

WORLD FOOD FORUM YOUTH POLICY BOARD (YPB)

SELECTION PROCESS

2026-2027 COHORT



Objective

The World Food Forum (WFF) Youth Assembly is a structured, youth-led mechanism designed to ensure the meaningful and sustained engagement of young people in agrifood systems policy and governance. Bringing together diverse changemakers aged 18 to 35 from across regions and sectors, the Youth Assembly empowers youth to shape decision-making processes through policy engagement, advocacy, intergenerational dialogue and collective action, advancing more sustainable, inclusive and resilient agrifood systems at local, national, regional and global levels.

The Youth Policy Board (YPB) is the leading body of the Youth Assembly, driving its policy agenda and activities throughout the year. Nominated and selected by their peers, YPB members represent a broad range of regions, disciplines and backgrounds, ensuring that diverse youth perspectives are translated into coherent advocacy and actionable recommendations that inform global agrifood systems transformation.

Members of the YPB lead youth policy consultations and coordinate regional and thematic activities. They draft policy papers, recommendations and calls to action, represent youth at international and regional policy forums and conferences, and engage stakeholders to advance inclusivity and collaboration. In doing so, the YPB bridges community-level youth action with regional and global policy processes, ensuring that young people are recognized as essential partners in shaping sustainable, inclusive and resilient agrifood systems.

The global and regional policy outputs developed through inclusive youth consultations from 2021 to 2025, including youth statements, policy recommendations, policy briefs and calls to action across all Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) regions and thematic areas, serve as the foundation upon which the 2026–2027 cohort will build, deepening youth engagement in agrifood policy spaces and ensuring that the momentum of previous cohorts continues to inform and amplify youth voices in international processes.

Key attributes and experience sought in YPB members:

- Demonstrate a strong passion for transforming agrifood systems through youth engagement policy processes;
- Exhibit leadership, strategic thinking and 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 suitable for diplomatic and policy settings;
- 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 United Nations language (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian or Spanish), with a minimum proficiency of B2 in English.

Desirable:

- Have experience engaging with youth constituencies and organizations;
- Be part of underrepresented stakeholder groups, including farmers, Indigenous Peoples, pastoralists, women and others;
- Demonstrate familiarity with international agrifood systems governance; and
- Possess relevant technical expertise.

Selection process

Round 1

In the first round of selection, each complete and eligible application was reviewed by members of the WFF Youth Assembly Secretariat team following a common scoring grid. Reviewers assessed applicants against established selection criteria, assigning an individual score for each criterion that contributed to the applicant's overall score.

At the conclusion of the first round, scores from all reviewers were consolidated and ranked. Based on these results, the highest-scoring applicants were shortlisted for a second interview. Following this review, the 500 highest-ranked applicants advanced to round two.

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 two-minute video response to a question on consensus-building and youth advocacy, and a 250 character written submission on their experience in one of the WFF's 11 thematic areas. Applicants were also asked to describe a concrete example of cross-stakeholder collaboration and its outcomes.

The WFF Youth Assembly Secretariat team reviewed these submissions and, based on evaluation, the 320 highest-scoring applicants across regions and thematic areas advanced to round three.

Round 3

In the third round, applications were reviewed by a Selection Committee composed of members of different youth organizations and from the previous YPB cohort. Reviewers followed a common scoring grid as provided by the WFF Youth Assembly Secretariat to assess each applicant against a standardized set of criteria. Each criterion was assessed individually, contributing to a total score for each candidate.

Reviewers assessed applicants on the following criteria:

- Demonstrated knowledge of agrifood systems and experience in policy advocacy or youth empowerment;
- 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 and thematic priorities and ensure inclusivity;
- Experience in local, regional or global policy advocacy, including drafting recommendations and engaging diverse stakeholders such as farmers and Indigenous Peoples;
- Understanding of policy processes and ability to translate youth priorities into actionable plans;
- Ability to communicate complex agrifood policy issues clearly and effectively to diverse audiences, including policymakers and stakeholders;
- Proactive problem-solving, resourcefulness and innovative ideas for virtual and hybrid engagement;
- Clear written communication and ability to manage time and commitments effectively;
- Background in youth-led groups, agrifood systems or sustainable development initiatives; and
- Clear understanding of the YPB's role and the WFF Youth Initiative's mission.

At the conclusion of the third round, reviewer scores were consolidated and ranked. The 211 highest-scoring applicants advanced to a final interview stage.

Round 4

The 211 shortlisted applicants were invited to participate in interviews conducted by a panel comprising members of the WFF Youth Initiative and members of the previous YPB cohort. Interview assessments were consolidated into a final ranking, resulting in the selection of 40 YPB members, including both returning and newly appointed members, for the 2026–2027 cohort.

Meet the 2026–2027 YPB cohort [here](#).