



INVESTING IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Abu Dhabi, 16 - 20 October



PROGRAMME

Abu Dhabi, 16 - 20 October 2023

The UNCTAD Youth Forum 2023

The UNCTAD Youth Forum will take place as part of the UNCTAD World Investment Forum at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center, United Arab Emirates from 16 to 20 October 2023. Approximately 5,000 to 7,000 participants are expected to join the World Investment Forum.

UNCTAD Youth Forum participants will be able to attend different public sessions of the World Investment Forum.

In this edition, the UNCTAD Youth Forum will feature primarily topics that relate to youth empowerment in the areas of technological innovations, greening of industries, reimagined education and soft skills development.

More information is available at <http://unctad.org/youth>, [World Investment Forum](#) and [@UNCTADYouth](#) on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.

For enquiries contact unctadyouth@unctad.org.

Programme

The Forum will gather around 400 to 500 youth from all around the world, aged between 18 and 30 years old, and passionate about trade and development issues, to learn and exchange local and global-focused experiences, ideas and best practices and bring the youth perspective in the general debate throughout the week joining workshops, TED-style plenary sessions, breakout sessions, networking events, and fun activities around Abu Dhabi.

Venue and date

At the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center, from 16 October 09:30 a.m. to 20 October 2023 noon.



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Sunday, 15 October

Throughout the day

Badge collection

Venue: ADNEC, Abu Dhabi

Monday, 16 October

Before 9:30 a.m.

Badge collection

9:30 – 10:00 a.m.

World Investment Forum Opening

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Youth Forum Opening, including photo-op

Official opening with a photo-op.

10:30 – 12:30 p.m.

WIF Grand Opening and Global leaders Investment Summit I

12:30 – 13:30 p.m.

Lunch Break

13:30 – 14:30 p.m.

Deep dive - Green Innovations

As the world faces major challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss and we live in the middle of an energy transition, the call for innovative solutions that steer greener industries has never been more critical. Innovation plays a key role in building green global value chains and transitioning towards more sustainable economic sectors, with businesses taking the lead as key players in driving these innovations. The session will address the fostering of a culture of green innovation within existing industries and the mechanisms that can incentivize and support entrepreneurial initiatives towards adopting green practices.

14:30 – 15:30 p.m.

Deep dive – Education for the Future

Education 4.0 represents the transformation of the traditional learning system to meet the demands of the new digital age. It is a forward-looking approach that leverages advanced technologies such as data analytics, AI and personalized coaching to create innovative and student-centric learning experiences. It aims to equip students with the necessary skills and competences for success in a rapidly changing and technology driven world. With this new teaching method, classrooms become interactive spaces and it breaks down geographic barriers online. Education 4.0 is a transformative paradigm shift that embraces technologies and innovation to prepare students for the next challenges and opportunities.

15:45 – 17:00 p.m.

Youth Declaration preparation

Through breakout groups, youth will be working on the preparation of a youth declaration that will be handed over to UNCTAD on 20 October 2023.



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17:00 – 17:30 p.m.

Youth Presenting

Pathways to Prosperity: Assessing the influence of remittances and diaspora investments on entrepreneurship development in Sub-Saharan Africa

17:30 – 18:00 p.m.

Skills development – Negotiate your way (part 1)

A guest speaker will give insights on understanding negotiations processes, how to prepare for them, the skills of listening and how to get to a win-win situation.

Tuesday, 17 October

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Warming-up

Short re-cap session to share big takeaways of Day 1 while briefly introducing the activities to be covered on Day 2.

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Deep dive – How to get a Job in the Age of the 4th Industrial Revolution

In the rapidly evolving global landscape, emerging technologies such as AI, automation, blockchain, virtual and augmented reality, big data and others are reshaping industries and transforming economies. For young people entering the job market, understanding the impact of these transformative technologies is crucial to thrive in the employment landscape of tomorrow. These technological innovations offer exciting prospects for economic growth, but also bring forth critical questions about the future of work and ways we interact. This session will shine a spotlight on how technological innovations are changing traditional job roles, how can young people adapt to the changing demands of the workforce and be supported in navigating the challenges and opportunities presented by these emerging technologies.

11:00 – 11:30 p.m.

Skills development – Negotiate your way (part 2)

Youth are invited to step forward to work on a fictive case and negotiate through a role play.

11:30 – 12:15 p.m.

Youth debate – Youth powered change through political participation

Youth are an essential driver of change in our societies. Their enthusiasm, innovative ideas, and determinism for progress hold the key to addressing pressing global issues. However, they often remain on the sidelines in political processes. This session delves into the importance of youth participation in political processes.

12:15 – 12:45 p.m.

Youth o'Clock

Encounter with a VIP



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12:45 – 14:00 p.m.

Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:00 p.m.

Deep dive – The power of human factors in a digital world

In the dynamic and evolving new job landscape, soft skills have emerged as the key link between human capabilities and cutting-edge technology. While automation and AI are reshaping industries by replicating routine tasks and hard skills, the human factor cannot be replaced by machines. People skills, such as effective communication, emotional intelligence, adaptability and creativity empower professionals to create connections, collaborate, and address challenges. In this era of digital transformation, it is the mastery of soft skills that allows professionals to stand out, bringing the human touch to innovation and to the development of new technologies, problem-solving, and customer-centricity.

15:00 – 15:30 p.m.

Skills development – Leadership

A guest speaker will give insights on what it takes to create successful teamwork and collaboration in which people can grow and develop a career.

15:30 – 16:15 p.m.

Youth debate – AI for Good

Artificial Intelligence is an innovative technological tool at humanity's disposal in the age of the 4th Industrial Revolution. Technological innovations offer exciting prospects for economic growth and development, but also bring forth critical questions as they proliferate in our economic systems. As societies navigate the evolving landscape of AI, we must put forward the ethical, societal, and economic questions that it presents and set forward pathways to utilize this new technology for good.

16:15 – 17:00 p.m.

Youth Declaration Preparation

Through breakout groups, youth will be working on the preparation of a youth declaration that will be handed over to UNCTAD on 20 October 2023.

17:00 – 18:00 p.m.

Entrepreneurship and Urban Development – Transforming Urban Ecosystems

Hear from Google, McKinsey and startup founders on what tomorrow's cities look like and how innovation can contribute to urban sustainability.

Wednesday, 18 October

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.

Warming-up

Short re-cap session to share big takeaways of Day 2 while briefly introducing the activities to be covered on Day 3.

9:15 – 10:00 a.m.

Youth Presenting



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10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

How to start a startup with an AI founder

Beyond the immense potential of using Generative AI as part of a startup value proposition, this session is designed to help you learn and answer questions faster as a founder. This session dives into how AI revolutionizes each step of the Startup journey itself by playing many critical roles as co-founder, coder, designer, marketer, data analyst and tester. We will explore the basics of prompt engineering and the tools available for each stage, from ideation development to fundraising, that can drastically accelerate growth and startup success even for non-technical first-time founders.

11:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.

Investment, Trade and Enterprise in the Circular Economy

Hear from investors and startup and business entrepreneurs what does it mean for businesses to adapt to a circular economy mindset and what are the challenges they face, what are best practices and industry examples that can serve as a model and what role can governments play and how can multinational enterprises support their suppliers in the transition to circularity and create a circular ecosystem.

12:00 – 13:00 p.m.

Lunch Break

13:00 – 13:45 p.m.

Youth debate: Re-Thinking the Future of Consumption

The urgent need to move away from our current consumption patterns demands a fundamental shift in mindset. The session will explore innovative ideas and solutions to tackle issues such as climate change, resource depletion, and social inequality caused by the current consumption model and delve into the role of individuals, businesses, and governments in shaping new consumption trends. Collectively, they have the power to move forward alternative sustainable models and strategies to promote conscious consumer trends and behavior and drive positive change within our societies.

13:45 – 14:30 p.m.

Youth o'Clock

Encounter with a VIP

14:30 – 15:30 p.m.

Deep dive – Start-ups for Social Impact

Today, young entrepreneurs are at the forefront of driving change through innovative businesses that address social and environmental challenges. From digitalizing healthcare and education to advancing financial inclusivity and environmental sustainability, these young visionaries are harnessing the power of technology to create positive and scalable solutions. The session will cover some of the innovative approaches and solutions being developed by these startups to tackle these social issues effectively, the creation of supportive and collaborative business ecosystems that empower youth-led startups and the fostering of mentorship, access to resources, and strategic partnerships that help them scale.



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15:30 – 16:15 p.m.

Youth Initiatives – We are UNCTAD Youth

Youth will bring forward initiatives they are involved in that relate to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

16:15 – 18:00 p.m.

Youth Declaration Preparation

Through breakout groups, youth will be working on the preparation of a youth declaration that will be handed over to UNCTAD on 20 October 2023.

18:30 – 20:30 p.m.

Reception Women in Business Awards

Thursday, 19 October

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Warming-up

Short re-cap session to share big takeaways of Day 3 while briefly introducing the activities to be covered on Day 4.

9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

Investing in Youth Entrepreneurship – Millennials & Gen Z as Business Trailblazers

Hear from high-level dignitaries and youth entrepreneurs about good practices in youth entrepreneurship policies and support programmes, business agility and resilience that is needed as well as examples of mentoring and advisory programmes and investment schemes that support youth entrepreneurship.

10:45 – 11:45 a.m.

Deep dive – Education for Sustainable Development

Navigating the interconnected challenges of today's world requires more than traditional learning; it demands a great understanding of 'Education for Sustainable Development' (ESD). At its core, ESD empowers individuals to think and act in ways that meet our current needs without compromising the future. It's not just a curriculum; it's a transformative journey where environmental guardianship integrates with economics and social equity. For the youth eager to forge the path ahead, ESD offers the blueprint to drive impactful change, steering us towards a balanced, resilient, and vibrant future.

11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Skills development – Public Speaking and Presentation Skills

In the fast-paced business landscape, the power of eloquent public speaking and compelling presentation can't be overstated. To experts in the sector will share key insights to become good communicators.

12:15 – 13:00 p.m.

Youth o'Clock

Encounter with a VIP

13:00 – 14:00 p.m.

Lunch Break



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14:00 – 15:00 p.m.

Deep dive – Global Collaboration for an Inclusive Energy Transition

Global collaboration is an instrumental variable towards achieving global net zero emissions by 2050. International cooperation plays a critical role in decarbonizing interconnected global sectors, including those in heavy industry and long-distance transport, which serve global marketse. Through the lens of youth, the session delves into the collaboration that is necessary to effectively accomplish climate and sustainable development objectives, and what is required to get there. The session will cover ways and means that countries can collaborate to accelerate the transition towards net zero emissions by 2050, how youth leaders can promote climate and sustainable development objectives on an international level and in what ways technology transfer and knowledge sharing can be facilitated among nations to enable the widespread adoption of clean energy solutions.

15:00 – 16:00 p.m.

Skills development – Negotiate your way (part 3)

Youth are invited to step forward to work on a fictive case and negotiate through a role play

16:00 – 16:45 p.m.

Youth debate – Cyber Safety

The session will delve into the complex world of the internet, misinformation, and the growing influence of AI. In an era of deep fakes and entities taking control of global narratives has increased, it is vital for young people to understand how to navigate the online world responsibly and become discerning digital citizens.

16:45 – 17:30 p.m.

Youth Declaration finalization

Friday, 20 October

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Warming-up

Short re-cap session to share big takeaways of Day 3 while briefly introducing the activities to be covered on Day 4.

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Industry 4.0 and the Transformation of Entrepreneurship

Hear from investors and startup entrepreneurs what the 4th industrial revolution means for entrepreneurship in developing countries, how businesses can become more agile and adopt new technologies and how policymakers, investors and other stakeholders can support the creation of booming tech business ecosystems.

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Youth Forum closing

The week has come to an end. Youth will share major takeaways and discuss ways forward. See you in 2025.



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11:30 – Onwards

Submission of Youth Declaration at WIF closing ceremony

The declaration will be posted on the UNCTAD website and available for youth to promote at future events they attend.