

*UNCT Mauritius and Seychelles External Youth Engagement
Terms of Reference*

Background

The Mauritius and Seychelles United Nations Country Team (UNCT) includes 25 UN entities working on sustainable development, coordinating joint programmes and tackling a range of multi-faceted priorities and key initiatives together with the invaluable partnerships with the Mauritius and Seychelles Government, national stakeholders, civil society, academia, the private sector, donors and the media.

In 2023, the UNCT undertook the Youth 2030 Scorecard exercise, a strategic planning, performance measurement, and accountability tool for joint action. The Scorecard revealed that the UNCT fully met the requirement of only 1 indicator on “Meaningful youth engagement –UNSDCF processes of UNCTs” and did not meet the requirement of 17 out of the 26 indicators.

Based on the recommendations, the UNCT has requested for a youth coordinating mechanism to be established under the Gender and Leave No One Behind Thematic Group. To this end, a subgroup - the External Youth Engagement Group (EYEG) is formed to ensure follow-up and implementation of the Scorecard Action Plan during the implementation of UN Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF 2024-2028) with a specific focus on ensuring youth is central to the changing context and work of the UN family.

Under the supervision of the UN Country Team, the External Youth Engagement Group (EYEG) facilitates field level coordination with the objectives of creating a safe and enabling environment for youth in Mauritius and Seychelles. The aim of the External Youth Engagement Group (EYEG) is to provide an action-oriented field-level forum, focused on youth-specific advocacy, planning and coordination, while addressing the cross-cutting nature of the specific population group. The main objective of the EYEG is to work toward advancing the youth strategy in SIDS settings in line with the Youth Strategy 2030 and UNSDCF 2024-2028.

Scope of work

Under a one-year appointment, and with the facilitation of the United Nations in Mauritius and Seychelles, members will be expected to:

- i. Serve as advocates for the UN in Mauritius and Seychelles and promote youth interests and involvement in sustainable development – within and external to the UN development system.
- ii. Collaborate and interact with other existing youth advocates working with the UN, to amplify the voice of young people on key UN projects and programmes.
- iii. Assist the UN Mauritius and Seychelles in the implementation of the Youth Engagement Action Plan for Mauritius and Seychelles.
- iv. Ensure that youth engagement is mainstreamed across UNCT work plans and programmes.
- v. Provide advice on measures to improve the UNCT’s Youth Score Card ranking.
- vi. Participate in regional events, meetings, dialogues, working groups and other forums, as required by the UN in Mauritius and Seychelles.
- vii. Advocate for inclusion, social cohesion and improvement in the well-being of marginalized and vulnerable youth in Mauritius and Seychelles, via appropriate forums at the national, regional, and international levels.
- viii. Meaningfully participate in the implementation of the Cooperation Framework and collaborate with the UN to implement initiatives under its country plan.
- ix. Support consultations for the development of a new Cooperation Framework at the appropriate time.
- x. Engage in communication and outreach activities to raise awareness of ongoing programmes and projects being implemented by UN agencies in Mauritius and Seychelles.
- xi. Support and champion new youth-led initiatives such as volunteer and mentorship programmes within the UN system.

- xii. Assist in strengthening partnerships between the UN, youth organisations and young people in general.
- xiii. Participate in UN advocacy events for Agenda2030 and SDG achievement in Mauritius and Seychelles.
- xiv. Share and learn from experiences on matters affecting youth, as well as collaborate on areas of mutual interest.
- xv. Strengthen information dissemination and promotion of youth issues and interventions through active participation in UN campaigns and appropriate commemorative days
- xvi. In the performance of the above-stated tasks and responsibilities, bring to bear global best practices and relevant international and national networks.

Members Eligibility Criteria

The External Youth Engagement Group will comprise of 12 youth representatives between the ages of 15 and 24 years, representing various dynamic backgrounds, education, geographical locations, ethnicities, and religion. The External Youth Engagement Group will serve for a one-year term and the Resident Coordinator's Office will serve as the Secretariat. The nomination will be based on the following criteria

- 1. French/ Creole fluency is preferred. English language competency (writing and speaking) is an asset, but not a requirement.
- 2. Passionate about the ideals and key principles of the UN including peacebuilding, upholding human rights, and advancing sustainable development.
- 3. Able to demonstrate a key role played in the implementation of at least one successful project at the community, national, or regional level.
- 4. Able to demonstrate leadership qualities, and to secure support and respect of other youth leaders and young persons at the community, national and/or regional levels.
- 5. Experienced in and/or willing to work with and/or advocate on behalf of marginalized and/or vulnerable youth.
- 6. Committed to serve for a minimum of one (1) year.
- 7. Involved, a member of or associated with at least one social/ youth-based club, currently or in the past, not limited to youth-led organizations, NGOs, CSOs, volunteer work, etc.
- 8. An effective communicator, team-oriented, organized, critical thinker, innovative and creative.
- 9. Not currently employed by the UN (consultants, staff, UNV, etc.).

Coordination Structure

The EYEG will operate under the guidance of the UNCT Gender and LNOB Thematic Group and will be chaired by the UN. UNRCO will support the EYEG with secretariat services. The EYEG will convene biannually.

Code of Conduct

Members of EYEG will be expected to:

- 1. Respect diversity and equality and embrace and respect the diversity of cultures, beliefs, and backgrounds of all individuals, treating everyone with fairness and equality, without discrimination is based on race, gender, age, religion, nationality, or any other characteristic.
- 2. Devote sufficient time to be productive members, up to 2-3 hours a week or as deemed relevant.
- 3. Prepare adequately for meetings.
- 4. Participate actively in meetings and discussions; and be responsive to correspondence.
- 5. Make contributions in good faith and without fear or favour.
- 6. Maintain independence, objectivity, and absolute confidentiality regarding the protection of the UN's interests.
- 7. Maintain awareness of the UN's vision, mission, values, and plans, act with honesty and integrity in all activities, and uphold the values and principles of the United Nations
- 8. Desist from making offers, promises or undertakings of any kind on behalf of UN Mauritius & Seychelles.
- 9. Address conflicts constructively and seek to resolve issues through dialogue and mutual

understanding. Manage conflict with respect and through the appropriate channels and mechanisms.

10. Attend a minimum of three (3) in-person or virtual meetings and engagements, as requested, without the use of proxies or substitutes.

Terms of Appointment

- a. Nominations from partner youth organisations, networks and activists
- b. Members are expected to support youth engagement in UNCT initiatives.
- c. Members of EYEG will serve for a minimum of one (1) year.
- d. Should a member of EYEG resign or relinquish his/her duties, an eligible applicant will be selected to replace the member. Shortlisted candidates will be prioritized.
- e. Membership will range from between 8-12 members each year.
- f. Membership will be guided by a code of ethics in line with UN standards.
- g. Members commit to not participating or using this affiliation for personal gain.
- h. Members serve on a voluntary basis. No compensation is paid

The External Youth Engagement Group does not have fiduciary or supervisory responsibility.

The United Nations is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive environment of mutual respect, where all persons can thrive regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, race, religious affiliation, cultural and ethnic background or disabilities. Reasonable accommodation for applicants with disabilities may be provided to support participation in the recruitment process as well as in the Youth Advisory Group when requested and indicated in the application