

REFERENCE:

DESA-21/00006

The Secretariat of the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to General Assembly Resolution 74/121, entitled “Policies and programmes involving youth”. The resolution encourages “Member States to include youth delegates in their delegations at all relevant discussions in the General Assembly and its subsidiary organs, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and relevant United Nations conferences, as appropriate” (Operational Paragraph 31). This invitation to strengthen the involvement of young people through the inclusion of youth representatives was also highlighted in the World Programme of Action for Youth (A/RES/50/81), adopted in 1995.

Six years into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which recognizes youth as critical agents of change, the voices and leadership of young people is crucial to building a world we want.

As a part of their national delegations, and in their work at the national level, youth delegates promote sustainable development, multilateralism and the values on which the United Nations was founded. They are often selected to represent the youth of their home countries and are well-versed in current national youth policies; linked to youth organizations, structures or networks; and knowledgeable about the key issues facing their generation. After completion of their mandate, youth delegates often promote continued progress in the development and implementation of youth policies and encourage others to participate more fully in the development of their communities.

In that connection, Member States are encouraged to consider including young people as part of their delegations to the 59th session of the Commission for Social Development, and other relevant United Nations conferences, meetings and forums, as appropriate, bearing in mind the principles of gender balance and non-discrimination (Resolution 74/121, Operational Paragraph 31).

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs focal point on youth for the United Nations system, through its Division for Inclusive Social Development oversees the engagement of youth delegates to the General Assembly, the Commission for Social Development (CSocD), and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), as stated in General Assembly Resolution 74/121 (Operational Paragraph 32). Support to youth delegates includes briefing materials, orientation session(s) ahead of the intergovernmental meetings, and substantive assistance to youth delegates on the preparation of events.

Member States are invited to kindly inform the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Inclusive Social Development of the names and contact information of their selected youth delegates to the 59th session of the Commission for Social Development, taking place 8 to 17 February 2021, in order for them to be invited to relevant virtual events.

To inform the Secretariat of the participation of youth delegates in intergovernmental processes, please contact **Ms. Nicola Shepherd** (shepherdn@un.org) with copy to youth@un.org at the Division for Inclusive Social Development.

The Secretariat of the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew its compliments to the Permanent Missions of Members States to the United Nations, the assurances of its highest consideration.



5 January 2021

Annexes enclosed:

A/Res/74/121

A/Res/50/81