

# The Youth Reference

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世界青年发展论坛  
WORLD YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FORUM  
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For a Shared Future:  
Promoting Sustainable Development  
with Youth and for Youth



## World Youth Development Forum

### For a Shared Future:

### Promoting Sustainable Development with Youth and for Youth

Newsletter from All-China Youth Federation



## NOTE

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This e-magazine is a product of All-China Youth Federation, China Youth Daily and China International Youth Exchange Center to introduce the youth work and youth development in China on a regular basis. We hope that it can provide you with updated information about Chinese youth, youth policy and youth programs, and we sincerely look forward to feedbacks and suggestions from friends all over the world.

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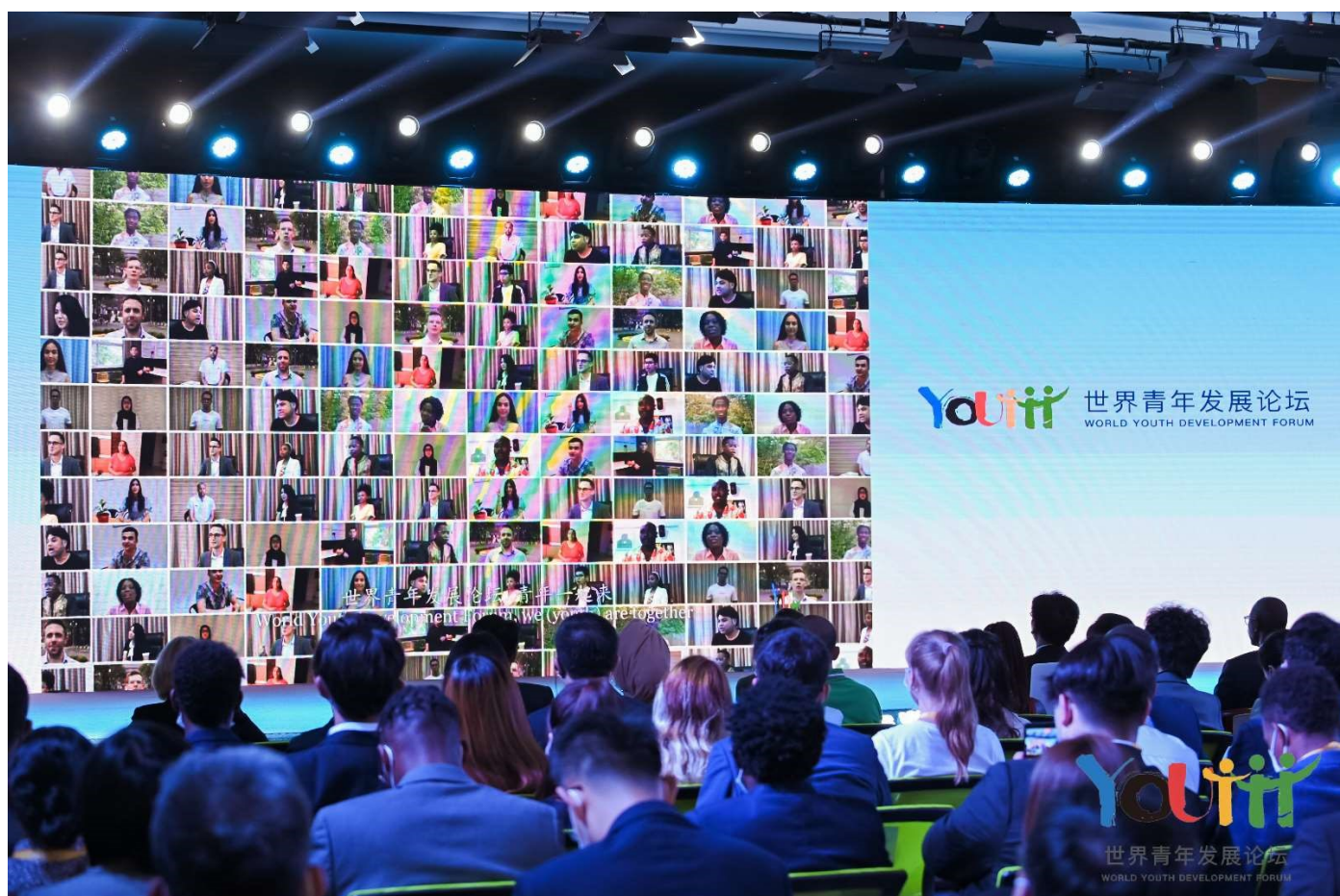
Youth hold vast potential and play a crucial role in advancing the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With 1.8 billion young people in the world today, providing youth with the resources they need to reach their potential and engaging them in global development is critical to building a more just, equitable and prosperous world.

From July 21 to 23, 2022, the All-China Youth

Federation organized the World Youth Development Forum both online and offline. The Forum advocated the concept of prioritizing youth development and allowed youth to demonstrate their global commitment. The Forum broke the barriers of time, space, languages and cultures, and built a bridge for young people from all countries to communicate and learn from each other.

## World Youth Development Forum

### For a Shared Future: Promoting Sustainable Development with Youth and for Youth



From July 21 to 23, the World Youth Development Forum with the theme of “For a Shared Future: Promoting Sustainable Development with Youth and for Youth.” was held in Beijing.

The Forum was organized by the All – China Youth Federation with the support of the International Labor Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations entities in China, and the World Economic Forum. Heads of states and international organizations, including Niger’s President Mohamed Bazoum, UN Secretary – General António Guterres, and Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum Klaus Schwab, delivered video messages to the forum. Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi read President Xi Jinping’s congratulatory letter via video. Chairman of Inter – Ministries Meeting for Implementation of the Medium and Long – term Youth Development Plan and First Secretary of the Secretariat of Central Committee of Communist Youth League of China He Junke, Chinese Minister of Education Huai Jinpeng, and ministers of youth affairs and related government departments of Egypt, Brazil, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Pakistan, Maldives,



Singapore, Argentina, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Serbia, Hungary, Thailand and over 100 other countries delivered speeches and keynote addresses on the Forum. About 2,000 youth representatives from more than 100 countries and regions attended the Forum online and offline, sharing experiences, expressing views, and discussing ways of cooperation through keynote speeches, roundtable dialogues, case sharing and online discussions.

On the day of the opening ceremony, Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to extend his warm congratulation to the successful holding of the Forum, and his sincere welcome to all the guests and young friends there. Xi said in the letter that the youth represent hope and youth can create tomorrow. It is hoped that the World Youth Development Forum will become an important platform for the world’s youth to contribute to global

development and promote youth development globally. In addition, he emphasized that young people across the world should carry forward the shared values of humanity including peace, development, equity, justice, democracy, and freedom, promote the Global Development Initiative with practical actions, facilitate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and jointly compose a new chapter of the era for a world of youth solidarity and cooperation.

In his video message, Niger’s President Bazoum noted that the world belongs to the young generation and that world leaders should work together to cultivate young people into future leaders. Quoting the Chinese saying “If your plan is for one year, plant rice; if your plan is for ten years, plant trees; a lifelong plan is nothing like cultivating people”, he called on countries to start cultivating youth as

early as possible, improve their social participation, and stimulate their potential, energy and enthusiasm.

In his message, Secretary – General Guterres spoke highly of the Forum and urged the leaders and officials to support youth engagement in all aspects of political, economic and social life. He said: “Young people of the world, as your Secretary – General, I am proud to stand by you as you dedicate your minds, hearts and tireless spirits to shaping a better, more sustainable future for all.”

Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum, pointed out in his speech that we must realize that we are still facing global challenges including climate change. Leaders need to strengthen cooperation and take systematic collective action. In this process, the participation of young people is inseparable.

Siddharth Chatterjee, UN Resident



Coordinator in China, said that youth are the torchbearers of the 2030 Agenda. Sustainable development and peace cannot be achieved without including young people and creating the conditions for them to realize their potential.

At the plenary session, UN Secretary – General’s Envoy on Youth Jayathma Wickramanayake,

President of All – China Youth Federation Wang Hongyan, Secretary General of the World Assembly of Youth Ediola Pashollari, Egyptian Minister of Youth and Sports Ashraf Sobhy, Brazilian Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights Cristiane Rodrigues Britto, Director General of the Mexican Institute of Youth Guillermo Rafael Santiago Rodríguez,



Head of the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs of Russia Ksenia Razuvaeva, and Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities of South Africa Maite Nkoana – Mashabane delivered keynote speeches offline, online or by video, calling on countries to fully recognize that youth development is encountering difficulties and challenges, promoting the integration of youth’s own development and their participation in sustainable development, supporting the whole society in advocating youth priority development and empowering youth development, and sharing policies and experiences of promoting youth development.

At the High – level Dialogue on Global Development on June 24, President Xi Jinping announced this Forum, which aimed at pooling all the strengths for the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With the theme “For a Shared Future: Promoting Sustainable Development with Youth and for Youth,” the Forum consisted of four thematic sub – forums, namely, Employment and Entrepreneurship, Climate Action and Green Development, Digital Economy, and Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education.

At the Forum, youth representatives from over 100 countries released the International Advocacy for Prioritizing Youth Development,

advocating the concept of Prioritizing Youth Development in national and international development agendas, and calling for promoting global development and youth development with youth capacity and creativity.

The Forum also initiated the preparatory phase of the Action Plan

cross – region, cross – industry, and cross – field exchange and cooperation platform. It played a positive role in building international consensus on promoting development, encouraging and supporting youth to take joint actions to promote sustainable development. The Forum has also set up an official website, and will



for Global Youth Development. The Action Plan would pool a group of Excellency Actions for Global Youth Development that implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and build an international community of youth pioneers that promote sustainable development.

The Forum focused on promoting youth development and global development, and actively built a

continue to function as a publicity platform for UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and global development initiatives, demonstrates pioneering cases of youth contribution to sustainable development, and facilitates the exchange of experiences in youth development.

Forum official website : [www.wydf.org.cn](http://www.wydf.org.cn) (click here)

## Thematic Forum for Employment and Entrepreneurship

On July 22, the Thematic Forum for Employment and Entrepreneurship was held in Beijing. Nearly 300 youth representatives from 87 countries attended the forum online and offline. They carried out in-depth exchanges and discussed noticeable issues in the field of employment and entrepreneurship, sharing the experiences of promoting youth employment and youth participation in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Vice-President of the AI – China Youth Federation Fu Zhenbang, Deputy Minister of Human Resources and Social Security of China Yu Jiadong, Director of ILO Country Office for China and Mongolia Chang-Hee Lee, UNFPA Representative in China and Country Director in Mongolia Justine Coulson, Vice-President of



the Sustainable Business Network of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) David Morris, and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Youth Affairs of Pakistan Shazah Fatima Khwaja delivered opening speeches.

They highlighted that employment and entrepreneurship should be regarded as the pillar of youth development, and there should be

more opportunities for youth employment and entrepreneurship. They advocated that, global youth should play an important role in the process of promoting economic globalization and sustainable development around the world, so as to work together to implement the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

In the keynote speech session, representatives of governments, enterprises and all sectors of society introduced specific measures to empower youth employment and entrepreneurship, and encouraged them to seize the opportunity of the new round of technological revolution and sustainable development, be active in innovation and entrepreneurship. They also conveyed China's firm determination to expand high-level opening to the



world, and encouraged young people of the world to come to China for future development.

The speakers agreed that in the context of the Covid – 19 and the

rapid rise of the digital economy, it was necessary to innovate new ideas and new ways to promote better employment and entrepreneurship for young people. We should not only seize the new opportunities brought

by technological progress, but also adapt to the evolving employment attitude of youth, as well as resolve the structural contradiction between supply and demand in the labor market.

## Thematic Forum for Climate Action and Green Development

On July 22, the Thematic Forum for Climate Action and Green Development was held in Beijing. Over 300 participants from 75 countries, including government officials, heads of international organizations, experts and scholars, youth leaders and representatives, participated in the forum online and offline. The Forum conducted in – depth discussions on solutions, best practices and future directions for addressing climate change and sustainable development.



At the opening ceremony of the forum, Vice – President of the All – China Youth Federation Xu Xiao,

President of Tsinghua University Wang Xiqin, Director General of the Department of Climate Change of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China Li Gao, Deputy Executive Secretary of UNCCD Andrea Meza Murillo, Maldivian Deputy Minister of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment Abdulla Anees, and President of the International Union for Conservation of Nature Razan Al Mubarak delivered speeches. They gave full credit to youth actions for their critical role in tackling climate change and achieving sustainable development. They also encouraged and supported the global youth to work together to address the





challenges of climate change and to promote green development with practical actions.

Speakers from Chinese and foreign governments, enterprises, universities, think tanks, and social and international organizations exchanged experiences of their practices, proposed solutions, called on mankind to fully understand the

urgency of addressing climate change and promoting green development, so as to promote human beings to firmly move towards the goal of sustainable development.

During the round – table dialogue on “Youth Perspectives and Power in Climate Action,” youth representatives from different

countries exchanged their views based on their own cases. They said that tackling climate change is an important responsibility entrusted by the current era, and young people should become the pioneer of international green cooperation, strengthening cooperation and uniting together to jointly participate in promoting green development with actions.

## Thematic Forum for Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education



The Thematic Forum for Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education was held in Beijing on July 23. Nearly 200 representatives from 84 countries attended the forum online and offline. The forum called on the international community to pay attention to youth education and strengthen international cooperation in order to achieve equitable education, qualified development, and contribute youth solutions to the promotion of global sustainable development.

As a special session of the Forum,

Dialogue with BRICS Youth Ministers: Join Hands to Tackle New Challenges of Youth Development was held. President of All – China Youth Federation Wang Hongyan, Special Advisor to the Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities of South Africa Mmabatho Ramagoshi, National Secretary for Youth, the Ministry of Women, Family, and Human Rights of Brazil Luiz Felipe Custódio Franciso, and Deputy Head of the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs of the Russian

Federation Andrey Platonov attended the event. They gave speeches and had conversations with youth representatives from different countries.

Ministers of Youth all agreed that in the era of changes, youth encounter not only unprecedented challenges such as climate change, regional conflicts, and spread of pandemic, but also unprecedented opportunities for development.

The speakers shared their stories and experiences of youth education in

their countries from different perspectives. They all agreed that the prerequisite for a fair society is a fair education system throughout young learners' education process.

In the youth action case sharing

session, representatives from universities, enterprises, foundations, and other organizations of different countries shared their experiences of youth engagement. Chinese young volunteer to Laos and young pioneer in Yunnan

mountainous region also talked about their stories. They discussed experiences and understandings about promoting inclusive and equitable education and participating in the sustainable development agenda.

## Thematic Forum for Digital Economy

The Thematic Forum for Digital Economy was held in Beijing on July 23. Nearly 400 officials, heads of international organizations, young leaders and entrepreneurs, young scholars, and international students from over 20 countries around the world attended the Forum online or offline, discussing various topics covering promoting youth participation in digital economy, global development and achieving sustainable development goals.

Vice-President of All-China Youth Federation Fu Zhenbang, Chief Economist of the Ministry of industry and information technology

of China Xu Kemin, Resident Representative of UNDP China Beate Trankmann, Director General of GSMA Mats Granryd, Chairman of Confederation of Young Leaders India Himadrih Suwan, and President of Japan Seinendan Council Nakazono Kenji, delivered speeches respectively. They emphasize that youth and digital economy have natural close links, shaping each other to a large degree.

In the forum, speakers from different countries had in-depth conversations in a hybrid interactive mode about how to be empowered by digital economy to achieve

SDGs. They expected youth to actively share their knowledge and practices of digitalization and jointly participate in the construction of the global digital economy.

In the sharing session of youth actions, young start-ups from different countries such as China, India and Bangladesh, shared their experiences in using digital technology to empower development of their industries including artificial intelligence, healthcare, and ecological environment, contributing youth wisdom to the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

