



United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Division for Social Policy and Development



WORLD YOUTH SKILLS DAY 2017

The United Nations DESA Division for Social Policy and Development (UNDESA-DSPD), in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and United for all Peoples (UP), is organizing an event on the issue of:

“Youth in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) for achieving peace and positive social change for all”

WHEN: Friday, 14 July 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Conference Room 8, General Assembly Building, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of San Marino to the United Nations and the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations.

The event is organized with the support of NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY and the participation of Manhattan Multicultural Counseling and Disabled Peoples International.



H.E. Georgi Panayotov

(Opening Remarks)

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations

Daniela Bas (Mistress of Ceremony)

Director, United Nations DESA Division for Social Policy and Development

Hibah Kamal-Grayson (Moderator)

Senior Public Policy Analyst, Google

Werner Faymann (Video Message)

UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy on Youth Employment

Carlotta Buiatti (Video Message)

Director of Art and Design, UP



Melissa Sassi

Program Manager

Affordable Access Initiative, Microsoft

Zach Sims

Co-founder and CEO, Codeacademy

Tracy Chou

Co-Founder, Project Include

Mahrinah von Schlegel

Executive Director, Embassy 2.0

Kelly Lovell

Youth Mobilizer, CEO, Lovell Corporation

Carol K. Kennedy, Ph.D. (Discussant)

Educational Technology Consultant, Manhattan Multicultural Counseling

Supported by:





TOPIC

How do the academic fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) contribute to the empowerment of youth - with a special focus on young women and girls - by eliminating the gender gap in education and skill-development and by providing equal employment opportunities, as a strategy to reduce overall inequalities, eradicate poverty and promote peace, prosperity and positive social change for all.

FORMAT

Panel Discussion followed by Moderated Q & A.

CONCEPT

One billion people today live in poverty. The difficult economic conditions worldwide have hit particularly the youth. Improving the skill sets of youth before they enter the job market could increase their employment opportunities and help achieving peace and positive social change for all.

With particular emphasis on STEM skills of young women and girls, the event will address how, through science, technologies, engineering and math, youth can find employment or create new job opportunities. Mastery of STEM skills represents also a communication channel and a platform for social engagement, sharing information and innovative ideas to overcome poverty, to improve the wellbeing of groups in marginalized situations, such as persons with disabilities and to promote peace and prosperity for all.

Commemorating the 2017 World Youth Skills Day, successful STEM professionals, entrepreneurs and representatives of academia will share their experiences and knowledge to inspire and encourage young people to develop and use their STEM skills in all industries, identify better strategies for building necessary skills, eliminate stereotypes, and reaching gender equality across the field.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How can the private sector boost STEM skills development which could serve as an engine for youth employment and as consequence poverty eradication worldwide?
 - How can young people with STEM skills help their communities achieve peace and bring positive social change?
 - Though it is interesting to observe that young women and girls with STEM jobs earn 33% more than comparable women and girls in non-STEM jobs, still why do they often make less money than men and only few are in leadership positions? What steps need to be taken to close the gap in the job market? What can be done to eliminate the negative stereotype about girls' technical skills and abilities?
 - How can we maximize the impact that [young] social entrepreneurs operating in STEM are having, particularly in the development of resilient and peaceful communities?
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