating gaps in the labor markets, increasing in some cases the precarization of youth labor opportunities.

Therefore, the participants underline there is an increasing need to invest in technological infrastructure and education to face a new labor market within the 4th industrial revolution.

In the same way, the participants stress that there is an urgent need to take action to reduce inequalities and violence in the region, being these environments in part catalysts of youth criminality.

It is also emphasized that there is the necessity to recognize the right for a healthy environment with concrete actions. Mobilizing a regional agenda to face climate change, developing public policies about climate change that represent youths interest in the intergenerational and energetic transition.

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<th>YOUTH SOLUTIONS AND ACTIONS</th>
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(What are youth doing to address the current situation and leverage opportunities? And what are some of the most transformative solutions?)

The LATAM table agreed on the need to support entrepreneurship from different angles in order to create an ecosystem suitable for young people to undertake entrepreneurship projects.

Participants went on to say there’s a disconnect between what youth are taught and what they will actually need to progress beyond second and tertiary level and skills to start a business.
Furthermore, it was affirmed that there is a need to implement a second chance programme for students who may have experience a disruption in their studies.

The participants encouraged positioning young people in the center of agendas, so that they are taken into account when making decisions and can participate in this process. It was highlighted to be of crucial importance for young people to influence the generation of public policies that affect them, as well as strengthen the National Youth Councils and promote the intergenerational dialogue. Young people should be indispensable players for SDG compliance and support and to carry out sustainability practices.

Topics such as educating young people to meet the characteristics needed to be leaders, were also discussed. It is important for the young population to have the opportunity to interact with their governments, as well as from their own networks and spaces, giving them greater visibility. In the same line, a greater participation of women is essential for the reduction of the gender gap.

With regards to the topic of climate change, it was stressed that it is necessary to give it a regional approach and consider young people as partners in addressing it. Also, they vehemently recommended for the use of modern technology to build stronger and more resilient infrastructure. It is crucial to create partnerships between the public and private sectors for generating green jobs, as well as develop new public policies on climate change to encompass this problem and enable correct energetic transition, remarking the importance of the Escazu Agreement ratification.

**LOOKING TO THE HORIZON**

**What can the UN and youth do together to make sure young people’s contributions have a deeper and wider impact, and that they are be better served and engaged by member states?**

In conclusion, it is essential to comply with and support the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals from the integral approach, educating young people on this topic, informing them on the sustainability practices carried out by different institutions and making them the main actors of sustainable development.

Having said this, there is an increasing necessity to create global partnerships between all sectors and players in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, giving a crucial role to young people in all the processes driven from the United Nations and its agencies, on global, regional and local levels.

**ANY OTHER RELEVANT ELEMENTS**

(Any other crucial points that may be outside the above 3 questions)
During the session, three instruments we mentioned as useful legal frameworks:

- The Ibero-American Convention on the Rights of Young People and its Additional Protocol, that aim at educating young people about their rights and motivating them to take action to defend them, signed by the Ibero-American States in the city of Badajoz, Spain, in 2005, and in force since 1st March, 2008, with seven States Parties and ten signatories.
- Youth 2030 UN strategy.
- Escazu Agreement.