



UN Youth Advisory Panel (UN YAP) Moldova

Terms of Reference¹

Context²:

Connected to each other like never before, young people want to and already contribute to the resilience of their communities, proposing innovative solutions, driving social progress and inspiring political change, in urban as well as rural contexts. Young people constitute a tremendous and essential asset worth investing in, opening the door to an unparalleled multiplier effect.

At the same time, young people are also facing incredible challenges and even life-threatening risks, disproportionately carried by girls and young women in many parts of the world. These arise when accessing their rights, including to quality education, healthcare or decent work. Young people also suffer interpersonal violence, and are affected by the slow onsets of climate change or frontline impacts of disasters. They experience intersecting forms of marginalization, and struggle with the brunt of a global erosion of human rights and impeded access to justice.

In Moldova young people are representing over a quarter of the country's population³ (according to the national legislation youth represents people aged from 14 to 35 years). Level of constructive citizenship among youth aged 18-29 is quite low scored at 5.0 (out of 10) in the Social Cohesion and Reconciliation (SCORE) Index of Moldova⁴. In addition, over one third of adolescents have at least one parent working abroad and about 10 % of adolescents have both parents left for work abroad; schools have limited capacity to build life-skills of young people to prevent risky behaviors and enable them to be active citizens. About 20% of young people intend to emigrate for work purposes⁵ and more than 26,2%⁶ of young people are neither in training nor in employment (NEET). It decreases the potential participation of young people in democratic processes in the country and their contribution to social and economic development of Moldova.

The ways in which young people navigate their transition into adulthood are critical for the progress of humankind and the health of the planet. Only by engaging and working with them, supporting them in standing up for their rights and creating the conditions allowing them to progress and play an active role,

¹ The current ToRs may be revised if decided by members of UN AYP and/or UN AYTG

² UN Global Strategy on Youth

³ <https://statistica.gov.md/newsview.php?l=ro&idc=168&id=7504>

⁴ <https://www.scoreforpeace.org/en/moldova/2018-General%20population-1>

⁵ https://www.oecd.org/countries/moldova/Report_Young_Moldova_Problems_Values_and_Aspirations.pdf

⁶ <https://cntm.md/proiecte/cine-sunt-tinerii-neet/>

that the international community will be able to achieve peace, security, justice, climate resilience and sustainable development for all.

Building on its unique global convening role, its mandate to serve the world's peoples and its role as a partner and broker, the United Nations is uniquely placed to act as a source of protection and support for young people, including youth representing vulnerable and under-represented groups and a platform through which their needs can be addressed, their voice can be amplified, and their engagement can be advanced. Moreover, youth development and youth engagement are cross-cutting issues in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Purpose:

The UN Youth Advisory Panel represents a group of proactive young people who are representatives of youth networks and youth organisations in Moldova, including the organizations that represent the rights and interests of youth from underrepresented groups and those in vulnerable situations, as well as of ethnolinguistic minority youth. UN YAP will serve as a bridge between the United Nations in Moldova and local youth organizations in the UN's efforts to reach out to a wider youth audience in Moldova in the course of SDG agenda implementation. The UN YAP will serve as a mechanism for UN in Moldova to maintain dialogue with young people, empower youth organizations and networks and to seek their opinion on strategic actions and to better address the needs of young people, as well as to facilitate the promotion and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Moldova.

Objectives:

UN YAP will ensure the systematic and meaningful engagement of young people in UN Moldova programmes, with the aim to:

1. Increase the UN's understanding of the aspirations and different experiences of young people, as a result of gender, age, ethnicity, abilities, socio-economic background etc.
2. Ensure that concerns and voices of young people, including youth from underrepresented groups and those in vulnerable situations, are reflected in the operationalization of the UN-Moldova Partnership Framework.
3. Support and promote the achievement of the Agenda 2030 in Moldova and act as Youth Ambassadors of the Sustainable Development Goals.
4. Build the capacity of young people to acquire new skills (leadership, advocacy, communication, etc.) and improve their understanding of their communities and country.

Specific interventions:

- Together with the UN Moldova amplifies the voice of young people and engages in UN's advocacy initiatives events (in person and online) at local, national, regional or global levels.
- Co-create, promote and support innovative communication campaigns, ways and events to promote SDGs in the Republic of Moldova, particularly among young people.

- Contribute to identifying young people's needs, including the needs of youth from underrepresented groups and those in vulnerable situations, for the UN Common Country Analysis for Moldova, and the future Cooperation Framework.
- Support the development of the content of advocacy materials targeting children, adolescents, and young people and contribute to disseminating key messages through webinars, social media and digital platforms, vlogs and blogs.
- Foster the UN Moldova cooperation with youth organizations and young people, including youth from underrepresented groups and those in vulnerable situations.
- Participate in information, dissemination and promotion of the UN Moldova Partnership Framework and youth related strategies and programmes, through active engagement in UN-led campaigns and advocacy activities.

UN YAP principles:

1. **Transparent and informative** – Young people must receive full, accessible, diversity-sensitive and age-appropriate information about their right to express their views and the purpose of scope of participation opportunities.
2. **Voluntary** – Young people should never be coerced into expressing views against their wishes, and they should be informed that they can cease involvement at any stage.
3. **Respectful** – Adults should acknowledge, respect and support young peoples' ideas, actions and existing contributions to their families, schools, cultures and work environments.
4. **Relevant** – Young people should have opportunities to draw on their knowledge, skills, and abilities and to express their views on issues that have real relevance to their lives.
5. **Youth-friendly** – Environments and working methods should consider and reflect young people's evolving capacities and interests.
6. **Inclusive** – Participation opportunities should include marginalized young people of different ages, genders, (dis)abilities and backgrounds.
7. **Safe and sensitive to risk** – Expression of views may involve risks. Young people should participate in risk assessment and mitigation and know where to go for help if needed.
8. **Accountable** – Young people should receive clear feedback on how their participation has influenced outcomes and should be supported to share that feedback with their peers.
9. **Apolitical** - Young people shall represent apolitical organizations which act in the interests of their beneficiaries.

Selection of UN Youth Advisory Panel membership:

The panel will consist of up to 12 young people, with built-in gender balance, including rural and urban areas across the country. The following **membership criteria** should be applied:

- Aged between 15 to 24 years.

- Represent youth organizations, youth centers, youth networks or movements, including youth from underrepresented groups and those in vulnerable situations.
- Share values and principles of the UN, namely, zero tolerance for any type of discrimination regarding culture, gender, religion, race, nationality, sexual orientation and age, respect for diversity, promotion of inclusiveness and eco-friendliness.
- Representing a diversity of gender, age, ethnic and geographic backgrounds.
- Able to communicate in Romanian and/or Russian (knowledge of English and other languages is welcomed).
- A broad understanding of the rights of adolescents and youth. Proven interest and engagement in at least one of the following areas related to youth' rights: health, education, protection, participation, employability, climate, etc.
- Willingness to contribute to the UN programming and to disseminate results of joint initiatives with the UN, as well as to act as ambassadors of SDGs in Moldova.
- Good knowledge and understanding of the local/national/regional/global issues that are relevant to adolescents in the 21st century;
- Good communication skills, and the ability to dialogue with other young people, represent a broad range of views that reflect the diversity of their communities, and ensure that their inputs are translated into actionable proposals to UN;
- Ability to engage other young people, particularly youth from underrepresented groups and those in vulnerable situations;
- Interest/experience in social media and communications, public policy, child and youth rights, minority rights;
- A two-year commitment.

The Panel members will be elected (and re-elected) by a selection committee every two years through the competitive, open, transparent and inclusive application process. A call for nominations will be developed by the selection committee and advertised on UN's and partners' websites and social media platforms. Nominations will also be sought from youth organizations, pupils' and students' councils, local youth councils, youth centers, youth friendly health centers and other relevant platforms.

Selection Committee:

A selection committee will be formed by the members of the UN Adolescents and Youth Thematic Group (UN AYTG) and RCO representatives. It will also include 2-3 young people from the acting UN YAP. The UNFPA and UNICEF will lead the process of selecting the members of the UN YAP, with the support of UN YATG members.

Leadership and management:

Once the selection of members is completed, members of the UN YAP can nominate a President and Vice-President through a straightforward process which will involve:

- Self-nomination of any of the UN YAP members with a brief presentation (background, motivation for the self-nomination, vision for the future, etc.)

- Public voting during the 1st meeting of the UN YAP where a simple majority “one half plus one” of the present members will be required to reach a decision.

The President will coordinate the Panel and act as liaison between the UN and the UN YAP. The Vice-President will assume these duties in the event of the President’s absence. More detailed structure and ways of working should be discussed and agreed together with the UN YAP members.

Quorum and voting:

The UN YAP will operate with “one half plus one” of the total membership. The decisions will be made by a simple majority. Each member is entitled to one vote, except that the UN YAP President who may exercise a casting vote should this be necessary (e.g. in the case of a tie).

Meetings and communication channels:

The UN YAP and the UN YATG will engage in regular communication via:

- Quarterly meetings.
- Ad-hoc meetings, by agreement between the UN YAP and the UN YATG.
- Virtual communication through emails, Viber, WhatsApp or another social media group.

Meetings of the UN YAP will take place both virtually and in person (provided available funding). Meeting dates and agenda items will be agreed between UN YAP members and co-chairs of the UN YATG. Materials for the meeting will be shared by UN YAP with UN YATG members at least one week before the meeting.

In addition, meetings with the RCO/UNCT will be conducted 2 times per year with the objective of:

- Promote dialog between the RC/UNCT and the UN YATG about key issues affecting young people.
- Inform the RC and the UNCT about the progress of the UN YAP activities.
- Identify future activities and areas of interest.

Support from the UN Youth and Adolescents Thematic Group (UN YATG):

The chairs of UN YATG are expected to be the primary channels of interaction with the UN YAP through regular in person meetings (when possible and safe), as well as online meetings and social media channels. Each chair of the UN YATG will delegate one focal point, who will be responsible for providing guidance and coordination support to the UN YAP (including development of the UN YAP action plan), and to ensure that the UN YAP members are actively engaged in UN activities. The focal point needs to dedicate substantial time to foster the meaningful participation of the UN YAP, and this task needs to be included in their annual work plan to ensure that sufficient time is dedicated to this task.

Tasks include:

- Provide UN YAP members with resources, relevant documents and information about the role of the UN in the country and its programmes and facilitate their interactions with relevant CO leadership and colleagues.
- Assist the development of an annual work plan for the UN YAP.

- Provide, as appropriate, capacity building opportunities and training to build the UN YAP skills and enhance their capacities to fulfil their tasks.
- Respond to issues and/or inquiries raised by the UN YAP members.
- Support in arrange the logistic of UN YAP meetings, ensuring safeguarding measures are in place;
- Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the UN YAP activities.
- Keep UN YATG members informed about the initiatives, activities and feedback gathered from the UN YAP.

Code of Conduct:

a) The Youth Advisory Panel members will:

- Devote sufficient time to be productive Youth Advisory Panel members.
- Prepare for the Youth Advisory Panel meetings.
- Participate actively in the Youth Advisory Panel meetings and discussions on a needs basis, but not less than twice a year.
- Contribute in good faith, promotion of UN values and principles as SDGs youth ambassadors.
- Maintain independence, objectivity and absolute confidentiality with regard to the protection of the UN's interests.
- Maintain awareness of UN's vision, mission, values and plans, and be guided by these documents in all contributions to the Youth Advisory Panel work.

b) Compensation

Youth Advisory Panel members serve on a voluntary basis. No compensation is paid, except the public transportation costs. However, all members of the Panel will receive a certification by RC.

c) Engagement

- The Youth Advisory Panel will act at all times with absolute impartiality and transparency.
- The Youth Advisory Panel will not make offers, promises or undertakings of any kind on behalf of UN Moldova.
- The Youth Advisory Panel members will not engage in staff disputes.
- In the interests of consistency, institutional memory and effectiveness, the Youth Advisory Panel members participate in all Youth Advisory Panel meetings, if possible. They will accept decisions taken during such meetings if they are unable to be present. The UN Youth Advisory Panel members will attend meetings and other support mechanisms, as requested, without the use of proxies or substitutes.