

Terms of Reference

Generation Unlimited: Global Young People's Action Team

1. Introduction to GenU

Generation Unlimited is a global, multi-sector partnership that aims to transform education, employment and entrepreneurial outcomes for young people around the world at a global and local level, by joining together partners from business and governments with the reach and network of the United Nations.

Generation Unlimited's vision is to make sure all young people have the ability and opportunity to realize their potential and the impact comes from both what we do and how we do it. Our approach combines:

- Bringing diverse stakeholders together
- Putting youth at the heart of everything we do
- Delivering at scale, and
- Crowding-in catalytic capital primarily sourced from donors to bring in and mobilize additional financing

Generation Unlimited focuses on four strategic priorities:

- Education and Skills
 - Transform the formal school experience to build skills young people need for productive lives and the future of work.
 - Provide young people outside formal schooling with opportunities for training, skill development and additional education.
- Employment
 - Improve connections between young people and existing work opportunities.
 - Increase the number of quality work opportunities available to young people.
- Entrepreneurship
 - Foster entrepreneurship as a mindset and a livelihood.
- Equity and Engagement
 - Promote equitable access to quality education, training, employment, entrepreneurship and civic participation.
 - Equip young people as problem-solvers and engaged members of civil society helping to create a better world.

2. Young People's Action Team

The purpose of the Young People's Action Team (YPAT) is systematic and meaningful engagement of young people in the decision-making processes of GenU at local, regional and global levels. At the global level, the YPAT will contribute to steering and influencing the direction of GenU. The local YPAT will play a similar role at country level.

The global YPAT is part of the governance structures of GenU and will act as the sounding board to the global GenU team, ensuring that the voices of young people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, are heard by other GenU governing structures (Global Board¹, the Leaders Group², the

¹ The Global Board oversees the partnership, provides strategic direction and mobilises knowledge, resources and leadership

² The Leaders Group is composed of visible drivers of Gen-U, who use their influence to open opportunities, advocate and mobilise resources

Secretariat³, and the Executive Committee⁴) and taken into consideration in the planning and operationalization of GenU.

3. Guiding principles

Several guiding principles underpin the work of the YPAT:

Do No Harm: The YPAT will abide by the principle of “Do No Harm”, or the prevention of advertent or inadvertent causes of harm to young people participating in the YPAT or being consulted by the YPAT. The YPAT governance structure will uphold this principle by identifying risks to young people’s participation and designing protocols to minimize the probability and impact of harm to young people to the greatest extent feasible.

Inclusivity: The YPAT will be an inclusive council, welcoming engaged young people from all countries in the world and from all backgrounds, including and especially young people from marginalized and vulnerable communities.

Diversity: The YPAT will promote diversity, reflecting amongst others a balance of age, gender/gender identity, ability/disability, sexual orientation, religion/spiritual belief, ethnicity, ideology, rural and urban place of residence, and socioeconomic status.

Tolerance: The YPAT will ensure that difference is a strength and will seek common ground that bridges divergent viewpoints.

Respect: The YPAT will promote mutual respect among its members and counterparts always and will be committed to upholding the highest demonstrations of respectful and ethical behaviour.

Equal Partnership: The YPAT will foster a spirit of equal partnership and cooperation amongst young people and between young people and adults that seeks to leverage the unique strengths and expertise of both parties.

4. Global YPAT roles and responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of the global YPAT will be defined in collaboration with appointed members. The roles of the global YPAT include but are not limited to the following:

1. Governance

- Influence the overall strategic direction of GenU by providing inputs to all key GenU documents.
- Communicate regularly with the GenU Youth Engagement team to provide input/feedback on progress updates provided by GenU Global team.
- Leverage their youth networks to get input and feedback on GenU strategy from a broader range of young people.
- Participate in strategic GenU meetings to discuss and inform decisions related to the operation of GenU.
- Provide input where appropriate on the priorities of GenU.

³ The Secretariat is responsible for planning, young people’s participation, investment and programme support, communication and advocacy, and operations

⁴ GenU’s Global Executive Committee is the partnership’s primary decision-making body at the global level. The Global Executive Committee advises and oversees the Global Team’s development and implementation of strategic, financial, and operational issues. It is also responsible for overseeing GenU’s Trust Fund

- Pro-actively bring into the conversation voices and ideas from diverse groups of young people across the world and feedback progress, ideas and solutions to diverse groups of young people and other stakeholders across the world.

II. Programmatic Engagement

- Ensure that the voices of young people are heard to steer the GenU strategy and programmatic plans.
- Support the development and roll-out of initiatives that create opportunities for young people to design solutions for their own communities, i.e., Youth Challenge, Global Volunteer Initiative, UPSHIFT, Yoma etc. as a way to build skills, entrepreneurial mindsets, empowerment, and civic engagement among young people
- Inform and support the periodic update of GenU's young people's engagement plan ensuring that effective approaches are put in place and being regularly assessed for efficiency.
- Support knowledge generation efforts by engaging in participatory youth consultations, peer-to-peer knowledge exchange webinars etc.

III. Advocacy

- Identify opportunities and engage in advocacy events at the global, regional, national and local levels to create awareness about GenU priorities and the need for all young people and key young development partners to engage with the process.
- Support the development of advocacy material for GenU interventions.
- Support the engagement of young people through online (social media and digital platforms) and offline platforms to collect the views of young people on the GenU global priority areas and support the analysis of the results of online and offline consultations held with young people to feed into GenU's decision-making processes and strategies.
- Proactively identify dynamic like-minded youth organizations and networks who could join the local GenU partnership.
- Engage in promoting volunteerism and volunteering opportunities around focus areas relevant to the GenU platform in-country.
- Conduct peer-to-peer learning opportunities and knowledge sharing through tools such as talk series, webinars/seminars, and masterclasses.

IV. Partnerships

- Contribute to building partnerships with other relevant stakeholders who can support GenU priorities and assist in creating an enabling environment for young people.

5. Composition and selection criteria

The overall composition of the YPAT will be inclusive and diverse and ensure representation of the following among others, age, gender, socio-economic status, geographic location (North-South representation and urban-rural divide), disability, sexual orientation etc. The global YPAT will include adolescents and youth between 14-29 years of age.

The global YPAT will be composed of members identified through the following criteria:

- A broad understanding of the rights of young people and of positive youth development
- Good knowledge and understanding of the national/ regional/global issues that are relevant to young people in the 21st century
- Proven interest, direct engagement and knowledge in at least one of the priority areas of GenU

- A willingness to influence the GenU partnership, advocate for the partnership and to disseminate the success, achievements and lessons learnt of GenU
- Proven experience in youth mobilisation
- Ability to source inputs from the grassroots level and formulate them into actionable proposals, as applicable
- Ability to represent a broad range of views that reflect the diversity of the communities, including of the most marginalized young people
- Ability to encourage participation from and provide feedback to young people, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized young people
- Availability to participate in an advisory capacity and commit to the YPAT for two years

6. Executive support

The GenU Youth Engagement lead will be the main point of contact for the YPAT. GenU commits to actively facilitate and enable the engagement of YPAT members through capacity building. YPAT members will also be exposed to a broad range of public and private sector partners to grow their own networks and increase their social capital.

YPAT members will be offered the following additional support:

- Speaking opportunities at global, regional, and country level conferences and summits
- Formal recognition of their efforts contributing towards the mandate of GenU
- Tailored support in networking and boosting their profile as leaders and activists
- Peer-to-peer learning opportunities

7. Meetings and communication channels

The global YPAT and the GenU Secretariat will engage in regular virtual communication.

- Quarterly meetings will take place to provide substantive updates to the GenU Youth Engagement team
- Additional ad hoc meetings will be called as need arises.