

# UN AT YOUR DOORSTEP

## Young people – Get ready to engage with world leaders!

*Please note that this document is written for teachers, school leaders, or educational facilitators participating in the program in both the formal and informal contexts. It contains relevant background information, including step-by-step instructions for participation, the syllabus, the live dialogue agenda outline and frequently asked questions and their answers.*

## Background Information

### What is UN at Your Doorstep?

UN at Your Doorstep is a series of online live dialogues that will offer an unprecedented opportunity for young people to directly engage with world leaders and UN officials. With select sessions moderated by [Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs](#), guest moderators and/or youth themselves, the discussions will focus on how to solve the biggest challenges of our time, from peace and security to climate change, poverty, inequalities, environmental sustainability, and artificial intelligence, with a specific set of questions for each session. See further information in the syllabus at the end of this document and the [UN at Your Doorstep Brochure](#).

### Who is this program for?

UN at Your Doorstep online dialogues are envisioned for secondary-school classrooms and assemblies, extra-curricular activities, Model UN clubs, community NGOs, welcoming young people from 14 years and up. But life-long learners are also welcome to join! The sessions are interdisciplinary and can be integrated into a variety of courses/topics, such as social studies, foreign languages, science, literature, business, economics, ethics, history, arts, and more.

### Why should my classroom/group of learners join?

Learners will be at the forefront of global discussions, inspiring them to become the change makers of tomorrow. With tailor-made learning materials, live one-hour online dialogues, an interactive forum and social media campaigns, students will widen their global awareness, foster critical thinking, communication and collaboration skills, and build confidence to become local leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### How long will the program run?

The program will start in October 2024, and there will be a 1-hour session each consecutive month thereafter.

## Step-by-Step Instructions for Participants

### Step 1: Register your interest in the overall program on our general mailing list for updates

Please make sure you are [registered here for our mailing list](#). This is how you will receive information about the program and the links for the live sessions. Teachers can either join the live sessions with their entire classroom through one Zoom connection, or register individually. Students are also welcome to join individually, and in all cases, each participant – whether joining as a teacher, student, or group – needs to complete their own registration.

### Step 2: Register for the dialogue of the month

Approximately 3-4 weeks before the monthly live dialogue, you will receive a newsletter blast with the announcement of the speaker/(s) and to register your attendance for the zoom session. Each month, there will be a theme related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The full syllabus of themes can be found at the end of this document.

### Step 3: Receive the pedagogical materials to review

Approximately 3-4 weeks before the monthly live dialogue, you will receive a newsletter blast with the links to the monthly pedagogical materials and a link for your learners to submit and/or upvote questions to the world leaders. The pedagogical materials are co-developed by the [Global Schools Program](#), [UN SDSN](#) and [Compass Education](#). These materials will suggest different activities for educators and learners to foster critical dialogue skills and systems on world issues. They will also provide background information on the topic, speaker/(s), and the organization they serve.

### Step 4: Set aside 45 minutes of time for a pre-dialogue session with your learners

Before each session, we suggest using the pedagogical materials for your learners to get to know the speaker and SDG topic. Please select activities that are most relevant to them. Please note that young people will be able to submit and/or upvote questions to the speakers via SLIDO before the live session. The link is provided in the pre-dialogue pedagogical resource. Young people can submit questions individually or in groups, directing questions to both or a specific speaker, e.g., “Felipe: [question].” Participants have the option to also include their name(s) and country before submitting. No account needs to be created to submit a question. All questions must be submitted at least 3 days before the session, and the most relevant and upvoted questions will be shared with the world leaders during the session for them to answer.

### Step 5: Ensure you have the zoom link and can connect to the internet

Before the session, please ensure you have the correct zoom link and an internet connection. You can join with your learners altogether via the same link or each learner can join independently with their individual link (in the latter case, please make sure to have each learner register to receive their personal zoom link, see Step 2). If your learners have been selected as moderators or to ask a question to the speaker, ensure that microphones are working. We suggest doing a test run, just in case. Zoom has a number of features that allow

users to view captions in different languages, including translated captions to more easily follow the discussions. Please find here a [step-by-step guide on how you can translate subtitles to your preferred language](#). Please note that the maximum capacity for a zoom meeting is 500 participants. If there are more than 500 persons connected, you will unfortunately be blocked from accessing the meeting. In this case, please join via the Live Streaming link, which you can find in the same email as the zoom registration (see Step 2). The Live Streaming will still allow you and young people to participate in the quizzes and polls but not the 20min peer exchange.

#### **Step 6: Attend the 1-hour online dialogue with your learners**

Now, it is time to attend *UN at Your Doorstep*. Log in to enjoy the session with your learners, and most importantly, have fun! The chat will be enabled and at the start all participants are encouraged to share which country they are connecting from. We will have two key moments for interactive audience engagement. You and the learners can participate by hovering a phone over a QR code provided on-screen or, if you prefer, a link shared through the chat.

#### **Step 6 ½: Stay on for a 20-Minute “Peer Exchange” to build global real-life connections**

Following the 1h dialogue with the world leader, participants have the option to stay on the zoom meeting for a 20-minute add-on session, where they can connect with peers from other countries to discuss the topics explored. Participants will be moved into randomly assigned groups with around 3-5 peers and can enjoy 20 minutes of unmoderated dialogue to get to know each other, share insights, compare perspectives, and learn from each other's experiences coming from diverse countries, cultures and contexts. Educators can guide the session by facilitating the conversation, encouraging learners to reflect on what they've learned, and fostering a collaborative atmosphere where everyone's voice is heard.

#### **Step 7: Set aside 45 minutes of class time for a post-dialogue session with your students**

Afterwards, use the given pedagogical materials to debrief with your students. Within these materials, there will be optional activities and challenges for your students to take part in. Please use these materials as you see fit.

#### **Step 8: Fill out the pulse survey**

After the secession, you will receive a newsletter blast to give feedback on the session. We thank you for your participation!

#### **Step 9: Repeat this process every month that you are interested**

Next, wait for the announcement of the next session, and sign up to receive the zoom link and pedagogical materials. We hope to see you there!



## UN at Your Doorstep SYLLABUS

Approx. timing	Global challenge & most relevant SDGs
23 Oct. '24	<b>Youth Empowerment</b> All SDGs
25 Nov. '24 COP29	<b>Environmental Sustainability</b> SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and + all other SDGs
10 Dec. '24 Human Rights Day	<b>Human Rights</b> All SDGs
24 Jan. '25 Int. Education Day	<b>Quality Education</b> SDG 4 Quality Education + all other SDGs
Febr. '25 20 Febr. World Day of Social Justice	<b>Peace &amp; Security</b> SDG 17 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions + all other SDGs
March 25	<b>Climate Change</b> SDG 13 Climate Action + all other SDGs
April '25	<b>Green Energy</b> SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy, SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG 11 Sustainable Cities & Communities + all other SDGs
May '25	<b>Eco-System Restoration</b> SDG 13 Climate Action, SDG 14 Life Below Water, SDG 15 Life on Land, SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production
June '24	<b>Gender Equality</b> SDG 5 Gender Equality + all other SDGs
July '25	<b>Global Health</b> SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing + all other SDGs
August '25	<b>Diversity &amp; Inclusion</b> SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities + all other SDGs



Sept. '25	<b>Poverty</b> SDG 1 No Poverty + all other SDGs
Oct. '25	<b>Food &amp; Agriculture</b> SDG 2 Zero Hunger, SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production + all other SDGs
Nov. '25	<b>Travel &amp; Tourism</b> SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing, SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy, SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 14 Life below Water, SDG 15 Life on Land
Dec. '25	<b>Media &amp; Information</b> All SDGs
Jan. '26	<b>Digitalization &amp; Artificial Intelligence</b> All SDGs

## UN at Your Doorstep AGENDA OUTLINE

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Description</i>
5min	Welcome & Introduction	Prof. Jeffrey Sachs or another moderator welcomes participants, introduces the world leader(s) and sets out the focus of discussion.
5min	Interactive engagement	Participants contribute via mentimeter to create a collaborative word cloud (e.g. What country / city are you joining from today; Share 2 key words you associate with today's topic of discussion).
5min	The global challenge	The world leader(s) introduce(s) the global challenge, discuss(es) why it matters to us all by providing a concrete example from current world affairs and why she/he has been active in tackling it.
15min	Discussion Q1	A young person takes over the moderation and starts the dialogue with the world leader(s) focusing on the first overarching discussion question and 1-2 additional questions submitted and upvoted by young people prior to the session.



5min	Interactive engagement	Participants contribute to a quiz or poll related to the global challenge, related SDGs and/or discussion question. The world leader(s) will be invited ahead of the event to submit a question she/he would like to ask young people about the global challenge.
15min	Discussion Q2	Another young person takes over the moderation and engages the world leader(s) in a dialogue on the second overarching discussion question as well as 1-2 pre-submitted and upvoted questions by young people.
5min	Interactive engagement	Participants share ideas about what young people can do to tackle the global challenge in their school, home, community, country and/or the world. The output will be a core element for the follow-up discussions to concretize the learnings and spark enthusiasm for taking action.
5min	Closing	The moderator summarizes key insights from the dialogue, thanks the world leader(s) and participants and announces the topic, world leader(s) and date of the next global online dialogue.
20min	(Optional) Peer Exchange	Participants can stay on for 20 minutes to connect with 3-5 peers from other countries for unmoderated discussions, sharing insights, perspectives, and experiences.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the time commitment for an educator and her/his learners participating in the program?

The estimated time commitment for an educator to fully participate in the program is 5 hours per month. This includes:

- 1 ½ -2 hours of activities with learners
- 1 hour of the online dialogue
- 2 hours of preparation time

We fully understand educators' busy schedules, hence, you could reduce the time commitment to less by just attending the live dialogue, for example. You can also choose to focus on one live session rather than another depending on the topics you're most interested in. See the syllabus of topics at the end of this document.

### What if I cannot participate in every monthly session, due to conflicts of schedule?

It is not a requirement to participate in every session. We welcome you to participate in the sessions that align with your and your learners' interests and learning goals.

At what times will the dialogues take place?

The dialogues will take place once per month at different times, depending on the availability of speakers and participants. The timing will aim to accommodate different time zones as much as possible and prioritize time zones that overlap for the largest audiences. A revolving schedule is anticipated to provide the opportunity for as many young people as possible to be part of the sessions in live. Please note that all sessions will be recorded and you can always have young people watch the recording and work with the pre- and post-dialogue pedagogical resources at your own time.

I am interested in knowing more about the dialogues each month. When will the speaker syllabus be released?

Due to the high-level of the speakers being asked to participate in this program, the speakers will be announced approximately 3-4 weeks in advance of the event. However, for planning purposes, the syllabus of themes and topics can be found at the end of this document. This allows classrooms to plan activities that are in line with the topics that speakers will be addressing.

Is there any cost to participate?

No, the program is completely free.

What will the format of the sessions look like?

Please see the draft agenda at the end of the document for more details. But please note that the formats will differ each time depending on the number of speakers that are attending. The dialogues are envisioned to be highly interactive, offering a space for students to raise questions and answer polls. Specifics on the session format will be communicated each month upon the announcement of the speaker.

What languages will the session be in?

The sessions will take place in English, but participants can enable captions in their preferred language using a browser extension to translate the live captions displayed on their screen. This extension translates the AI-generated English captions into the selected language. To use this feature, participants need to install a browser extension and join the Zoom session via their browser. Once connected, the extension will allow them to select their preferred language for captions. Please note that these translations are AI-generated and may not always be fully accurate. For detailed instructions, click [here](#). We may also explore testing AI-generated simultaneous interpretation in the near future.

Are there any financial resources available to facilitate this program in my school?

Unfortunately, financial resources are not available for participants at this time.

Will we receive certificates after the sessions?

Given the flexible nature of the program and our small time, we will not be able to administer certificates after each session. We will be exploring this in the future, once the program is set up and well underway.

What type of collaboration opportunities will there be for learners and educators to meet each other from all over the world?

Following the 1h dialogue with the world leader, participants have the option to stay on the zoom meeting for a 20-minute add-on session, where they can connect with peers from other countries to discuss the topics explored. Participants will be moved into randomly assigned groups with around 3-5 peers and can enjoy 20 minutes of unmoderated dialogue to get to know each other, share insights, compare perspectives, and learn from each other's experiences coming from diverse countries, cultures and contexts. Educators can guide the session by facilitating the conversation, encouraging learners to reflect on what they've learned, and fostering a collaborative atmosphere where everyone's voice is heard. Feel free to exchange your contact details during this exchange to continue discussions.

As a teacher implementing this program in my classroom, what will I be expected to do?

We encourage participating teachers and educators to use the pre- and post- pedagogical materials to engage your learners in meaningful activities and actions around the monthly SDG topic. Then, you will be expected to fully engage online during the live dialogue. Please note if you cannot make the live dialogue, you can always work with the pedagogical resources and the recordings of the session afterwards, which will be published on the [UN at Your Doorstep webpage](#).

Is there a contact person in case I have further questions?

Please email [unatyourdoorstep@unsdsn.org](mailto:unatyourdoorstep@unsdsn.org).

If my learners are unable to attend the live session, will there be a recording available?

Yes. Each live event will be recorded and shared online for everyone interested.

Do young people need a permission to be part of the live sessions if they are under 18?

The live sessions will be conducted via Zoom and publicly live streamed. It is the responsibility of each school and individual participant to decide if they wish to share their image or voice during the session. Teachers must ensure that they have obtained parental consent for any participating students who are minors, as their appearance and voice may be broadcasted.