



WORLD  
FOOD  
FORUM

GLOBAL  
YOUTH  
ACTION

WORLD FOOD FORUM

# YOUTH POLICY AND DELIBERATION CHALLENGE

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

LAST UPDATED: 26 MARCH 2024

# BACKGROUND

The World Food Forum (WFF), launched in 2021 as an independent network of partners hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), serves as the premier global platform to actively shape agrifood systems for a better food future, accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through youth action, science and innovation, and investment, the WFF forges new paths of action and multi-sector partnerships for agrifood impact at the local, regional and global levels to achieve a more sustainable, resilient, inclusive and hunger-free food future for all.

Within this framework, WFF Global Youth Action was established to harness the passion and power of youth, and incite positive action for agrifood systems through youth empowerment. It acts as a catalytic movement and driver of youth engagement in food governance, and serves as a knowledge center and innovation lab, fostering and inspiring youth-led solutions. It thus actively contributes to the implementation of the UN Youth 2030 Strategy and enhances youth engagement in the follow-up to the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit.

The WFF Youth Policy and Deliberation Challenge (PDC), is calling for young policy-oriented leaders as well as innovative students and researchers to share bold policy solutions and ideas on various issues surrounding agrifood systems.

Instructions for submissions, and terms and conditions are below.

# PART I: PARTICULARS OF THE COMPETITION

## 1. Benefits and Prizes

### 1.1. Shortlisted teams will receive:

- a. Opportunities to collaborate and connect with researchers participating in various initiatives of the WFF, participants of the Transformative Research Challenge (TRC) and WFF Young Scientists Group (YSG) members;
- b. Access to a global audience of young leaders and organizations from the public, private and intergovernmental sectors who are participating in or supporting the WFF;
- c. The opportunity to virtually present their idea to a panel of experts for the chance to move forward to the final round of the PDC; and
- d. Visibility on the WFF website and social media channels.

### 1.2. Finalist teams will receive:

- a. Online mentorship from renowned experts in the lead up to of the 2024 WFF flagship event;
- b. The opportunity to deliberate their policy proposals in front of a live audience and expert panel during the 2024 WFF flagship event in Rome, Italy; and
- c. A WFF Policy and Deliberation Challenge certificate.

### 1.3. Prizes for the winners of the PDC include:

- a. The winning team will be interviewed by the WFF and one member will have the possibility of getting an internship with the organization in 2025;
- b. A WFF PDC certificate; and
- c. A press release/web story published on the WFF website and social media channels.

## 2. Eligibility

- 2.1. The Competition is open to teams of up to four individuals (“Entrants”). All Entrants must be between 18 and 35 years of age at the time of their initial written submissions. Each Entrant can only apply for one team/application. Entrants that violate this term will be disqualified.
- 2.2. The WFF and FAO employees, including their immediate family members (spouses, parents, children, siblings and their respective spouses, regardless of where they live) or persons living in the same households of such employees, whether or not related, are not eligible to enter the Competition. The WFF will determine eligibility at its sole discretion. Partners or relatives of staff of the institutions involved in the launch of the Competition, and relatives of the judging committee are not eligible to compete. If Entrants formally engage with the WFF or FAO after the submission, they must inform the WFF team immediately and withdraw the submission.


- 2.3. Entrants can only submit original works for which they are the sole creators and copyright holders. In case of a group of authors, the names and ages of all authors must be listed and will be considered as a single Entrant in the copyright rules described below, as well as for the prizes and benefits indicated in Section 1.
- 2.4. Teams may only indicate their members once; Members cannot be added after acceptance into the PDC. Entrants registering individually will be randomly assigned to teams after registration.
- 2.5. PDC mentors and evaluators cannot be members of their assigned team, nor can they participate as authors in the research or proposal submitted by their assigned team.
- 2.6. Applications with any missing information, including but not limited to names, ages, emails and number of team members are subject to disqualification.
- 2.7. Missing or unreasonably delayed replies can lead to disqualification of the team.
- 2.8. Concept Notes exceeding the page limit or not following guidelines will not be taken into consideration.
- 2.9. Entrants must accept these Terms and Conditions when registering.
- 2.10. Participation is free of charge.

## 3. Process and Selection Criteria

- 3.1. Registration is accepted until 15 February 2024 (09.00 CET/ Rome time). The registered individuals will be contacted after 4 February and can submit their submissions until 11 April 2024 (11.59 CET).
- 3.2. All finalists and winners will be notified via email after the judging is complete. When finalists receive a notification email from the WFF, they must respond to the notification email to accept shortlisting. If a response is not received within seven days of notification, the WFF reserves the right to reallocate the prize to another team.
- 3.3. The selection process is divided into the following three phases:

**Phase 1: Shortlisting.** The first selection round will be carried out by a panel of experts selected by the WFF PDC organizers, based on the following criteria:

- Written proposals should be submitted online by the deadline. No late submissions will be accepted. The proposals and application can only be submitted in English.
- Proposals should not exceed two pages. Although there is no word limit, teams should consider the readability of their submission before submitting. The submission must be in PDF or Word format (Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt, 1.5 line spacing).
- Evaluators will receive a scoring sheet to assess proposals and the criteria used for evaluation will be shared with teams for transparency purposes. Each proposal will undergo review by two evaluators, with their scores combined to determine the team's final score. The top ten teams per topic will proceed to Phase 2.
- Bonus points earned by completing digital actions, such as using the WFF's campaign hashtags on social media, will be used as tie-breakers.



**Phase 2: Zoom Presentations.** Teams shortlisted in Phase 1 will develop their written proposals into presentations to be pitched live (maximum ten minutes) to a panel of experts over Zoom. After the presentations, five teams will be shortlisted per topic based on the judges' scores. These teams will receive mentorship from experts to continue the challenge and improve their proposals. A second round of presentations will occur after the mentorship in order to select the Finalists.

**Phase 3: WFF Global Stage.** The PDC Finals will happen during the WFF flagship event in October, where Finalists will deliberate their proposals live, either in-person or virtually.

## PART II: General Terms and Conditions

### 4. Copyright and Moral Rights

- 4.1. The WFF respects Entrants' rights and does not claim ownership or copyright for works that Entrants submit to this Competition. Entrants will retain full ownership and copyright of each Entry.
- 4.2. In addition, Entrants' moral rights are respected. Whenever Entrants' work is published by the WFF and its partners, Entrants will be credited. Failure to publish a credit due to error or oversight shall not be deemed a breach of this condition.

## 5. Representations

5.1. By submitting works to the WFF, Entrants confirm that for each work submitted:

- a. Entrant(s) are the sole author(s) of the Concept Note and presentation and that it is their original work, and to the best of their knowledge, no third party can claim any rights to the material submitted.
- b. Entrants are the sole copyright holders.
- c. Entrants have not licensed any rights in the work that conflict with the usage rights required by the WFF.
- d. The work does not include trademarks, contract rights, or any other intellectual property rights of any other third person or entity.
- e. Entrants are accountable for any claims made by third parties regarding their Entry and must fully indemnify the WFF, along with its sponsors and partners, for any royalties, fees, or other financial obligations owed to individuals or entities due to the Entrants' violation of these terms.

5.2. The WFF reserves the right to disqualify any Entry that is incomplete, not relevant to the theme, or that does not comply with the Terms and Conditions, and the WFF's values and guiding principles, even after the Entry is submitted.

## 6. Unacceptable Content

6.1. The WFF reserves the right to disqualify any Entrant for inappropriate content or behavior:



- a. That is disrespectful of the impartiality and independence of the United Nations, reflects adversely on the WFF, is incompatible with the aims and objectives of the WFF and/or is derogatory to any persons;
- b. That is or could be construed as threatening, false, misleading, abusive, harassing, libelous, defamatory, vulgar, obscene, scandalous, inflammatory or profane; and/or
- c. That could constitute or encourage conduct that would be considered a criminal offence, give rise to civil liability, or otherwise violate any law.

## 7. Use of Works

7.1. By participating in this Competition, Entrants agree that any work submitted may be used free of charge by the WFF and its partners for non-commercial marketing and promotional purposes.

These uses may include, but are not limited to:

- a. Displaying the Concept Note Entries on the WFF website (and possibly the websites of partners) and social media networks; and for the shortlisted teams and winner(s), featuring team profiles using the information of Entrants submitted in the Concept Note and associated materials including recordings of the presentations from the hybrid WFF global stage event;
- b. Displaying the Entries in any media for non-commercial use to promote the work of the WFF;

- c. Extracting and/or reproducing any component of the work as necessary to promote the work of the WFF and its partners;
  - d. Sub-licensing the Entries to the press and partners for reproduction in connection with the Competition and the WFF and any related media release on the WFF, the WFF Organizing Team and its partners; and
  - e. Featuring videos or images of the Entrant(s) and their team in WFF-related media and promotions.
- 7.2. Entrants hereby grant the WFF, the WFF Organizing Team and its partners a non-exclusive, irrevocable, free and perpetual license throughout the world for the non-commercial uses described in 7.1 above, for each Entry.
- 7.3. Entrants acknowledge their responsibility for protecting their Entry against misuse by third parties. The WFF and its partners can assume no responsibility and are not liable for any misuse of works.

## 8. Miscellaneous

- 8.1. The WFF reserves the right to cancel, modify, suspend or delay the Competition in the event of unforeseen circumstances beyond their reasonable control. The WFF reserves the right to change, amend, delete or add to these Terms and Conditions at any time.
- 8.2. The WFF and their officials and agents shall not be responsible or liable for any claims, demands, losses and liability of any kind or nature arising out of or in connection with Entrants' participation in this Competition, or the acceptance or use of the prizes awarded.

8.2.1. The WFF shall not be responsible or liable for:

- a. any problem, loss or damage, misdirected or illegible Entries, delay and/or failure in receiving and sending of the Entry as a result of any network, communication or system interruption or error; or
- b. any error, interruption, deletion, defect, delay in operation or transmission, site failure or unauthorized access to Entries.

8.3. The WFF does not represent or endorse the accuracy or reliability of any data, information or other material provided by any Entrant. The WFF explicitly disclaims any responsibility for the content of any data, information and materials provided by the Entrants in the context of the Competition.

8.4. By entering your Concept Note in the Competition, Entrant agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold and save harmless, the WFF, FAO and its partners against all suits, proceedings, claims, demands, losses and liability of any kind or nature brought by any third party against the WFF, including, but not limited to, all litigation costs and expenses, attorney's fees, settlement payments and damages, based on, arising from, or relating to the WFF's use of the Concept Note. The obligations under this section do not lapse upon closure of the Competition.

8.5. By participating in the Competition, the Entrant agrees that personal data, especially name and country, may be processed, shared, and otherwise used for the purposes and within the context of the Competition, WFF institutional activities, and any other purposes outlined in these Terms and Conditions. The data may also be used by WFF in order to verify the Entrant's identity, postal address and contact details or to otherwise verify the Entrant's eligibility to participate in the Competition.

8.6. Nothing in these Terms and Conditions or in any rules related to the Competition, nor any acts performed or statements made in relation to the Competition, shall be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of the WFF and FAO.

## 9. Acceptance

By submitting an Entry, the Entrant confirms that the Terms and Conditions for this Competition, as set out above, have been read, understood and agreed to by the Entrant.