YOUNG UN

Agents for Change

2018

Our Vision: A UN that fully embodies the principles it stands for.

The Young UN contribution

Established in 2016, *Young UN: Agents for Change* is a cross-UN, global and inclusive network working towards a shared vision of a UN that fully embodies the principles it stands for. Young UN recognises the need for genuine change if the UN is to effectively meet the challenges of this century and network members are committed to play their part.

With around 800 members across UN entities in 80+ duty stations, Young UN is demonstrating its value as a cross-UN space to crowdsource ideas, a platform to pilot and drive innovation and experimentation, and a bottom-up mechanism for cultural change for UN values and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We focus particularly on five themes:

- ▸ **Transparency, integrity and accountability**
- ▸ **Living the SDGs**
- ▸ **Inter-agency collaboration**
- ▸ **Technology and innovation**
- ▸ **Human resources**

We are working at three levels to catalyse, amplify and accelerate change:

1. **Starting a conversation about the challenges the UN faces and possible solutions**
2. **Leading by example, by piloting practical changes and sharing our experiences**
3. **Advocating change, by bringing fresh ideas to key decision-makers**

Our values

- ▸ **Transparency in what we do**
- ▸ **Accountability for what we do**
- ▸ **Solutions-oriented**
- ▸ **Collective thinking and action using our combined strengths**
- ▸ **Embrace change and creativity**
- ▸ **Constant learning**

What we have done so far

The network has created channels to bring ideas and constructive solutions to top leadership of the UN on policy and internal issues. The Young UN Policy Lab has crowdsourced input from the network at the request of UN senior management – from the Deputy Secretary-General, the Secretary-General's Executive Committee, and the High-level Committees on Programmes and Management. Topics have ranged from attracting and retaining young talent, to skillsets for the SDGs and 'frontier issues' (artificial intelligence etc). In addition, Young UN conducted a UN-wide Global Ideas Survey with more than 600 respondents, the results of which informed inputs into the management, UN development system as well as the peace and security reform tracks.

We have also initiated a wide range of activities for positive change: from workshops on integrity at the UN and values-based leadership to starting a bike advocacy group to constructively engage management on practical sustainability concerns at UNHQ.

How we work

Young UN is a **decentralised global network** with an inclusive approach whereby members join voluntarily and can get involved as little or as much as they like.

The network operates more like a tech start-up than a UN organization – drawing inspiration from outside the UN, characterised by a non-hierarchical structure, action-oriented working and fluid teams that gather and disperse according to the initiative underway.

Young UN members work on the basis that innovation should be part of everyone's job – from finance to policy and programmes, from peacekeeping to conference management.

The network operates through an **open coordination structure** whereby initiatives are driven by three core criteria: solutions-oriented, cross-UN and in line with UN principles. Decisions are taken when a critical mass of members agree on the way forward.

Young UN global presence

The Young UN network continues to grow,
with around 800 colleagues from across the
UN system and in more than 80 duty stations
now engaged in the initiative.

Want to get involved?

To find out more, please contact **young.un.info@gmail.com**

More info at **www.young-un.org**