



Young UN
Agents for Change

What?

Young UN: Agents for Change is a growing network of more than 250 young professionals working in over 30 UN Departments, Specialized Agencies, Funds and Programmes who are committed to the core values of the UN and recognise the need for genuine change at the UN if we are to effectively meet the challenges of this century.

Our shared aim is to identify and promote innovative ideas that will enable the UN to fully embody the principles it stands for. In doing so, we hope to improve our shared institution and enhance its credibility in promoting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We have established four priority focus groups to structure our work: transparency and accountability; SDG readiness; inter-agency collaboration; and human resources. Our aim is to catalyse, amplify and accelerate change in each of these areas – including by triggering a change in mindsets from siloed and sectoral approaches towards a culture of collaboration and integrated thinking.

Why?

As recognised in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ECOSOC Dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the UN development system, an effective UN will be essential to address 21st century challenges but it first needs to change itself. The election of a new UN Secretary-General provides an opportunity to implement reform.

We, as young professionals working in the UN, have the potential to play an important role in these reform efforts, drawing on our creativity and bringing fresh perspectives and long-term commitment to the organization. But we lack a way to share, develop and channel our ideas in a strategic and coordinated way. This initiative provides a platform to do so.

How?

We have diverse ideas to offer - from introducing a cross-UN talent management programme to starting food gardens at UN sites all over the world. We work at three levels to contribute to change:

- **Starting a conversation:** By providing a forum for open and frank discussion regarding the challenges the UN faces and by encouraging such conversations more widely in the UN, we will support the cultural changes necessary to deliver reform and empower each other to demand more of ourselves, our colleagues and our shared institution;
- **Leading by example:** We will embrace change and serve as ambassadors in our teams, contributing to change in a constructive and solutions-oriented way. We will pilot practical changes and share our experiences so that successes can be applied in new contexts;
- **Advocating change:** Drawing from our experience from across the UN system and beyond, we will develop and promote solutions to address challenges identified by our focus groups.

Want to get involved?

Great! **If you are currently working at the UN** (any part of the UN system, any duty station), please join us on [slack](#), sign up to our [mailing list](#) and start meeting with other young professionals in your duty station. Draft workplans for input are being shared on slack and new ideas are welcome! As a basic guide, projects should be solutions-oriented, cross-UN and in the interests of the charter and principles the UN stands for. **For anyone who would like to know more**, please contact Ruth Blackshaw at blackshaw@unaids.org.