



## **Economic and Social Council Youth Forum**

**“Youth shaping sustainable and innovative solutions:  
Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in  
times of crises”**

**SIDE EVENT AT THE 2024 ECOSOC YOUTH FORUM**

“Nothing without us”: why young people with disabilities need a say in  
their future at the Summit of the Future

**Organized by Sightsavers (Equal World campaign), Stakeholder  
Group of Persons with Disabilities, International Disability Alliance**

**Supported by the International Paralympic Committee (WeThe15  
campaign), UNESCO IESALC, Major Group for Children and  
Young People, UN Foundation**

**Co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Ghana and the  
Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom**

**Thursday 18 April 2024, 7:30 – 8:45am EDT**

**This event will be in English.**

**Spanish translation and International Sign and CART will be  
provided.**

### **1. Background**

The Summit of the Future (SoTF) presents an important opportunity for all young people, particularly youth with disabilities, to have their say on what that future looks like and for their national and other world leaders to listen and act accordingly.

However, the voices, views and opinions of children and young people are rarely present at decision making tables at all levels. Those in the intersection of being young people with disabilities, particularly young women and girls with disabilities, are rarer still at national and global levels.

As a result, decisions are not only made for young people and not by them but entirely without their knowledge, input and opportunity to have their say on their future and the future of the world they will inherit from this generation of local, national and world leaders.

## **2. Objectives of the side event, including relation with the SDGs identified in the Guidelines**

This side event is an opportunity to hear from a range of speakers involved in youth movements on:

- How they are working to ensure that youth with disabilities in all their diversity are included in Summit of the Future engagement
- Recommended actions to ensure that young people with disabilities are included in their activities on SoTF – and beyond.

This side event will also cover discussion on SDG 16 and 17 that are under review at the HLPF in 2024:

- To promote societies, processes and commitments that are inclusive of people with disabilities, particularly young people with disabilities, for sustainable development. (SDG16)

- To strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. (SDG17)

### **3. Program and names of speakers/panelists**

#### **Agenda (all times New York/EDT)**

07:30 – 07:33: Logistics and housekeeping

07:34 – 07:38: Welcome and introductions by the Moderator

07:39 – 07:44: Opening remarks – Dr Felipe Paullier (Assistant Secretary General for Youth Affairs)

07:45 – 07:50: Opening remarks – Husnah Kukundakwe (Uganda Paralympian and International Paralympic Committee Youth Ambassador)

07:51 – 07:55: Moderator opens panel discussion.

07:56 – 08:00: Tapiwa Mutsikira (Youth Representative, Equal Zimbabwe)

08:01 – 08:05: Molenzi Tonny (Research Intern at Makerere University Child Health and Development Center, Kampala)

08:06 – 08:10: Bosen Lily Liu (Head of Partnership and UN Liaison Unit, UNESCO IESALC)

08:11 – 08:15: Sylvain Obedi (International Disability Alliance Youth Fellow)

08:16 – 08:20: Isidora Uribe Silva (Youth Leader for the SDGs, UN Youth Office)

08:20 – 08:35: Questions from the floor to panelists.

08:36 – 08:40: Concluding remarks – Abia Akram, Global Ambassador, Equal World campaign

08:41 – 08:45: Wrap up by the Moderator

#### **Moderator**

Lydia Vlagsma: Youth representative for the Stakeholder Group on Persons with Disabilities, European Disability Forum, International Disability Alliance Youth Committee member

#### **Participants**

Dr Felipe Paullier: Assistant Secretary General for Youth Affairs

Husnah Kukundakwe: Uganda Paralympic swimmer, Youngest Athlete at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games and International Paralympic Committee Youth Ambassador

Tapiwa Mutsikira: Youth Representative, Equal Zimbabwe, Sightsavers

Ms. Bosen Lily Liu, Head of Partnership and UN Liaison Unit, UNESCO IESALC

Sylvain Obedi: Youth Fellow, International Disability Alliance

Mulenzi Tonny: Research Intern at Makerere University Child Health and Development Center, Kampala

Isidora Uribe Silva: Youth Leader for the SDGs, UN Youth Office

Abia Akram: Global Campaign Ambassador, Sightsavers Equal World campaign

#### **4. Guiding Questions for discussion**

- Why is the Summit of the Future an important process for young people with disabilities to engage with?
- With multiple processes happening at the same time, how are we ensuring that there is a proactive effort to meaningfully include young people with disabilities?
- How can youth forums include young people with disabilities in their campaigns on the Summit of the Future – and beyond?
- How should the Pact for the Future, the Declaration of Future Generations and Global Digital Compact include actions that are deliberate and resourced leading to a truly inclusive future?
- What actions do member states need to take at national level in the run up to, during and after the Summit of the Future?

**5. Venue Address (if In-person) and/or Platform to be used for virtual side events including Registration link**

Remote meeting on Zoom:

<https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/M3uNCr0Ypir4pL0u7rM3a?domain=myt-uk.zoom.us>