

2025 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)



Introduction

Ten years into the 2030 Agenda and with time running short, the 2025 HLPF reviews critical SDGs: **SDG 3** (Health), **SDG 5** (Gender Equality), **SDG 8** (Decent Work), **SDG 14** (Life Below Water), and **SDG 17** (Partnerships).

YPARD (Young Professionals for Agricultural Development) represents a global network of young innovators, farmers, researchers, and entrepreneurs. Our work, — rooted in agroecology, equity, and youth co-leadership, — offers scalable solutions to accelerate SDG implementation. As HLPF bridges to the Summit of the Future and key global milestones (Beijing+30, Ocean Conference, FfD4, etc.), it must recognize youth as decision-makers, not only beneficiaries.

Key Messages

► **SDG 3 | Healthy Food Systems for Healthy People and Planet**

Children and youth demand policies that integrate agriculture, nutrition, and public health. Mental health, climate anxiety, and rural inequities are rising among youth. Governments must fund integrated food and health systems that address root causes and include mental well-being as part of resilience strategies.

► **SDG 5 | Gender Equality as a Catalyst for Transformation**

Empowering rural and Indigenous young women is a prerequisite for resilient food systems, and leads to higher economic and social benefits. Gender-transformative policies must go beyond participation and support the leadership, land rights, and knowledge of young women across food system governance and climate action.

► **SDG 8 | Dignified Work and Youth-Led Rural Economies**

Agri-food systems must become resilient, future-proof, and dignified be recognized as viable career paths. National strategies must invest in green and blue jobs, agroecological entrepreneurship, and inclusive rural economies, with accessible finance and land tenure security for young producers.

► **SDG 14 | Blue Economies and Aquatic Justice**

Coastal, island, and riverine youth rely on aquatic ecosystems for livelihoods. We call for youth-inclusive ocean governance and financing for youth-led innovations in sustainable aquaculture, marine restoration, and small-scale fisheries in line with the Nice Ocean Action Plan.

► **SDG 17 | Transforming Partnerships, Not Just Projects**

Intergenerational equity requires co-creation, not consultation. Youth must be recognized as policy actors with direct access to funding, seats at the table, and roles in shaping global decision-making. We call for institutional mechanisms that embed youth in governance frameworks and budget lines — not just events.

Call to Action

- Institutionalize **youth representation in SDG governance** (national councils, UN bodies).
- Align **public investments with youth-led agroecological transitions** and **blue economy models**.
- Establish **youth-accessible funding windows** under SDG and climate finance mechanisms.
- Implement the **Global Goal on Adaptation with explicit children and youth provisions** for resilience, markets, and livelihoods.

We envision a just, inclusive future where **youth are empowered to lead resilient food systems**. This requires **political will and effort, targeted investment, and partnerships rooted in rights and equity**.

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