



DMUN Foundation

Office of the Observer of the DMUN Foundation to the United Nations
Headquarters and Bretton Woods Institutions

Secretariat of the DMUN Foundation

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First International Multistakeholder Conference on Children and Youth (IMCCY)

2026th Session of the Annual Meeting of the Governing Body and Board of Trustees of the DMUN Foundation (Annual Meetings)

DMUN Foundation, Katija Hyoungjoo Neuber Institute, YouthCubed

Concept Note

1 July 2026

ADVANCE UNEDITED

I. Background

The inclusion of children and youth in decision-making processes is recognized in multiple international instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, Our Common Agenda, and the Pact for the Future. Despite these commitments, children's direct participation in multilateral decision-making remains limited. Existing modalities—such as symbolic interventions or informal consultations—rarely allow children to influence outcomes or engage as recognized rightsholders.

In recent years, youth participation mechanisms have developed within the United Nations system, including the ECOSOC Youth Forum and the UN Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY). However, comparable pathways for the participation of children below the age of 18 are either fragmented or absent.

The First International Conference on the Participation of Children and Youth Rightsholders in the Multilateral System will be the first structured effort to define standards, principles, and operational mechanisms for institutionalizing children's participation in UN processes. The meeting will also provide a platform for intergenerational dialogue and co-design of practical participation frameworks that can be adopted by Member States, UN agencies, and civil society.



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II. Objectives

The Conference aims to:

1. Establish a rights-based framework for the participation of children and youth in multilateral systems, grounded in the principles of the CRC.
2. Review existing mechanisms within the UN system that facilitate engagement of children and youth, identifying best practices and structural barriers.
3. Propose institutional mechanisms to ensure the sustained and safe participation of children as rightsholders in intergovernmental and policymaking processes.
4. Promote intergenerational dialogue between children, youth, Member States, and international institutions.
5. Adopt an outcome document—the New York Principles on Child and Youth Participation in Multilateralism—to serve as a voluntary guideline for future processes.

III. Expected Outcomes

1. A concise outcome document articulating shared principles for children's participation in multilateral decision-making.
2. Recommendations for integrating child participation into the ECOSOC Youth Forum, the HLPF, and the UN system's working modalities.
3. Mapping and compendium of good practices and existing mechanisms at global and regional levels.
4. Proposed framework for a permanent consultative mechanism for children within the UN system, aligned with existing youth engagement structures.
5. Follow-up plan for presenting the results to ECOSOC and relevant UN bodies in 2026.

V. Structure and Format

The event will be organized as a **hybrid, full-day conference**.



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The conference will have children and youth serving as the President, Vice President(s), Moderators, and Panel Discussants throughout the event.

In line with existing modalities of the ECOSOC Youth Forum to maximise participation from the floor, **no session (except for the High-Level Segment) shall exceed four keynote speakers or panelists.**

10:00 - 10:15 ECOSOC Chamber	First Formal Meeting of the Plenary of IMCCY First Formal Meeting of the Annual Meetings OPEN MEETING ● Mr. Jaewon Choi, President of the Conference 1. Opening of IMCCY 2. Opening of the Annual Meetings 3. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda of IMCCY 4. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda of Annual Meetings 5. Election of the Joint Bureaux of IMCCY and the Annual Meetings 6. Statement by the President of the Conference ● Seating in the ECOSOC Floor is 1+1 for representatives of Individual Members and Organizational Members. Certain seats on the floor are reserved for invited panelists and other high-level dignitaries, including representatives of States and Intergovernmental Organizations. ● Seating in the ECOSOC Gallery is 1+0 for representatives of Observers, Non-governmental Organizations, Youth Organizations, and other stakeholders who are not Members of the Foundation. ● Except for reserved seats, seating in the ECOSOC Floor and Gallery is provided on a first-come, first-served basis, and if capacity is reached, secondary access tickets may be provided. ● <u>Under any circumstances, representatives of Observers, Non-governmental Organizations, Youth Organizations, and other stakeholders should NOT BE SEATED in the ECOSOC Floor seating marked for Members.</u>
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10:30 - 13:00 ECOSOC Chamber	Second Formal Meeting of the Plenary of IMCCY Second Formal Meeting of the Annual Meetings OPEN MEETING • Mr. Jaewon Choi, President of the Conference • Mr. Caleb Lee, Vice-President of the Conference 7. “Children and Youth in Multilateralism” Joint General Debate of IMCCY and the Annual Meetings • General Debate statements should not exceed 3 minutes for the General Debate segment for representatives of States, Intergovernmental Organizations, and Organizational Members of the Foundation, and 2 minutes for Individual Members of the Foundation, and 1.5 minutes for Observers. • If the List of Speakers has not been exhausted by the end of the Second Meeting, representatives of Individual Members and Observers will be encouraged to deliver a statement via a pre-recorded video or in writing. Other delegations may deliver their statements in person during the resumed General Debate segment.
14:00 - 15:00 Permanent Mission of the African Union to the United Nations	Third Formal Meeting of the Annual Meetings CLOSED MEETING • Mr. Jaewon Choi, President of the Conference 8. Decision on Condensed Modalities for the Annual Meetings 9. Adoption of the Annual Report 10. Adoption of the Financial Statement 11. Appointment / Extension of Term of Office of the Executive Director 12. Appointment of New Trustees for 2025 13. Adoption of the Report of the Inspector-General’s Office on the Works of the Organisation 14. Provisional Budget of 2026 15. Logistics and Coordination of the 6th Session of the Annual Meeting 16. Adoption of the Report of the 6th Session of the Annual Meeting 17. Other Matters



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	18. Closure of the Annual Meetings • The Third Meeting of the Annual Meetings will be a CLOSED MEETING. Only representatives of Organizational Members, Individual Members, and Observers specially invited by the Bureaux may participate in the Meetings. • All other observers and individuals are prohibited from observing or participating in the session. • Due to seating limitations, Individual Members are kindly requested to use the digital proxy voting system if seating capacity is reached. Secondary access tickets may be distributed for representatives of individual members, and members are encouraged coordinate among themselves to arrange joint statements. • The seating in the Conference Room for Organizational Members shall be 1+1, and for Individual Members, 1+0.
15:00 - 15:30 Permanent Mission of the African Union to the United Nations	Fourth Formal Meeting of the IMCCY OPEN MEETING • Mr. Caleb Lee, Vice-President of the Conference 19. Resumption of the General Debate 20. Right of Reply (if any)
15:40 - 18:00 Permanent Mission of the African Union to the United Nations	First Informal Meeting of the IMCCY OPEN MEETING • Mr. Jaewon Choi, President of the Conference • Mr. Caleb Lee, Vice-President of the Conference Panel Discussions Panel 1: The Rights of Children in Multilateralism Moderator: Mr. Caleb Lee, Vice-President of the Conference Panelists: Lead Discussants:



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Interactive Discussion

Panel Discussions

Panel 2: The Rights of Children in Multilateralism

Moderator: **Mr. Caleb Lee**, Vice-President of the Conference

Panelists:

Lead Discussants:

Interactive Discussion