



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**UNITED  
AGAINST  
CORRUPTION**

**UNGASS  
2021**

**youth  
initiative**

**YOUTH  
2030**

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# UNGASS YOUTH FORUM

## Countering Corruption through Collaboration: Youth Perspectives and Engagement

A virtual Youth Forum to contribute to the United Nations Special Session of the General Assembly (UNGASS) on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation

### PROGRAMME

24 - 26 May 2021

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK, A FULLY VIRTUAL EVENT

#### DAY ONE: MONDAY 24 MAY 2021

10:00 - 10:15 AM

#### **HIGH-LEVEL OPENING**

- H.E. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the UN (TBC)
- H.E. Volkan Bozkir, President of the 75th Session of the General Assembly (TBC)
- Ghada Waly, Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- Jayathma Wickramanayake, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

10:15 AM - 12:00 PM

#### **ROUNDTABLE ONE: Corruption and its Effect on Young People**

Around the world, corruption robs millions of young people of access to basic services, education, healthcare, employment prospects and a decent future. Corruption negatively affects governance, development and stability, leaving long-lasting effects on youth. Young people also tend to be particularly vulnerable to corruption: loss of employment, low salaries, peer pressure, and fear are driving factors that may cause young people to engage in corrupt activities.

In times of crisis, corruption is even more damaging, as the world is currently experiencing with the COVID-19 pandemic. The response to the virus is creating new opportunities to exploit weak oversight and inadequate transparency, diverting funds away from people in their hour of greatest need.

During this roundtable, youth will be invited to share their views about how their generation is being affected by corruption. Young people will be encouraged to reflect on the particular difficulties presented by COVID-19, and what needs to occur to limit the effect of corruption on youth.

Guiding questions:

- How does corruption affect young people's day-to-day lives, especially those of young women and girls who may be more vulnerable to corruption?
- How can we increase our understanding of the effect of corruption on young people? How can we improve the evidence base?
- How is COVID-19 presenting new opportunities for corruption, and what effect is this having on youth?
- How can we empower future generations to resist corruption? What educational tools can be used?
- How can young people, governments, the UN system, civil society, academia and the private sector work together to combat corruption in the context of COVID-19?

## **DAY TWO: TUESDAY 25 MAY 2021**

09:00 - 11:00 AM

### **ROUNDTABLE TWO: Youth Engagement in Preventing and Combating Corruption**

The multidimensional nature of corruption can only be addressed by a whole-of-society approach that engages young people as partners and a rich source of information, as well as drivers of changes in attitudes and behaviour.

Around the world, young people are involved in anti-corruption efforts and lead innovative actions that promote progress in this area. Youth organizations often have a deep understanding of local conditions and meaningful community relationships, allowing them to work with populations that may be difficult for others to access. In addition, young people often offer inventive solutions in preventing and combating corruption. For example, young people may be more adept at harnessing technology for positive means, and may also be best able to mobilize their peers in resisting corrupt practices.

This roundtable will celebrate the efforts of young people engaged in tackling corruption across the globe. Young people will be invited to share their successes as well as challenges they experience in working to prevent and combat corruption, and reflect on what more can be done to promote meaningful youth participation.

Guiding questions:

- How can young people become actively and creatively involved in addressing corruption? How can the collective power, creativity and energy of young people in the fight against corruption be fostered?
- What promising practices and examples of youth policy responses to corruption can be shared?
- How can technology be used by young people as a useful tool for fighting corruption?
- What are the challenges and barriers for young people in tackling corruption and how can these be overcome?
- How can young people, agencies of the UN system, governments/policymakers, civil society, academia and the private sector effectively collaborate on anti-corruption matters?

## DAY THREE: WEDNESDAY 26 MAY 2021

09:00 - 10:45 AM

### **ROUNDTABLE THREE: Youth Expectations for UNGASS and Beyond**

This Youth Forum is being held in order to contribute to the United Nations Special Session of the General Assembly (UNGASS) on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation to be held from 2 to 4 June 2021 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. During the UNGASS, a Political Declaration is expected to be adopted, followed by statements from Member States and other stakeholders. During this roundtable, young people will therefore be invited to share hopes and expectations for the UNGASS, including the particular challenges and priority issues they would like to see discussed. Young people will also be encouraged to suggest priorities to assist in the preparation of the Youth Forum Summary Statement which will be delivered by a representative of the Youth Forum, selected by the President of the General Assembly, during the opening session of the UNGASS.

The Youth Forum Summary Statement will also be posted on the UNGASS website, and transmitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Looking beyond the UNGASS, and towards implementing the UN Youth Strategy and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, young people will be invited to reflect on how the United Nations can continue to involve young people in future anti-corruption discussions.

#### Guiding questions:

- What do young people hope will come out of the UNGASS?
- What are the particular challenges and priority issues that young people would like to hear being discussed by Member States and other stakeholders during the UNGASS?
- What are the key points that young people would like to see highlighted in the Youth Forum Summary Statement to be delivered during the opening of the UNGASS?
- Looking beyond the UNGASS, how can the United Nations continue to involve young people in future anti-corruption discussions? How can youth leadership be promoted by the United Nations, in line with the UN Youth Strategy?

10:45 - 11:00 AM

### **CLOSING SESSION**

- Ghada Waly, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth (TBC)

