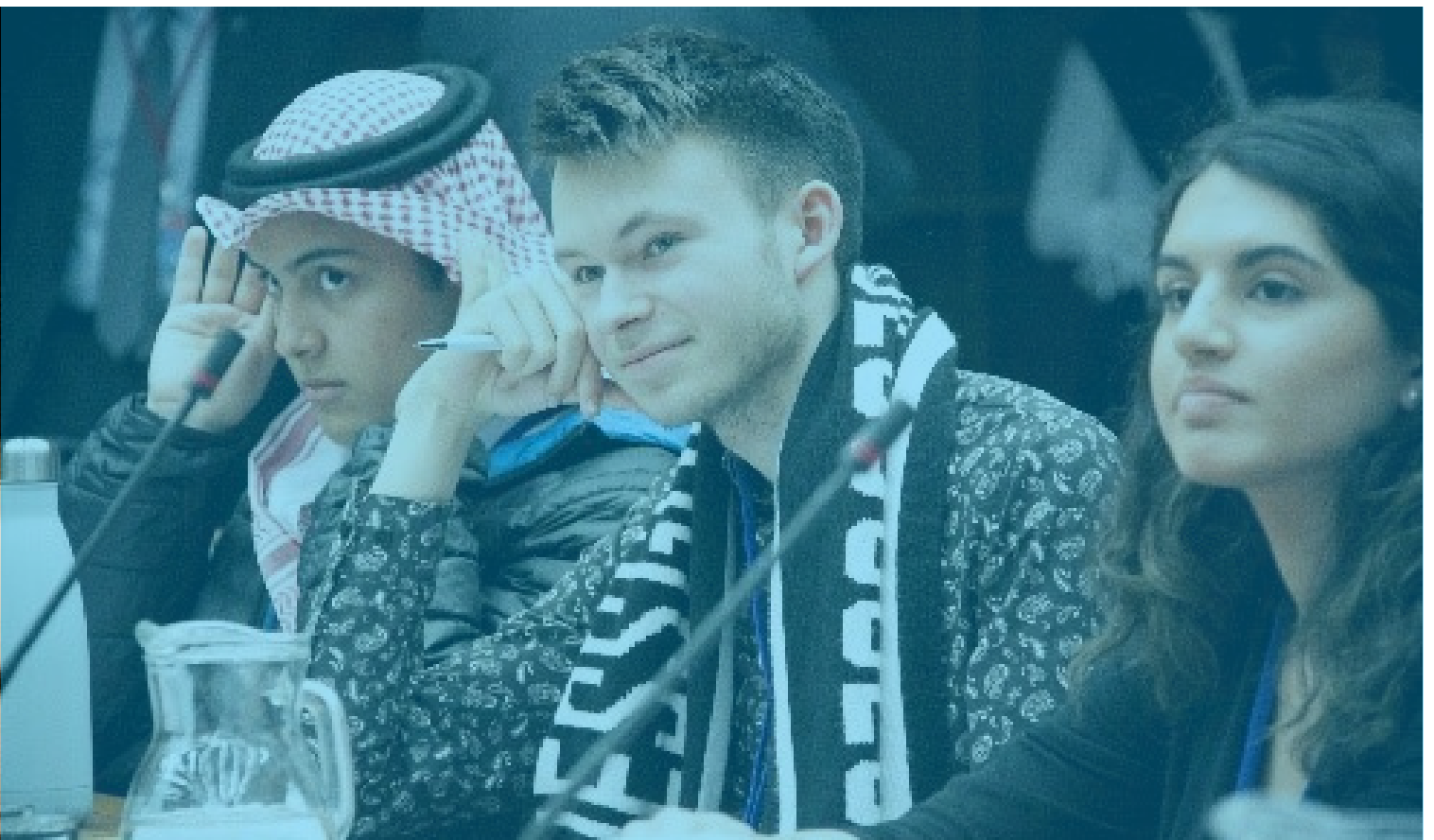




UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT ACCELERATOR FRAMEWORK



STRATEGIC PLANNING AND INTER-AGENCY AFFAIRS UNIT

WHY YOUTH EMPOWERMENT?

The empowerment of youth is a cross-cutting commitment of UNODC

In 2018, the Secretary-General released the first ever strategy on youth mainstreaming called, "Youth 2030". The Youth 2030 Strategy serves as a tool for UN entities to uphold the meaningful engagement of youth in different priority areas - including peace and security.

In February 2021, UNODC launched its new Strategy for 2021-2025, which has three cross-cutting commitments that should be embedded into UNODC's programming. One of these commitments is the empowerment of youth. Youth empowerment is further emphasized in the UNODC Strategic Vision for Africa 2030 and the Strategic Vision for Latin America and the Caribbean 2022-2025.

Youth empowerment is focused on involving young people in problem solving and uplifting their voices in decision-making processes. In order to meaningfully engage youth, young people need to be involved in every step of the programme cycle. Initiatives should not only be implemented "for" youth, but also "with" youth to allow for co-creation in programme implementation. Therefore, UNODC seeks to strengthen its youth mainstreaming approach to accelerate youth empowerment processes throughout its work.



Delivering on the priorities of young people and meaningfully including them in decision-making are investments that will deliver immediate returns, as well as build human capital and social cohesion for the longer term.

António Guterres
United Nations Secretary-General

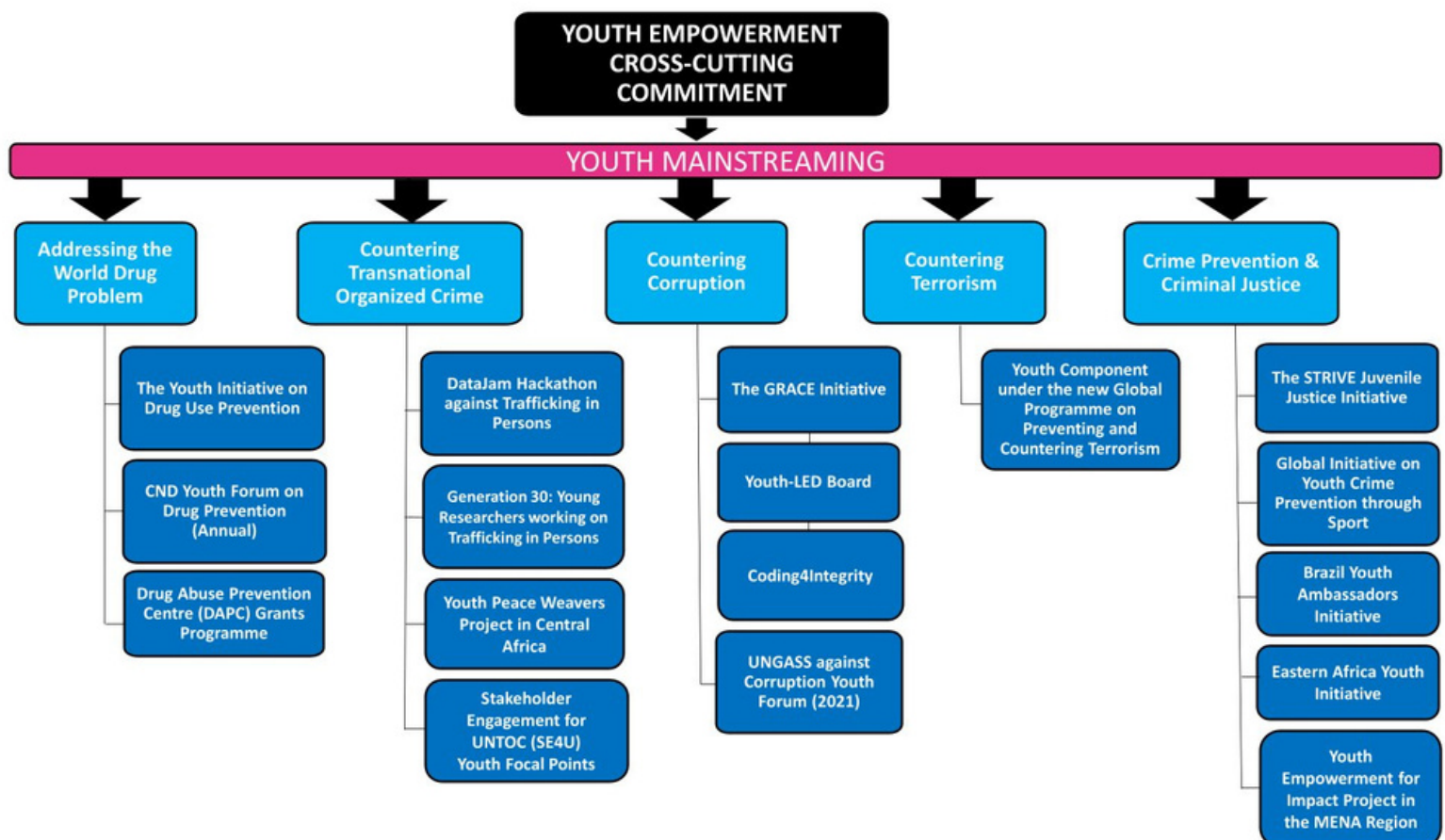


YOUTH EMPOWERMENT ACCELERATOR FRAMEWORK

The Youth Empowerment Accelerator Framework (YEA!) affirms UNODC's commitment to empowering youth as part of the UNODC Strategy 2021-2025. UNODC will strengthen ongoing, and develop new, youth mainstreaming actions to promote the meaningful engagement of young people in programmes and projects at the planning, implementation and evaluation stages. It also seeks to make the voices of young people heard through youth forums as well as through various UNODC communication channels through internal cooperation as well as external partnerships with civil society, the private sector, academia and other key partners including regional organizations.

The Strategic Planning and Inter-Agency Affairs Unit (SPIA) acts as the focal point for youth mainstreaming practices across the Office by coordinating youth-focused activities, providing planning and implementation support to projects and programmes along with engaging with external partners within the UN system as well as youth-led groups working on the implementation of the Youth 2030 Strategy. As part of the YEA! Framework, UNODC will implement specific youth-focused initiatives across all five thematic areas.

The chart below depicts the main, youth-focused initiatives at UNODC.



YOUTH MAINSTREAMING ACTIONS

SPIA currently facilitates several actions on youth mainstreaming:



YOUTH COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Collaborating with colleagues, at headquarters and in the field, to uphold effective youth-focused programming and youth-led initiatives at UNODC through a network of UNODC Youth Focal Points.



INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION

Representing the interests of UNODC in inter-agency spaces like the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD) and the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security (GCYPS).



UNODC YOUTH WEBSITE

Updating information, posting resources and providing youth-focused stories on the UNODC website.



HIGH-LEVEL STEERING COMMITTEE & JOINT WORKING GROUP FOR YOUTH 2030

Working with the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, and other UN entities, to achieve the goals outlined in the Youth 2030 Strategy.



ECOSOC YOUTH FORUM

Hosting thematic sessions and side events to bolster youth engagement for the achievement of the SDGs.

YOUTH MAINSTREAMING ACTIONS

Based on the availability of resources, UNODC seeks to expand youth mainstreaming actions to include the following:



YOUTH PROGRAMMING CAPACITY BUILDING

Increasing knowledge and skills for meaningful youth engagement, working with UNODC colleagues to help achieve greater empowerment for youth through UNODC programmes, providing support to colleagues as a Youth Marker is introduced into programming and results frameworks.



YOUTH OUTREACH

Engaging young people virtually through a wider spectrum of social media platforms to elevate their voices on UNODC-related topics.



YOUTH FORUMS

Coordinating UNODC Secretariats of Conventions, Commissions (CND, CCPCJ) and organizers of major conferences to accommodate spaces for young people to share experiences and to engage with decision-makers on UNODC-related topics.



UNODC LAUNCHPAD

Providing young people with the entrepreneurial skills needed to address some of the world's largest problems associated with drugs, crime and terrorism through technology and innovation.



VALUED WORK EXPERIENCE

Exploring opportunities for young people to obtain remunerated compensation for their work assignments (e.g. paid internships, academic UNVs) and mentorship opportunities at the United Nations.

YOUTH PROGRAMMING CAPACITY BUILDING



KEY OBJECTIVE

Equip UNODC staff with tools to actively promote youth mainstreaming across programmes, in line with the UNODC Strategy 2021-2025

SPIA will deliver youth mainstreaming workshops to UNODC colleagues in order to provide essential knowledge on youth empowerment, the participation and mainstreaming of good practices, as well as system-wide strategies and priorities on youth. Focus will be given to key inclusivity principles, inter-agency mechanisms and innovative ways to include youth in programme implementation.

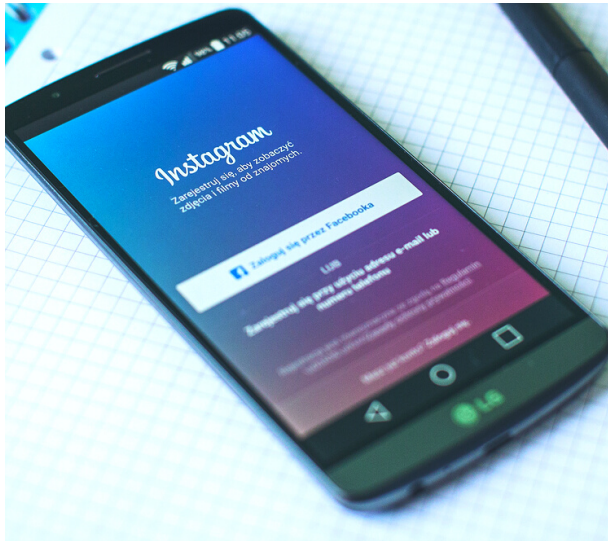
These workshops will further help to prime colleagues for the upcoming release of the UN-wide Youth Marker and provide a foundation to help with reporting the impact of UN actions on youth empowerment. Furthermore, the workshops will contribute to the creation of UNODC Youth Engagement Principles, which will be a document shared among staff to mainstream meaningful youth engagement across the Office.

The workshops will be held virtually with a focus on understanding meaningful youth engagement while exchanging information on youth initiatives at UNODC and within the UN system.

In-person training at field offices could be tailored to a specific region or context.



YOUTH OUTREACH



KEY OBJECTIVE

Engage young people virtually through social media platforms to elevate their voices on UNODC-related topics.



Young people are actively connected through social media across the globe; however, they are not following the more traditional social media channels that UNODC is using. As part of this initiative to increase the outreach to young people and raise awareness about UNODC mandates, the Office would launch a TikTok account to better connect with young people.

UNODC would then release challenges related to the Office's work for young people and provide opportunities for younger UN personnel to post about their work experiences. It would also serve as a platform for video and content creation for other social media, such as Facebook and LinkedIn. Content for these accounts would be drawn from colleagues that are part of the UNODC Youth Focal Points Network and support local networks.



YOUTH FORUMS



OUR MAIN MISSION

Youth are actively engaging with issues related to UNODC's mandates. Youth Forums are becoming increasingly popular as a means to engage young people in intergovernmental processes. Building from the experience of the forum held during the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, UNODC will bring young people, in a hybrid format, to attend youth forums to increase the breadth of youth engaging with our areas and interact with intergovernmental processes.



Through youth forums, UNODC will work with young people to develop solutions and recommendations related to the mandates covered by governing bodies. These recommendations will then be used to develop small grants programmes that support youth-led organizations to implement these recommendations at the community level.



CCPCJ
Commission on
Crime Prevention
and Criminal Justice

UNCAC
Conference of the
States Parties

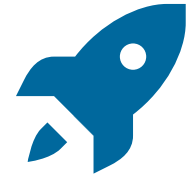
UNTOC
Conference of the
Parties

CND
Commission on
Narcotic Drugs



Small Grants
Programme

THE UNODC LAUNCHPAD



Making the world safer from drugs, crime and terrorism with youth, technology and entrepreneurship.

Young people are creative by nature and keen to make the world a better place for future generations. Tapping into this drive for change, the UNODC Launchpad seeks to engage young people to develop technological solutions for challenges that affect their communities.



How?

The UNODC Launchpad challenges teams of young people to develop technological tools to address drugs, crime or terrorism challenges in their communities. At the end of the process, winning teams are awarded seed funding to continue developing their projects.

Sprint

1 week: participants receive training, mentoring on drugs and crime issues and entrepreneurship to start developing their ideas.

Marathon

4-5 months: participants test their applications with local communities, collect evidence of impact and prepare funding proposals.

Globalizer

1-2 days: participants showcase their applications; winner of seed funding is announced.

Results

By participating in the Launchpad, young people:

- Actively contribute to UNODC's mandates and the SDGs;
- Develop entrepreneurship and innovation skills; and
- Partner with their communities and local governments.

Examples of applications developed during a pilot in 2020 include:



An app to teach children on how to prevent cybercrime



A portal to link legal aid providers with people in need

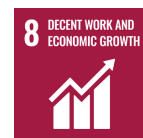


An AI-based website that identifies signs of hate speech

VALUED WORK EXPERIENCE



UNODC seeks to explore new and innovative ways in which we can engage young people through compensated opportunities.



One of the main ways that young people can participate in the work of the UN is through internships. For years, internships have been unpaid work opportunities. Recently the UN Youth Envoy has appealed to UN entities on the High-Level Steering Committee for the Implementation of the Youth 2030 Strategy to consider paid internships at the United Nations.

In addition to being a sign of recognition for the intern's work, remuneration could also enable young people from poorer socio-economic backgrounds to have the opportunity to afford a UN internship, thus fostering the idea of equal opportunities and leaving no one behind. As an alternative to internships, UNV has also launched a new volunteer category - the academic volunteer - intended for young people who are in post-secondary education.

In order to further elevate work experience of young people, the Office will also seek to expand mentorship initiatives and strategic mechanisms for younger colleagues to be better involved in the decisions of the Office. Mentorship opportunities could also include reverse mentorship for senior staff members to gain new insights.



"Paid internship opportunities should be equally available to every young person."

Jayathma Wickramanayake,
UN Youth Envoy



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**We thank you for your
continued support to
mainstream youth at UNODC.**



Contact

Email: unodc-spia@un.org

For more information, please go to:

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/youth/index.html>

