



World Food Forum Youth Policy Board (YPB) – Selection process

2025-2026 Cohort

Objective

The main objective of the Youth Policy Board (YPB) is to provide a strategic youth-led vision to the policy-related activities carried out by the World Food Forum (WFF)'s Global Youth Action Initiative (Youth Initiative) through the [Youth Assembly](#). Members of the YPB lead youth policy efforts, coordinate regional and thematic activities, and empower young people to engage in food and agriculture topics, allowing their voices to be heard in key international fora and processes. The Youth Assembly runs year-round with virtual regional and thematic sessions and consultations, culminating with an in-person session at the WFF flagship event in October at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, Italy.

The established [global](#) and [regional policy compendia](#), the [Global Youth Action Plan 2025-2026](#) and [youth statements](#), developed through inclusive consultations with youth groups around the world from 2021 to 2024, will act as the guiding foundation for the activities led by the 2025-2026 cohort throughout their term.



Key attributes and experience sought in YPB members

- Demonstrate a strong passion for transforming agrifood systems and meaningfully engaging youth in policy processes;
- Exhibit leadership and strategic thinking, with the ability to collaborate effectively across diverse teams;
- Possess knowledge of policy development, advocacy and global governance structures;
- Show a proactive, solution-oriented mindset and excellent communication skills;
- Have current experience and a solid understanding of the challenges facing agrifood systems;
- Hold a strong motivation to drive transformation in agrifood systems and to empower youth through advocacy and policy engagement;
- Work cooperatively in a team setting, respect diversity, and contribute creative and practical solutions;
- Take initiative in delivering high-quality work and adapt communication for different target audiences; and
- Have an excellent command of any official UN language (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian or Spanish), with at least conversational proficiency in English.

Desirable:

- Have active engagement and experience within youth constituencies and/or organizations;
- Be part of underrepresented stakeholder groups, including farmers, Indigenous peoples, women and others;
- Have familiarity with international agrifood systems governance;
- Possess relevant technical expertise; and
- Have a strong understanding of and experience in agrifood systems challenges.



Selection process

Round 1

In the first round of selection, each complete and eligible application was reviewed by members of the WFF Youth Initiative team following a common scoring grid. They assessed each criterion as listed, making up for a total score for each candidate.

At the end of the first round of selection, the scores assigned by each reviewer were tallied and the highest-scoring candidates were shortlisted for a second round of reviews. From this selection, the top 300 applicants, based on their scores, advanced to round 2.

Round 2

In the second round, the top-scoring applicants were requested to submit additional information for consideration, including their CV, a letter of recommendation, a video highlighting how their work, academic or volunteer experience aligns with the Global Youth Action Plan and how they plan to contribute to its implementation. Applicants were also asked to select one of the ten thematic areas covered by the Youth Assembly and describe how their work, academic or volunteer experience contributed to their understanding of the theme.

The WFF Youth Initiative team reviewed these submissions and based on evaluation, the top 253 applicants, based on region and theme, advanced to Tier 3 for the final shortlisting.

Round 3

In the third round of selection, each complete and eligible application was reviewed by a Selection Committee, composed of members of different youth organizations and the previous YPB cohort. Reviewers followed a common scoring grid as provided by the WFF Youth Initiative. Each criterion was assessed individually, contributing to a total score for each candidate.

Reviewers received the full set of shortlisted profiles and ranked them based on the following criteria:



- Demonstrated knowledge of agrifood systems and alignment with the Global Youth Action Plan (GYAP) 2025-2026 with concrete plans to contribute to its implementation;
- Direct experience in sectors linked to sustainable agrifood systems or youth empowerment;
- Proven teamwork, conflict-resolution skills and ability to collaborate across diverse groups;
- Strategic thinking to advance regional/thematic priorities and ensure inclusivity;
- Experience in local, regional or global policy advocacy (e.g., drafting recommendations, engaging stakeholders like farmers/Indigenous communities);
- Understanding of policy processes and ability to translate youth priorities into actionable plans;
- Proactive problem-solving, resourcefulness and innovative ideas for virtual/hybrid engagement;
- Clear written communication and ability to manage time/commitments effectively;
- Background in youth-led groups, agrifood systems or sustainable development initiatives; and
- Clear understanding of the YPB's role and WFF Youth Initiative's mission.

At the end of the third round of selection, the scores assigned by each reviewer were tallied and the highest-scoring candidates were shortlisted for a final review.

Round 4

At the end of this selection, 89 of the top-scoring applicants by region and theme were invited for interviews. The ranking provided by each interviewer was then aggregated into a final list of 34 candidates selected to be part of the YPB.

Meet the 2025-2026 cohort of the YPB [here](#).