

Youth Forum 2024 Report



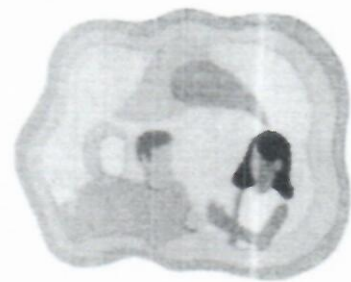
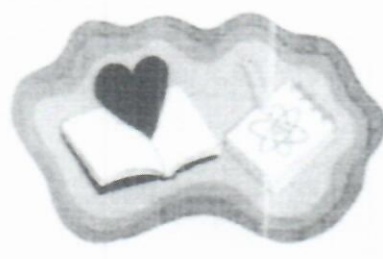
12 - 14 March 2024

Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section
Drugs, Laboratory and Scientific Services Branch



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3 Welcome to Vienna!
- 5 Early Engagement with Youth Participants
- 6 Kicking off the Youth Forum
- 8 Educate, Engage, and Empower...
- 10 Youth-led Presentations
- 12 Preparing the Youth Statement
- 13 Youth Statement 2024
- 14 Let's Hear from the Youth!
- 16 Visible Highlights
- 17 UNODC Youth Initiative Website
- 18 Youth Interviews
- 20 Youth Forum Highlights Video
- 21 Youth Forum 2024 Participants
- 22 Acknowledgments
- 23 Information for Permanent Missions



WELCOME TO VIENNA!



Short on time?

Please click here for a video highlight of the Youth Forum 2024.

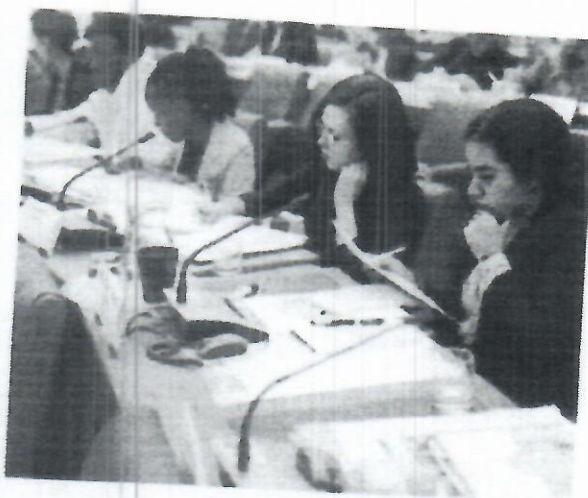


The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is deeply committed to working with youth and for youth. Since 2012, the UNODC Youth Initiative provides youth with opportunities to learn about evidence-based drug use prevention, and to connect and share their efforts in prevention work with each other. Within this framework, the Youth Forum is an important platform for global youth to exchange knowledge and best practices, and to support youth mainstreaming during intergovernmental discussions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). By enriching their understanding and empowering youths on drug use prevention, the Youth Forum serves to equip young people with enhanced outlooks to drive positive change in their communities and create healthier tomorrows.

This year's 67th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) marked an important milestone, as the 2024 Midterm Review was also held in conjunction to assess the progress made in the implementation of international drug policy commitments established in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration. As such, the Commission began with a 2-day High-Level segment, which included multi-stakeholder voices being harmoniously brought to the discussion tables, including that of the young leaders participating in the Youth Forum 2024.

Preparations for the Youth Forum 2024 began in the summer of 2023, starting with the invitation for Permanent Missions to nominate young individuals actively involved in prevention work and motivated to promote youth engagement in this field.

68 youth nominees from 38 countries went through a selection process that consisted of a review of CVs, completed written questionnaires, and individual interviews. Following this selection process, 35 youth from 27 countries arrived in Vienna to participate in the in-person Youth Forum 2024, held from 12 to 14 March 2024.



This unique opportunity allows the communication of youths' perspectives, concerns, and expectations regarding the future of drug-related policies and programmes.

Youths gathered at the Vienna International Center eager to learn more about prevention, curious to discover each other's work in this field, and keen to share and discuss their ideas and perspectives. Another awaited moment for the youths of the Youth Forum was the delivery of the Youth Statement during the high-level segment of the 67th CND, where youths had the chance to directly address global policymakers and Member State delegations.



In 2023, Youth Forum participants emphasized the benefits of youth engagement in substance use prevention, and the need for policy makers to engage with youths now to create a healthier future: "Breaking the cycle of substance use tomorrow requires youth engagement in prevention today".

Read to the end to find out what the Youth Forum 2024 participants had to say!



EARLY ENGAGEMENT WITH YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

One of the main objectives of the Youth Forum is fostering connection amongst active youth, who have the potential to serve as a peer leader amongst their networks, a source of inspiration and motivation for others. The Youth Forum not only strives to facilitate learning sessions, but also cultivates bonds that transcend geographical boundaries. Through Pre-Forum Tasks, youth participants are offered an environment to begin their networking, and share their experiences and interests in substance use prevention. This first virtual gathering provides them with a glimpse of the experience that awaits them in Vienna.

A few weeks before the Youth Forum 2024, youths introduced themselves to each other through an online digital platform, sharing their hobbies, passions and experiences.

This was also the first occasion for them to discuss their interest in prevention work, and their expectations from the Youth Forum. From these light-hearted networking sessions, the Pre-Forum tasks progressed to provide participants with resources and basic knowledge in prevention science, which they would further build on during the Youth Forum. The personality test "What is your Prevention Persona?" offered insights to the different roles youths could have when working in prevention, according to their personality traits.

The Pre-Forum tasks served as an initial prompt for youth to share their experiences with prevention through their studies, work or volunteering activities, including a reflection on youth engagement and the potential impact it can have.



KICKING OFF THE YOUTH FORUM

The high-level Opening Ceremony officially kicked off the Youth Forum 2024, and the youths were warmly welcomed by Ms. Ghada Waly, Executive Director of UNODC, who expressed her enthusiasm and dedication in supporting youth and their meaningful engagement in UNODC's mandate of addressing the world drug problem. She reiterated her eagerness to collaborate with young individuals and emphasized the importance of listening to youth perspectives. Highlighting that youth are particularly affected by the challenges posed by drug use, Ms. Waly asserted the importance of strengthening resilience in children and youth. She encouraged youth participants to voice their needs and concerns through their Youth Statement to the Commission, and to continue their involvement in prevention work in the community to ensure that drug policies and programmes are aligned with the needs of young people, noting that youth are the primary beneficiaries of the policies being implemented today and tomorrow.

After the Executive Director's opening remarks, Mr. Jean-Luc Lemahieu, the Director of Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs, welcomed few youths to share their expectations of the Youth Forum. The youths expressed not only their excitement to take part in this year's event, but also shared their post-Forum objectives and outlooks. In addition to the youth participants, the Youth Forum also enjoyed the presence of the members of Young UN Vienna, as they provided participants with insights of UNODC's work with youth across various mandates, including the active work of young professionals within the organisation.

"AS YOUNG CHANGEMAKERS,
YOUR DETERMINATION, ENERGY, AND PASSION
ARE OUR STRONGEST ASSETS IN CALLING FOR ACTION,
AT A TIME WHEN IT IS DESPERATELY NEEDED."
MS. GHADA WALY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Participants also had the opportunity to hear from Youth Forum Alumni Ms. Inês Costa Louro and Mr. Dervin Lua Wei Jun, participants from the Youth Forum 2023, shared their own Youth Forum experiences and discussed the subsequent paths they pursued. Finally, Mr. Justice Tetley, Chief of the Drugs, Laboratory and Scientific Services Branch,

encouraged all youth participants to make the most of the next 3 days, emphasizing that above all, it should be fun and enjoyable. These words concluded the Opening Ceremony, and the conference room doors closed to signal the start of the Youth Forum's closed sessions, to ensure a safe environment for youths to learn, discuss, and ask questions.



INÊS COSTA LOURO
YOUTH FORUM PARTICIPANT
2023, PORTUGAL

"The UNODC Youth Forum was the first event where I felt valued, like our input mattered and the results of our discussions were taken into account, the way meaningful youth engagement is supposed to be."



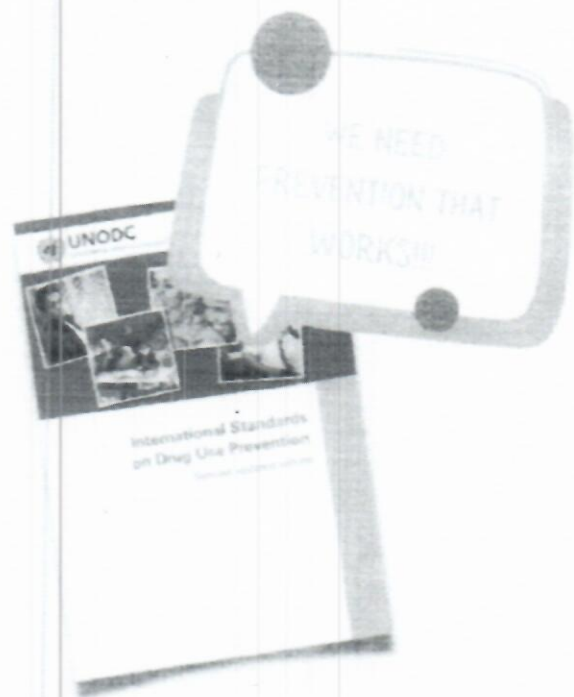
DERVIN LUA WEI JUN
YOUTH FORUM
PARTICIPANT 2023,
SINGAPORE

"Looking back, my experience was filled with many wonderful memories that have been created through the varied interactions that I had with fellow like minded and passionate individuals, as well as the insightful knowledge that has been gained from the wealth of resources that were provided"

EDUCATE, ENGAGE, AND EMPOWER...

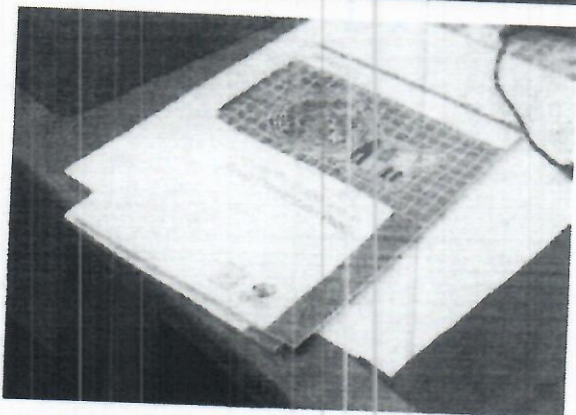
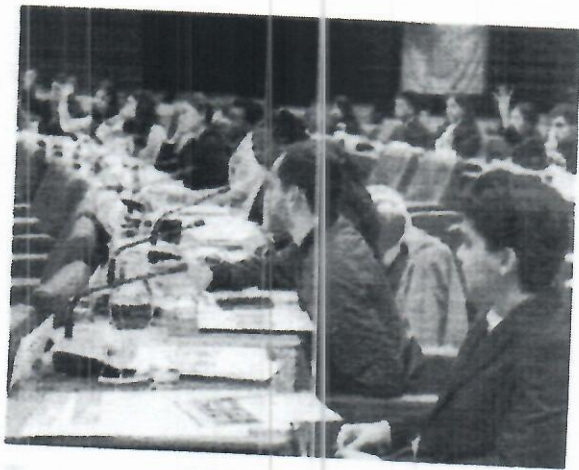
First and foremost, youth participants were provided with the UNODC/WHO International Standards on Drug Use Prevention, which they had been introduced to during the Pre-Forum tasks. Developed jointly by UNODC and WHO, this document is a key resource for guiding and supporting Member States in ensuring that their prevention systems and programmes are aligned with prevention science. The Standards outline effective drug use prevention strategies grounded in scientific evidence, indicating both effective and ineffective approaches. The Standards provide guidance for policy-makers and stakeholders on assessing whether programmes are developed and implemented to be effective, and if not, what to consider in order to improve their effectiveness.

The youth participants deepened their understanding of prevention through presentations given by experts from the UNODC Prevention, Treatment, Rehabilitation Section on topics such as the neuroscience of substance use disorders, evidence-based prevention strategies, etc. In a dedicated session on the science behind substance use disorders, youths gained insight of how drugs affect the brain and how continued use leads to drug use disorders. Considering that the young brain continues to develop until the mid-twenties, the adolescent period is particularly vulnerable; and with this 'Aha moment', youths recognized that prevention is particularly important for children and youth.



The session on evidence-based prevention helped youths recognise the importance of addressing both individual and environmental factors, and of going beyond initiatives that only raise awareness. They learned about the various risk and protective factors that people are exposed to, which can make the person become either more vulnerable, or more resilient to drug use and other risky behaviours, and how prevention aims to reduce risk factors (and/or their effects), while supporting the development of protective factors as individuals grow and develop. Experts emphasised the significance of addressing these factors at multiple levels, encompassing universal strategies as well as those addressing specific groups. Additionally, participants received an overview of the work of the Youth Initiative and UNODC's prevention programmes.





Equipped with more comprehensive understanding of prevention, the youth participants had time to connect what they learned to what they observed within their own communities and personal experiences. They reflected over the potential risk and protective factors relevant to their peers and communities, especially among adolescents. Through group work, the youths enriched their perspectives by listening to various viewpoints and practices – both positive and negative – observed by their peers in their communities.

Youth participants also had an opportunity to reflect on youth engagement: what does it mean for an experience to be 'meaningful'? They shared experiences and reflected whether it was truly meaningful or not, recounted the challenges faced, how they overcame them, and the personal growth they experienced through their involvement. Discussions encompassed a wide spectrum of topics, from practical issues such as finding financial support to implement their activities, to broader questions about the inspirations and motivations behind their participation. The youths engaged in brainstorming sessions regarding the significance of active youth participation in prevention efforts and acquainted themselves with the Handbook on Youth Participation in Drug Prevention Work to support their discussions.

As the Youth Forum 2024 coincided with the High-Level Segment of the 67th CND, youth participants had the opportunity to be at the heart of global policy-making discussions, including side events that took stock of the efforts and work of Member States and various stakeholders in reaching the international drug policy commitments made in 2019. This gave the youth a glimpse into the conferences attended by official delegations and an opportunity to learn about the current perspectives surrounding the world drug problem. However, the youth were not just spectators, as they themselves took the floor during the high-level segment of the Commission to deliver their jointly drafted statement.

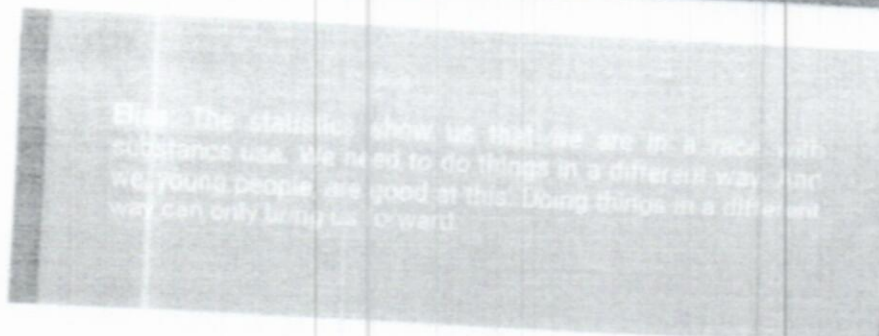
YOUTH-LED PRESENTATIONS

A session of the Youth Forum was dedicated to be a youth-led session, to stimulate an open discussion and a Question & Answer session for youths to share their work in prevention efforts with the wider group, and inspire each other with their stories of action. For this session, active youths expressed their wish to present their work through one of the Pre-Forum tasks.

Structured as a session for youth to learn from one another, participants gained insight of an array of youth-centred and youth-led initiatives from various parts of the world, allowing them to see the various methods and ways in which youth involvement is possible. Some youths shared their experiences of volunteering with national projects sponsored by the government, or within youth centres and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).



Habiba: Youth participation is important in prevention because we are able to give an example to others, we show them "You can do it too!" We can also make a difference by sharing with our friends, our families. We need to continue seeking other opportunities.



Blas: The statistics show us that we are in a race with substance use. We need to do things in a different way, and we young people are good at this. Doing things in a different way can only bring us forward.



Zhandos: Observing the lack of resources related to prevention for youth, we built a network all over the country with volunteers who cooperate and initiate events to promote healthy lifestyles. It's not so hard to encourage young people to join. They see the problem in the country and want to join.

Katerin: Being a social worker, I had a class on substance use in which we talked a lot about alcohol consumption. I was shocked that alcohol was the most harmful substance for people in Greece. I was not expecting this. This is how we got the inspiration to create a website proposing recipes to make non-alcoholic drinks, with the collaboration of professional bartenders.



Some youths shared their experiences of volunteering with national projects sponsored by the government, or within youth centres and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Others highlighted their work within their schools or universities, working alongside with and for their classmates and friends. These presentations demonstrated the diverse action and work undertaken by youths,

ranging from informational and capacity-building sessions, peer-to-peer programmes, establishing youth networks, participating in prevention-focused exhibitions, etc. Through these experiences, young leaders inspired other peers about the positive influence they could have, and of their capabilities in catalysing change within their communities, both on a small and a larger scale.



Raquel: We focused on why people are using substances. Many teenagers who use drugs have problems with self-control, dealing with their emotions. We try to give them the resources to make them decide for themselves, and to fill what they are missing with means other than substance use.

Polina: I have personally witnessed young people partake in substance consumption simply because they observed their peers engaging in such behaviour. But it doesn't have to be this way. We possess the power to be catalysts for change. By actively participating in prevention efforts and acting as positive role models to those around us, we can help alleviate the pressures that lead others down the path of substance consumption.



Chun Yiu: Youth engagement is currently being developed in China, and I want to be part of it. That is why I participated in the Youth Forum, to benefit from a Youth Network and exchange idea after the Youth Forum.

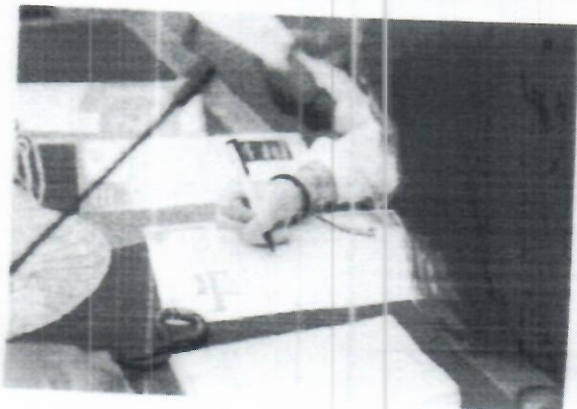
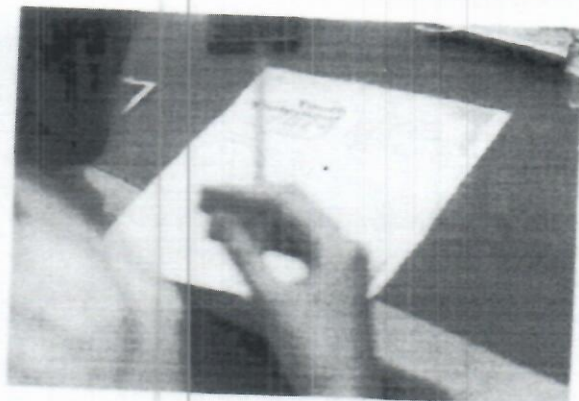
André: Youth participation is crucial, it shapes the future of the youth individuals. Youth can be active, but we need the right tools. We engaged with the students, training them to be leaders, and to teach their friends how to avoid substance use, by showing them that you can have fun and adrenaline without using substances.



PREPARING THE YOUTH STATEMENT

The Youth Statement is an important outcome of the Youth Forum, providing youths with the opportunity to prepare their message to policymakers and decision-makers. In preparation of the Statement, participants first engaged in brainstorming sessions to identify the key elements they wished to emphasize and address. The ideas and key messages from each group were consolidated and collectively discussed to draft the final Statement. Just like the process of resolution drafting by Member States, the youth participants negotiated each sentence and paragraph meticulously to ensure that the Statement encompassed everyone's aspirations and represented the collective voice of all participants.

Recognizing the scarcity of resources, youths highlighted the importance of grounding policy-making decisions in science in order to invest in strategies that will bring effective results. They also emphasized that young people should also be given opportunities to be main actors in prevention interventions themselves. Please see the next section to read the youths' message to global policy-makers.



YOUTH STATEMENT 2024

67th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs



Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

We stand before you today as 35 youths from 27 countries, noting with great concern the issue of substance use and the grave consequences which it brings. Substance use is not only detrimental to individual health and well-being, but it also worsens many aspects of our society. Our commitment to substance use prevention can ensure better health outcomes, reduced poverty rates and social stability.

We bring forth the significance of addressing the root causes and vulnerabilities behind substance use to effectively implement sustainable solutions. We understand that resources are scarce, and emphasize the pivotal role that evidence-based prevention can play to ensure a maximal effective result, and foster a foundation for long-term social well-being and individual flourishing.

In the context of substance use prevention, an approach based on evidence can and will, give us guidance and support to achieve our goal. By prioritizing early prevention initiatives that foster healthy development, global productivity and prosperity can be increased to ensure sustainable creation of healthier lifestyles. In this process, no one should be left behind.

Witnessing the detrimental impact of substance use on our peers has reminded us of the urgent need for action. Ensuring youth engagement in evidence-based substance use prevention can catalyse positive change, injecting fresh perspectives into the veins of our society. By providing youths with various leadership roles, skills development and peer support networks through youth-led organisations, peer-to-peer education, mentorship, and social media, we can pave the way for a better tomorrow.

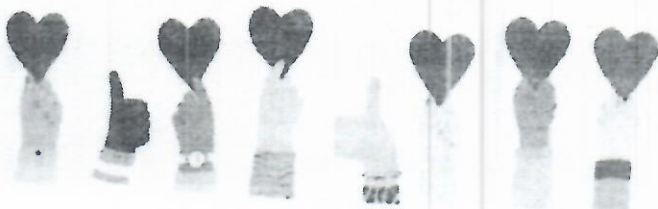
Youth can be a powerful source of empathy and support for the community. Yet, without your support, this is not enough. So we call on you, decision-makers, to put yourselves into our shoes, and when signing each drug-related policy, picture how it feels to be young and see our futures fall to conditions and situations that we cannot control.

We urge Member States to increase youth engagement in science-based prevention interventions. It is your responsibility to reduce the power dynamics between young people and adults, ensuring that we feel empowered to act as your equal counterparts. To do so, we must be provided with a socially relevant platform - a voice of our own, through which we can finally make ourselves be heard.

Our call is for Member States to help us in building the foundations for structured and systematic youth-led action; providing infrastructure, opportunities and conditions to equally empower youth to make informed and consent-based decisions, and implementing prevention efforts regardless of abilities, languages, and cultural differences. We urge decision-makers to closely collaborate with local NGOs, social groups, schools and universities to provide substantial support, such as but not limited to, funding, knowledge and skills.

Our message and call to action is to prioritise drug use prevention, especially among youths, and to invest in evidence-based, early, and youth-centred prevention strategies. By working together and empowering young people to care for health and well-being, we can create a brighter and healthier future for all.

Passion moves hearts, support moves hands. We have the passion, the heart and the hands: give us the support and change will happen.



LET'S HEAR FROM YOUTH!

ASKING EACH OTHER "WHAT INSPIRED YOU" SHOWED THAT ALTHOUGH WE ARE DIFFERENT AND OUR INSPIRATIONS ARE DIFFERENT, WE ALL SHARE THE SAME PASSION.

I WOULD LIKE TO BUILD A COMMUNITY AND APPLY WHAT I LEARNED FROM HERE.

I WAS SURPRISED BY SOME OF METHODS THAT I THOUGHT WERE EFFECTIVE BUT ACTUALLY AREN'T. I HOPE TO BRING SCIENCE-BASED PREVENTION BACK HOME.

Habiba Raslan - Egypt

Shizuka Yanagi - Japan

Mohamed Ghareba - Libya

FOR A LONG TIME I WAS ASKING MYSELF, "WHAT CAN WE DO TO COUNTER PEER PRESSURE?" THE BEST AHA MOMENT FOR ME, WAS UNDERSTANDING HOW TO COUNTER PEER PRESSURE BY IMPLEMENTING PROGRAMMES TO IMPROVE LIFE SKILLS.

I AM REALLY INSPIRED TO SHARE MY IDEAS WITH YOUTH IN MY COMMUNITY AFTER THIS FORUM.

Nedira Ryakulova - Kazakhstan

Amina Abjemileva - Uzbekistan

I WILL BRING HOME ALL INSPIRATIONS AND IDEAS I HEARD HERE. WE CAN BE THE CHANGE, BUT WE NEED HELP FROM OTHERS.



Yifei Shao - China

"EMPOWERING PEOPLE", THIS IS PROBABLY WHAT I WILL BRING BACK WHEN TALKING ABOUT PREVENTION, THAT IT'S NOT ONLY TALKING ABOUT DRUGS, BUT ALSO FOCUSING ON SOFT SKILLS, EMPOWERMENT.



João Cortes Cardoso - Portugal

THE FORUM WAS SUCH A PLEASANT EXPERIENCE, AND I AM STILL UNDER THE INFLUENCE "PUN INTENDED" OF ALL THE WONDERFUL EXPERIENCES WE HAD.



Inayla Kirilova - Bulgaria

ONE OF MY AHA MOMENT WAS THE SIDE EVENT. SEEING THE POLICY MAKERS DISCUSSING PREVENTION STRATEGIES, JUST AS WE DID DURING THE YOUTH FORUM, I REALIZED THAT THEY ARE ADULTS, YES, BUT THEY ARE ALL HUMANS, AND WE CAN CREATE BRIDGES BETWEEN GENERATION.

MAY OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS IN EMPOWERING THE YOUTH CONTINUE TO FLOURISH.

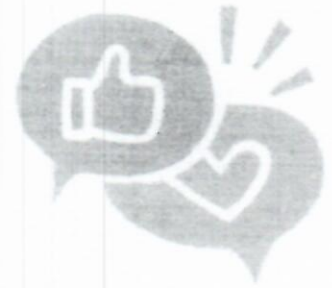


Ante Megan Kong - Singapore



Nurasyiqin Ismail - Malaysia

VISIBLE HIGHLIGHTS SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH



The UNODC Youth Initiative continuously builds on global movement using Social Media Networks to make youth efforts visible. Accordingly, various social media platforms were used prior to the Youth Forum to promote the event, highlight youth and their anticipation, as well as feature sneak peeks into the sessions of the Youth Forum.

The Youth Forum gained a total of 38,453 media views and impressions, which is indicative of the number of times that people were engaged with a social media post through reactions, comments, shares, and clicks. The table below presents indicators that depict the overall performance from the three main social media channels of the UNODC Youth Initiative during February – March 2024.

UNODC Prevention Treatment Rehabilitation Summit @UNODC_PT Mar 12
Key leaders of UNODC #YouthForum 2024 were introduced to the #PreventionStandards as #ThoughtLeaders on effective substance use interventions strategies that can be used by everyone! [#PreventionStandards](#) [#YouthForum](#)



UNODC Prevention Treatment Rehabilitation Summit @UNODC_PT Mar 12
Kicking off the #UNODC #YouthForum 2024! We've welcomed 35 youth from 27 countries! [#Learning](#) the value of having evidence back up #PreventionInitiatives. Do you want to know too? Find more info here. [#YouthForum24](#)



UNODC Prevention Treatment Rehabilitation Summit @UNODC_PT Mar 16
Youth participants of the #UNODC #YouthForum 2024 took the floor at the high-level meeting of #UNODC to deliver their Youth Statement! Youth mainstreaming starts with listening to youth voices. Listen to their words here, at 03:22:45 in [#YouthForum](#)

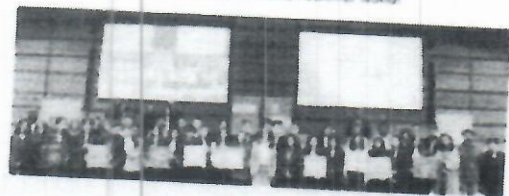


UNODC Prevention Treatment Rehabilitation Summit @UNODC_PT Mar 16
Urged by Executive Director @GholamrezaWaly, youth took advantage of the #YouthForum 2024 to work together, and brought renewed energy to the policy-making discussions at #UNODC

Click on the link below for a brief summary & the joint Youth Statement. [#YouthForum2024](#)

Gholamreza Waly @GholamrezaWaly Mar 17

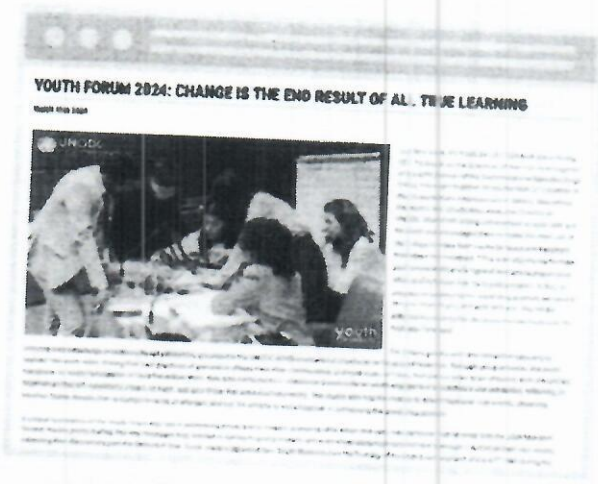
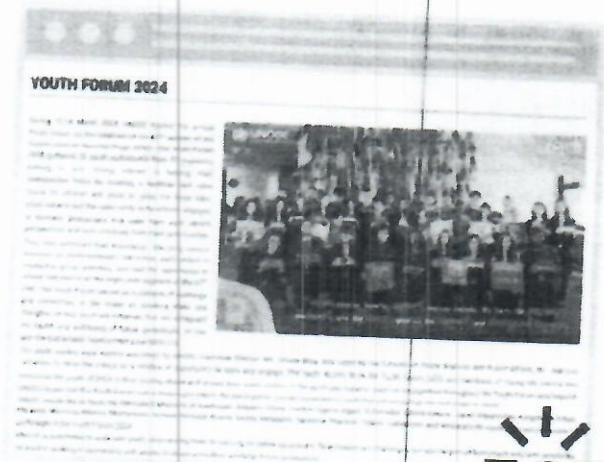
Today I delivered a clear message to young changemakers at the #UNODC Youth Forum. Your determination, energy and passion are our strongest assets in calling for action to address the world drug problem. Let's work together to create a safer and healthier world!



Channels	New Followers	Engagement rate	Media Views & Impressions	Posts
Twitter	186	10%	21,248	22
Facebook	49	3.1%	6,221	22
Instagram	217	3.5%	10,984	22
Total	452	5.5%	38,453	66

UNODC YOUTH INITIATIVE WEBSITE

The UNODC Youth Initiative homepage showcased the Youth Forum 2024 through an interactive Youth Forum 2024 Timeline that demonstrates the events leading up to the Youth Forum, and a Youth Action article summarising the 3-day event.



YOUTH INTERVIEWS

The Youth Initiative Team also conducted several interviews with youth leaders who were keen on sharing their views and perspectives with the world. Please click on the thumbnails below to listen to youth voices of inspiration and revelation!

Aikaterina Markaki, Greece

COULD YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT YOUR INTEREST IN SEEKING ENGAGEMENT HOW YOU PROCEEDED REGARDING YOUR ACTIVITIES ENGAGING WITH YOUNGER PEOPLE?



Raquel Perez, Mexico

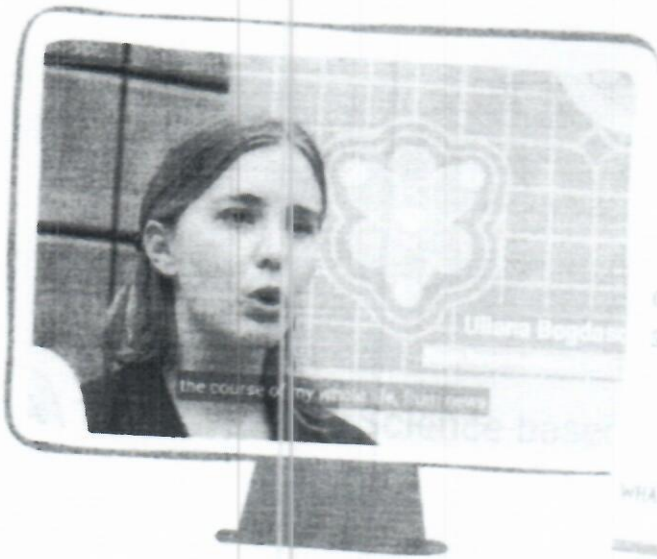
WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO SEEK NEW IDEAS AND HELP OTHERS AS A YOUTH IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

João Cortes Cardoso, Portugal

ANY INSPIRATION FOR NEW COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP PREVENTION INITIATIVES THAT SPARKED DURING THE YOUTH FORUM?

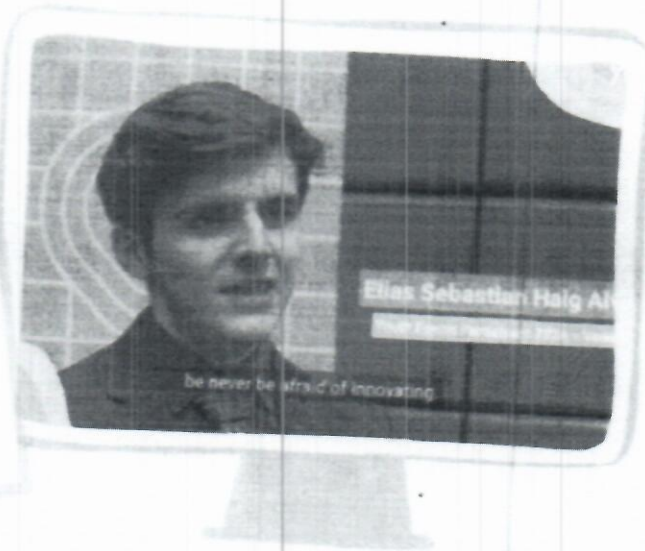
TO WHERE TO FROM HERE HOW DO YOU SEE YOURSELF BEING INVOLVED IN PREVENTION EFFORTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?





Uliana Bogdasarova, Russia
 WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO GET INVOLVED IN SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION?
 CAN YOU SHARE ANY STORIES OF SUCCESS IN SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION WORK, EITHER PERSONALLY OR THROUGH COMMUNITY GROUPS/ORGANISATIONS?
 WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THIS EXPERIENCE?

Elias Alves, Venezuela
 WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO OTHER YOUTH INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING TO SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION?
 WHAT DO YOU FEEL IS A RESPONSIBLE MESSAGE FROM THE YOUTH FORUM SETPOINT?

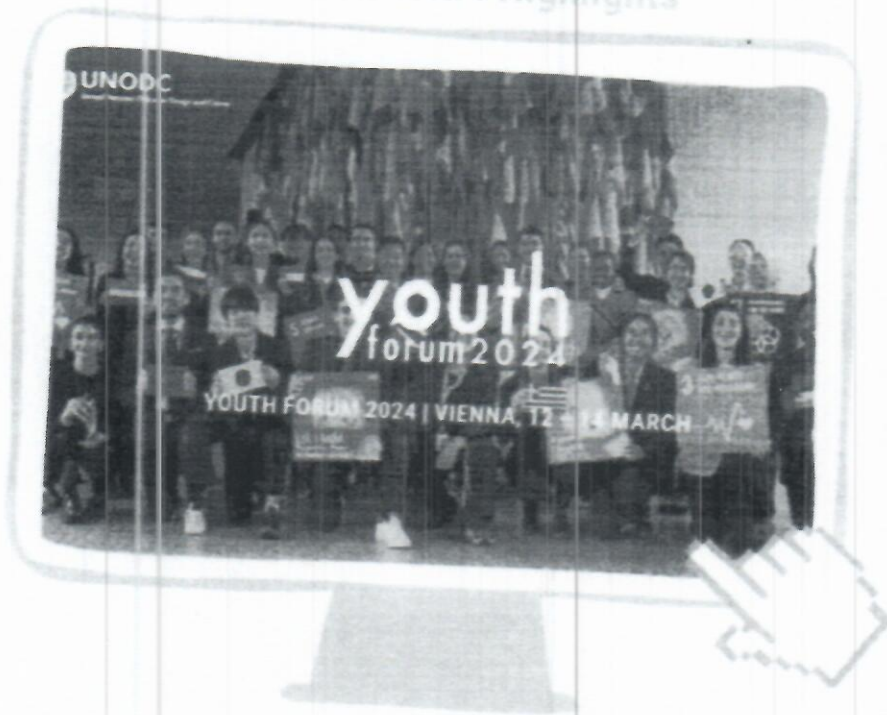


Yifei Shao, China
 WHAT DISCUSSION OR LEARNING WAS RESONATED WITH YOU THE MOST FROM THE YOUTH FORUM SETPOINT?
 HOW CAN SOCIAL MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY BE CONSIDERED IN PREVENTION EFFORTS?

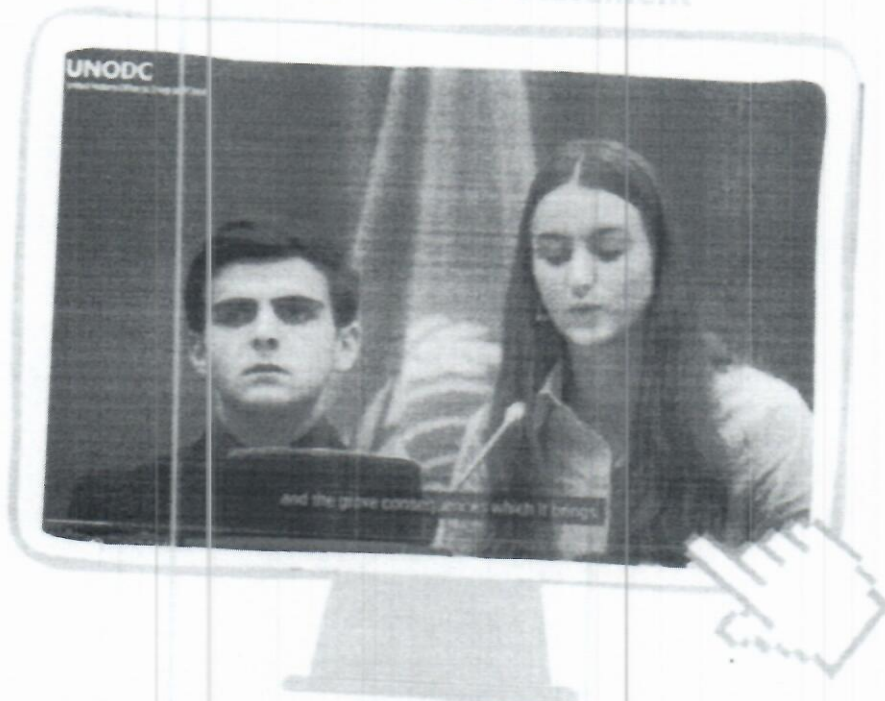
YOUTH FORUM HIGHLIGHTS & STATEMENT VIDEOS

Finally, a highlights video was created to summarize and showcase sneak peeks into the Youth Forum 2024. In addition, we also invite you to watch the delivery of the Youth Statement. Please click on the screenshots below to watch the videos.

Youth Forum 2024 Highlights



Youth Forum 2024 Statement



YOUTH FORUM 2024 PARTICIPANTS

Name	Country
Leyla Hasanova	Azerbaijan
Ivayla Vladislavova Kirilova	Bulgaria
Chun-Yiu Lee	China
Yifei Shao	China
Luka Antončić	Croatia
Nikolas Kyriacou	Cyprus
Habiba Ahmed Mohamed Saad Raslan	Egypt
Daniela Alejandra Romero Castillo	El Salvador
Kendrick Nii Adotey Sackar	Ghana
Aikaterini Maria Markaki	Greece
Eleftheria Kasviki	Greece
Miyu Takazawa	Japan
Shizuna Yanagi	Japan
Zhandos Aktayev	Kazakhstan
Nadira Ryskulova	Kazakhstan
Aidai Isabekova	Kyrgyzstan
Mohamed Saad Mofatih Ghareba	Libya
Nurasyqin Binti Mohd Azaley Ismail	Malaysia
Muhamad Sawar Nawfar	Mauritius
Raquel Odette Toledo Pérez	Mexico
Petar Ulićević	Montenegro
André Thomassen Haugen	Norway
João Pedro Cortes Cardoso	Portugal
German Kalbjan#	Russia
Uliana Bogdasarova	Russia
Saška Simić	Saudi Arabia
Anne Megan Kong	Singapore
Balbina Mathew Safari	Tanzania
Chantisa Deeprai	Thailand
Ahmet Ozan Yilmaz	Türkiye
Polina Grace Lowry	United Kingdom
Carina Samir Morcos Mikhail	United States of America
Amina Narzul aeva	Uzbekistan
Amina Abjem Ieva	Uzbekistan
Elias Sebastian Haig Alves	Venezuela

Please note that this youth was not able to participate due to conflicting personal schedules and other matters

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

UNODC would like to take this opportunity to extend its gratitude to the countries who have provided support in identifying outstanding youths for nomination and participation in the Youth Forum 2024. In addition, UNODC would like to thank the governments of China, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Japan, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, and Singapore for supporting the travel arrangements of youth participants. We look forward to continued support and nominations from Member States in the coming years, to provide youth with a stage and voice in health and drug policy, and to empower youth leaders in countering the world drug problem.

UNODC would also like to especially acknowledge the government of the Russian Federation, for its on-going support of the UNODC Youth Forum on drug use prevention. We have witnessed more than 10 years of youth engagement, education, and empowerment through the annual Youth Forum, and look forward to many more to come.

THANK YOU!



INFORMATION FOR PERMANENT MISSIONS



The Youth Forum is an annual event organized by the UNODC Youth Initiative in the broader context of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). Its main objective is to gather young people, nominated by Member States and active in drug use prevention and youth empowerment from around the world. The aim is to allow them to exchange ideas, visions, and different perspectives on how to better protect the health and wellbeing of their peers. The diversity in cultural background and opinions, unified by the youths' motivation to engage in prevention, enriches the discussions and serves as the ground for the joint message that will be conveyed to the global level policy makers.

It is important to note that youth participants do not represent Member States during the Youth Forum. The Youth Forum is meant to be a safe place for youth to exchange experiences, learn and develop a statement sharing their hopes and visions with the Commission and attending delegates. Therefore, although youth are nominated by Member States, they participate in the Youth Forum in their personal capacity.

When UNODC commences the nomination process for Youth Forum 2025, a guidance document will be provided to Permanent Missions in order to provide assistance in nominating appropriate candidates for participation. In addition to ministries or government entities that work with and support youth to live healthy lives, UNODC also suggests reaching out to youth organizations, groups, leagues, civics groups or other organized activities that are oriented towards empowering youth as leaders working on substance use prevention. Public and private schools, including higher education, may also be settings to identify youth for participation. Please also note that nominations can only be made by Permanent Missions, and thus a coordinated approach should be exercised amongst concerned stakeholders in-country to identify the most appropriate youth.

Again, UNODC would like to thank Permanent Missions that have nominated youth to participate in Youth Forum 2024, and we look forward to expanding the youth community in the years to come. Further information and guidance will be provided in the coming months.

Adieu

UNTIL

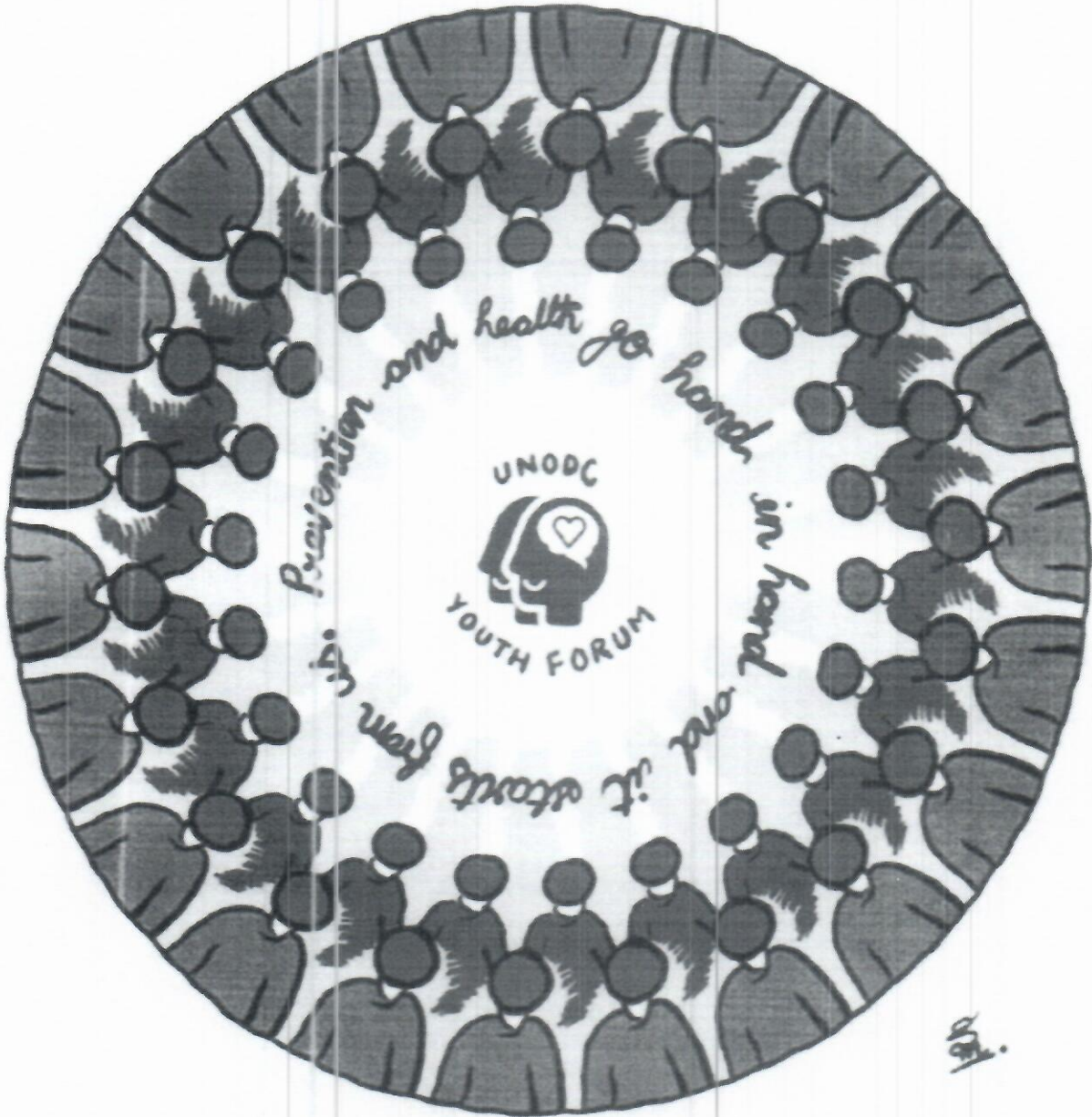


Illustration by Saptadipa Mallick

Youth forum 2025!