



Official Side Event for the 2026 HLPF

YOUTH VOICES FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE:

Experiences, Perspectives, and Recommendations on SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11, and 17



WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2026

TIME: 8:30AM EDT



WELCOME!



HOST - ANIKA



Anika is a first-year Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts student at the University of Sydney, majoring in International Relations. A youth intern from Sydney, Australia, she is passionate about global governance, public policy, and sustainable development, with a particular focus on strengthening meaningful youth engagement in decision-making. She is interested in the intersection of state action and civil society, and how collaborative, inclusive policymaking can transform international commitments into practical solutions that improve people's lives. She hopes to pursue a career in international policy, contributing to governance that is equitable, participatory, and responsive to the communities it serves.

WELCOME



- Remain muted throughout the event. Please use the chat to introduce yourself and ask questions.
- Translation is available. To enable translation, please click on the 'Interpretation' icon  on the toolbar at the bottom of your Zoom screen and select Spanish or English.
- This room is a safe-space for girls and young women to express themselves. Please listen with an attitude of non-judgment.
- Spanish-speakers: Please include "SP" in your username.
- Permanezca en silencio durante todo el evento. Utilice el chat para presentarse y hacer preguntas.
- Hay traducción disponible. Para activar la traducción, haga clic en el icono «Interpretación»  de la barra de herramientas situada en la parte inferior de la pantalla de Zoom y seleccione español o inglés.
- Usuarios de habla hispana: por favor, indicad «SP» en vuestro nombre de usuario.
- Esta sala es un espacio seguro para que las niñas y las jóvenes se expresen. Por favor, escucha sin juzgar.



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT (NYC)

Let us take a moment to acknowledge and honor...

- the Power of the sun, wind and the rain that nurtures life on earth;
- the Spirit of the fields, the forests and mountains, and oceans and rivers and all that lives within;
- the Wisdom of our ancestors, the Indigenous Peoples, and the original inhabitants of the land we are on.

In particular, we wish to acknowledge the land upon which the United Nations Headquarters stands, politically designated as New York City, the homeland of the Lenape (Lenapehoking) who were violently displaced as a result of European settler colonialism over the course of 400 years. The Lenape are a diasporic people that remain closely connected with this land and are its rightful stewards. We also recognize that New York City has one of the largest urban Native American / Indigenous populations in the United States.

Let us affirm our desire for right relations with all Indigenous Peoples built on rights, respect and reciprocity, as we work towards the full implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

*Adapted from the [NYC Commission on Human Rights](#)

SPONSORS AND PARTNERS



MODERATOR - CHARLOTTE



Charlotte is the Representative for Gender Equality and Youth for the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, an NGO with Special Consultative to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Based in New York, Charlotte contributes to girls' education, grassroots representation, and advocacy within the Congregation through her work in capacity building trainings, research on the priorities of the Congregation, and information sharing throughout the network. She partners with various NGO committees at the UN, including as a board member for the Working Group on Girls and co-chair of the Communications subcommittee of the NGO Committee for Social Development. Charlotte also engages with UN mechanisms on social development and human rights, in particular for girls and women, to bring experiences and priorities of the worldwide Good Shepherd community into global decision-making processes. She joined GSIJP in September 2025 through her placement with the Good Shepherd Volunteers.

Charlotte has worked in youth education with a focus on cultural exchange and career readiness, including with the International Rescue Committee in New York and as an English teaching assistant in Granada, Spain.

Charlotte graduated summa cum laude from Fordham University in the Bronx in May 2025, with a degree in Humanitarian Studies and International Political Economy and a minor in Arabic.



YOUTH PANEL: VOICES FROM THE GROUND

YOUTH PANELIST 1 - KRISTINE



Kristine is an incoming second-year Bachelor of Arts in Global Affairs and Diplomacy student at Miriam College and serves as the Internal Vice President of the School of Arts, Sciences, and Education (SASE) under the Sanggunian ng mga Mag-aaral ng Miriam for Academic Year 2026–2027. A dedicated student leader, she previously served as the First Year Council Internal Vice President of SASE and has held various leadership positions throughout her academic journey.

Kristine graduated as the Valedictorian of Statefields School Incorporated and was a recipient of the President's Award for Excellence, earning her a Merit Scholarship at Miriam College. She has distinguished herself in writing, research, and communication, notably placing 7th in the Column Writing (English) category at the Regional Schools Press Conference for the CALABARZON region and 2nd at the Division Schools Press Conference. She has also presented research at academic conferences, including the Kolehiyo ng Lungsod ng Dasmariñas Research Congress, where she was recognized as a finalist, and the HORIZONS SSI Research Congress as a plenary speaker.

Through her academic pursuits, leadership experience, and involvement in research and intercultural engagement, Kristine continues to cultivate her interests in governance, journalism, international relations, and public service.



YOUTH VOICES FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

**A SECURE & ACCESSIBLE
JOURNEY TO THE
DESTINATION**

KRISTINE JAMITO

SDG 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



The Filipino Commuter Experience: Cramped, congested, and complicated

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities



The Challenge

In the Philippines, substandard public transportation remains a great hindrance to SDG 11.

Commuters' nightmare returns: Long lines for zero to few rides

PH capital ranks 60th in urban mobility

HEADLINES

Wasted hours, crowded lines: How the PUV shortage wastes commuters' time

The Challenge



The [Philippine Development Plan \(PDP\)](#) for 2023-2028 identifies the lack of public transport as a reason why commuters suffer long waits and overloaded PUVs.



Ranked 1st as the most congested in Asia, and 2nd globally with a congestion rate of 45% (TomTom Traffic Index, 2025).



The effects go beyond inconvenience: 72% say their commute harms their work-life balance, and more than half have considered changing jobs just to shorten travel time.

**Commuting becomes
a test of endurance.**



the Beep card.



beep™ card

As a stored-value contactless card, commuters can use it to pay fares in railways such as LRT1, LRT2, and MRT3 trains as well as numerous P2P buses, various PUVs, Cebu Ferries, convenient store and partner merchants.

where to buy your beep™ card?



The Solution



**Investing in modern
transport
technology & electric
vehicles**



**Increasing
number of public
utility
(PUVs)**



**Constructing
reliable roads and
infrastructure**



A just and equitable modernization.

Tradition

can COEXIST!

Progress





Jeepney drivers are
the BACKBONE
of Philippine public transport

Youth must be at the center of planning.



A group of six young people, three men and three women, are lying on their backs on a grey floor. They are all smiling and looking up at the camera. They are holding a large Philippine flag, which is spread out around them. The flag features the national flag of the Philippines, with its characteristic horizontal stripes of blue, white, and red, and a yellow sun in the center. The young people are wearing casual clothing, including t-shirts and jeans. The overall mood is joyful and patriotic.

With more young people in the driver's seat of advancement, a brighter future for public transportation is imminent.



**We deserve a secure and
accessible journey to our
destinations.**

WITH THESE GOALS FULLY REALIZED,

● **SDG 11 BECOMES MORE THAN
AN ASPIRATION
IT BECOMES A
REALITY.** ●

● **THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO MY PRESENTATION!**

YOUTH CO-PANELISTS 2 - CLARE & DAKSHA



Clare is an Australian intern at the IBVM/CJ NGO. She is a second-year student at the University of Melbourne studying a Bachelor of Arts with a major in French studies. She also has a keen interest and takes subjects in politics, communications and other languages including Latin and Spanish. As a graduate of the Mary Ward, IBVM school Loreto Mandeville Hall Toorak, her education has shaped her strong commitment to social justice and advocacy for women and girls which inspired her to apply to this internship program.

Her passion and love of learning for international politics, advocacy and diplomacy has been enhanced through this internship, exposing her to career possibilities in diplomacy, law and NGO work in a tangible manner. She is thoroughly excited to contribute further to the NGO's important advocacy and policy work, as well as to experience life at the UN first hand while attending the 2026 HLPF in-person in New York City.



Daksha is an IBVM/CJ NGO intern who is currently pursuing a degree in English at Miranda House, University of Delhi. She has been actively involved in civil society advocacy since 2022, and has been a part of JPIC and Friends of Mary Ward in high school, which sparked her interest in the NGO's work. She is deeply passionate about climate justice, women's and girls' rights and refugee rights among other global concerns. Within the NGO, she has attended and reported on several UN sessions, such as the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Social Development, in addition to other research and social media assignments. Outside the NGO's purview, she has edited several college magazines, journals and blogs and is fond of reading, discussing and reviewing all kinds of literature.



REPORT PRESENTATION:

***Youth Voices for Sustainable Development:
Experiences, Perspectives, and Recommendations on
SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11, and 17***

INTRODUCTION and METHODOLOGY



SDG 6

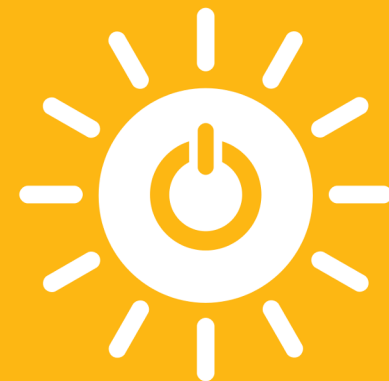
- **A divide in access to clean water and sanitation**
 - Rural-urban divide
 - Urban gated community-slum divide
 - Indigenous communities, women
 - AI datacenters
- **Differences in immediacy and severity**



SDG 7

- **A need to transition to clean energy (e.g. renewable solar energy)**
- **Barriers:**
 - High living costs
 - Energy insecurity
 - Social stigma / misinformation
 - Lack of renewable technologies
 - Lack of batteries and high costs with solar power
 - Lack of government support

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



SDG 9

- Digital connectivity
- Transportation infrastructure inefficient public transport
- Differences between countries in levels of infrastructure.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



SDG 11

- **Future planning: urban and sustainable design**
 - Affordable solutions don't always consider these factors socially or environmentally
- **Public transport**
 - Concerns with current models and accessibility
 - Areas for improvement noted
- **More consideration/planning needed with youth input**

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



SDG 17 and Conclusion

- **Gap between commitment and action**
- **Exclusion of youth from decision making**
- **The role and authority of the UN**
- **The 2030 agenda cannot be achieved unilaterally**



The background is an abstract composition of several geometric shapes. On the left, there is a large orange rectangle. To its right is a red shape that resembles a right-angled triangle pointing towards the right. Below the orange rectangle is a light blue triangle pointing upwards. To the right of the red shape is a large, light purple trapezoid. Below the light blue triangle is a yellow triangle pointing upwards. The overall composition is modern and minimalist.

Thank you for your attention

YOUTH PANELIST 3 - JASMINE



Jasmine is a 17 year old student from Chennai, India. She is engaged in advocacy across a number of fields, specifically for youth in sports, climate justice, and environmental sustainability in the digital era.

Jasmine is a youth climate advocate, working from the grassroots to the international level with the Good Shepherd Sisters. Recently, she participated in “Pasumai Payanam” (Green Journey) a state-wide recycling awareness campaign, and contributed to Good Shepherd publications on COP30 alongside her sister by sharing their youth-driven climate action work. Furthermore, Jasmine has engaged in the National Conference on Sustainability held by Madras School of Social Work, and organized an Eco Art Summer Camp in her community.

Jasmine has engaged in numerous CSW sessions across multiple strategic and advocacy roles, including as a panelist for events on girls empowerment, technology, and sustainability and as a member of the Girls Statement Writing Core Group.

Her accolades include being a two-time recipient of the Ecopreneur award at the Bhumi Hack-a-thon, and invitations to speak at the St. Bede’s Santhome Seminar on Youth and Climate and Loyola College panel on Technology and Climate Change in Chennai.

Outdoors & Youth

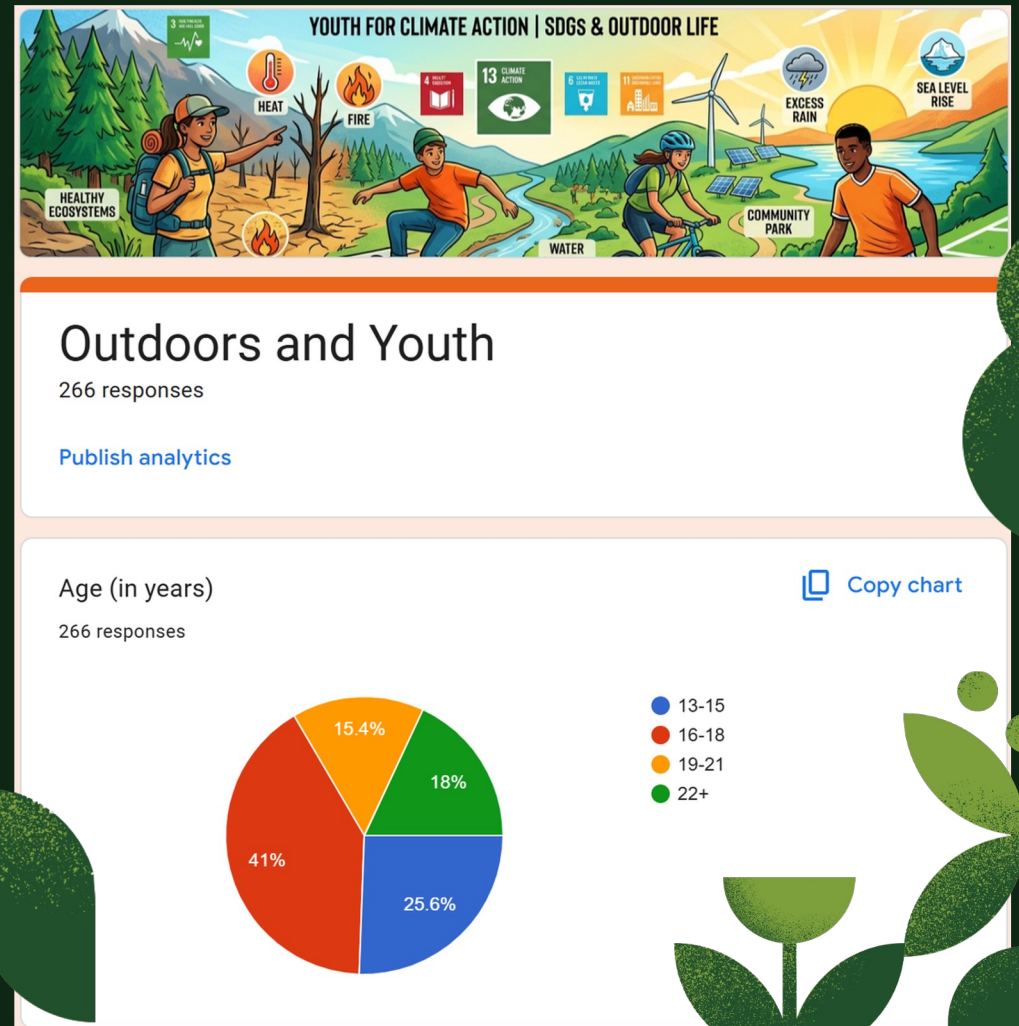


Jasmine,
Good Shepherd School,
Chennai

The slide features a dark green background with a central light green rectangular box containing text. The corners are decorated with stylized green plant icons: a cluster of leaves and a fruit in the top-left, a tall tree-like plant in the top-right, and various leafy plants and trees in the bottom-left and bottom-right.

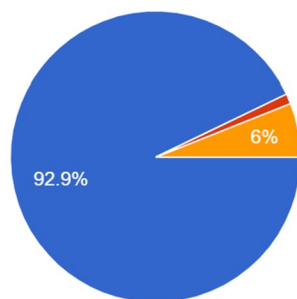
"Everything is connected."
— *Pope Francis, Laudato Si'*

We launched a nationwide survey called Outdoors and Youth. We heard from over 260 young people—predominantly school and college students—across the states of India.



Have you noticed changes in weather patterns over the past 5 years?

266 responses

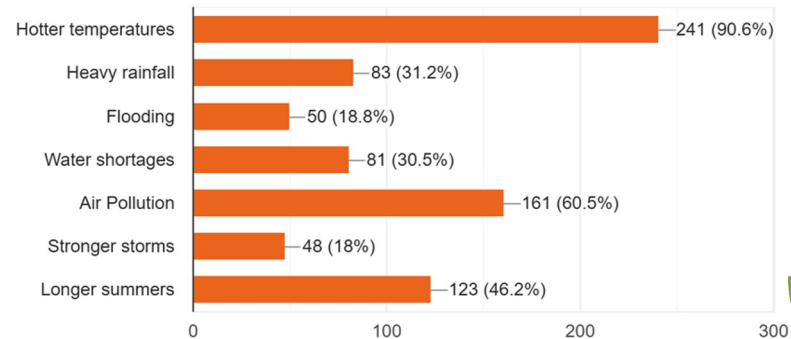


● Yes
● No
● Not sure

Copy chart

Which changes have you noticed? (You can select more than one option)

266 responses

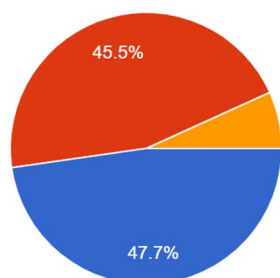


Copy chart

Clean Water & Sanitation (SDG 6): How available is clean drinking water and clean water?

266 responses

 [Copy chart](#)

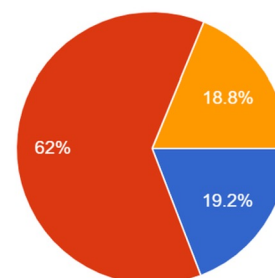


- Always available and clean
- Sometimes unavailable or unsafe to drink
- Frequently unsafe, causing disruptions to my health/education

Clean Energy & Infrastructure (SDG 7): Do power cuts affect your ability to study or stay healthy and happy?

266 responses

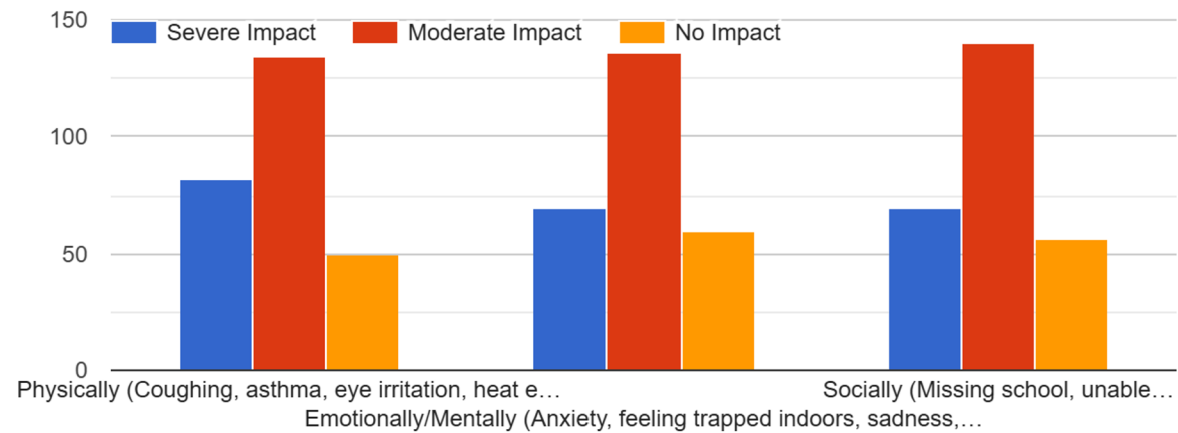
 [Copy chart](#)



- No
- Sometimes
- Often

Please rate how environmental pollution and climate changes in your region affect you across these areas

 [Copy chart](#)



DELHI: A CITY UNDER SIEGE

Delhi ranks as the world's most polluted capital city. When youth survey responses are mapped against India's National Air Quality Index, the data is unambiguous — Delhi respondents reported the highest rates of health disruptions and school closures of any region surveyed.

KEY INDICATOR	ACTIVITY / FINDING	OUTCOME
AQI Levels in Delhi	Frequently exceeds 400+ "Severe" category on India's National AQI scale	Highest reported AQI-linked illness rates among all surveyed regions in India
School Closure Rate	Survey respondents reported schools shutting down multiple times per year due to hazardous air quality	Delhi youth reported the most school closure days — far exceeding any other city in our survey
Youth Health Disruptions	Youth reported chronic respiratory issues, eye irritation, and inability to attend outdoor activities	Respiratory distress and anxiety about air quality ranked as top daily concerns for Delhi youth



COASTAL STATES: DIFFERENT THREATS

Tamil Nadu & Goa: Lower AQI, Not Safer

In coastal and lower-AQI states like Tamil Nadu and Goa, youth survey responses reveal a different but equally alarming picture. While air quality indices remain comparatively lower than Delhi, young people here are not spared from climate disruption. Instead, they report severe heat exhaustion as rising temperatures push coastal regions beyond livable thresholds, affecting daily routines, school attendance, and physical wellbeing.

Youth Voices: Heat & Flood Anxiety

When mapped against India's National Air Quality Index, our survey data shows that coastal youth are reporting deep anxiety over increasingly unpredictable floods and extreme weather events. The climate threat here is not smog — it is the creeping uncertainty of a coastline under pressure. Youth describe disrupted livelihoods, waterlogged schools, and a growing sense of helplessness as seasonal patterns become unrecognizable.

**The
Guardian**

25 May 2026

How India's heatwaves are shutting schools - and pushing women out of the workforce

Forced to stay home or switch jobs, working mothers are bearing the brunt of the climate crisis as classes go online for weeks or months at a time



📷 A family tries to shield themselves from the sun and pollution during a yellow heatwave alert in Noida, India, on 25 May. Photograph: Hindustan Times/Getty Images



3 SUGGESTIONS

- ① PROTECT OUR RIGHT TO PLAY
- ② BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE
- ③ PARTNER WITH YOUTH



Thank
you!

YOUTH CO-PANELISTS 4 - LAURA & VITALINA



Vitalina is a Ukrainian Youth Delegate to the UN 2025/2026 who specialises in security, defense and humanitarian demining.

For over five years, Vitalina has been engaged in international advocacy, actively cooperating with international media outlets in Ukrainian, English, and Spanish. As Head of the Student Union at V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Vitalina led a team that developed and implemented humanitarian policy response to the Russian full-scale invasion. Their work protected 20,000 students, promoted peace, and organised the evacuation of over 300 students, who were provided with temporary free accommodation. Recognising Vitalina's work as a Student Leader, the University of York awarded her with an Honorary Master's Degree, for her efforts in student protection and promotion of peace.



Laura holds a degree in Business and Communication and currently serves as a UN Youth Representative for the IBVM/CJ NGO. Deeply committed to youth empowerment, she leads key initiatives like Generación 2030 in Spain and 2030 Generation in Europe, providing training on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), encouraging youth to speak about the 2030 Agenda. She has spent the past year working with the United Nations through IBVM/CJ UNGO, notably serving as a speaker at a parallel event during the International Conference on Financing for Development held in Seville in 2025.

YOUTH PANELIST 5 - JADEN



Jaden is a spoken word artist and poet, Junior Mayor, and human rights advocate from Zimbabwe. She loves reading and using storytelling to understand and express real issues affecting young people and her community. She has spoken at different forums including Model United Nations, and discussions on topics like human rights, culture, and technology, using spoken word and public speaking as my way of engaging with people. She has also taken part in Human Rights Symposia with Amnesty International, where they have discussed justice, speaking up, and civic responsibility. Jaden is passionate about using her voice to challenge injustice and encourage meaningful change around her.

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE - BREAKOUT CONVERSATIONS



Purpose: Reflect on what you heard from the youth speakers and relate it to your own experience.

Format: 20 minutes

Three questions:

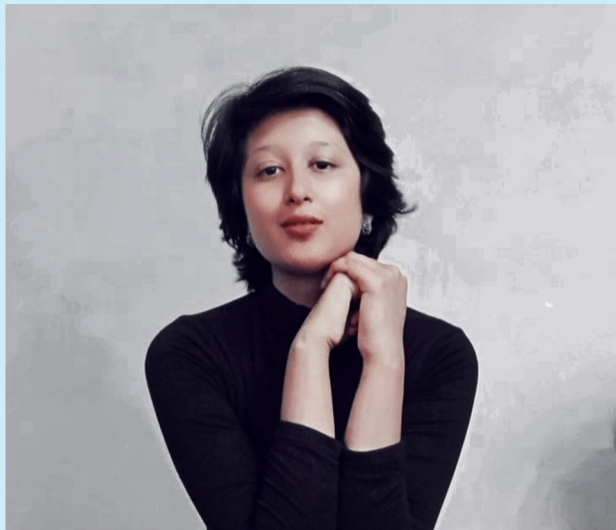
1. What surprised you / prompted an insight / resonates with you from the presentations?
2. What is your experience of the SDGs under review (clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, industry-innovation-infrastructure, sustainable cities and communities, partnerships for the goals) in your community?
3. What concrete commitments can your organization / government make to include youth in its work on the SDGs? How might existing partnerships be redesigned to meaningfully include youth?

Tres preguntas:

1. ¿Qué te ha sorprendido, te ha hecho reflexionar o te ha llamado la atención de las presentaciones?
1. ¿Cuál es tu experiencia con los ODS que se están analizando (agua limpia y saneamiento, energía asequible y limpia, industria, innovación e infraestructura, ciudades y comunidades sostenibles, alianzas para los objetivos) en tu comunidad?
1. ¿Qué compromisos concretos puede asumir tu organización o gobierno para incluir a los jóvenes en su labor relacionada con los ODS? ¿Cómo podrían rediseñarse las alianzas existentes para incluir a los jóvenes de forma significativa?

Grupos de habla hispana: por favor, indicad «SP» en vuestro nombre de usuario.

CLOSING - RUBY



Ruby is an intern with the IBVM-Loreto NGO. She is an advocate dedicated to raising the voices of communities in need. She works to bridge the gap between global policy and grassroots action, ensuring that high-level frameworks directly serve and uplift marginalized people.

Ruby has worked extensively with the NGO Working Group on Girls at the United Nations and has participated in the International Day of the Girl annual celebration and at the Commission on the Status of Women as a girl delegate.



YOUTH VOICES FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE:

Experiences, Perspectives, and Recommendations on SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11, and 17



Thank you for joining us!

