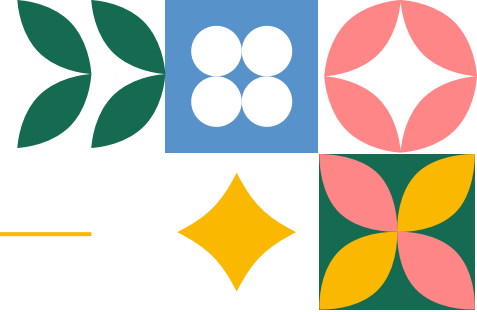




# YOUTH POLICY BOARD

TERMS OF REFERENCE  
2026-2027



# Background

## World Food Forum

The engagement and empowerment of youth in agrifood systems transformation are pivotal to creating a more sustainable, resilient and equitable future for all, accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, SDG2 (Zero Hunger). By investing in and empowering young leaders, fostering innovation and ensuring inclusive participation, youth can spearhead action towards tangible impact.

The [World Food Forum \(WFF\)](#) is an open and inclusive global platform established by the [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(FAO\)](#) in 2021 to drive the transformation of agrifood systems through the power of youth, science and innovation, and investment. It brings together stakeholders of all ages and sectors to turn ideas into action, scale solutions and foster meaningful partnerships that accelerate progress towards the SDGs.

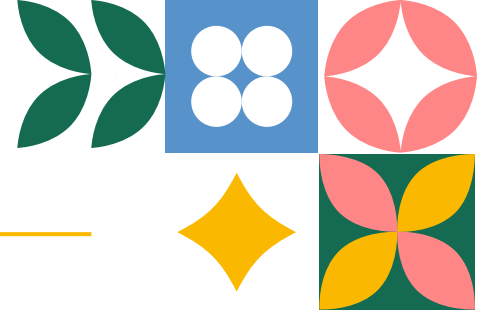
Within this framework, the [WFF's Global Youth Action Initiative](#) (Youth Initiative) under the FAO Office of Youth and Women was established to harness the passion and power of youth to transform our agrifood systems. It sparks youth engagement in food governance, fosters innovation and supports youth-led solutions for a sustainable future.

The WFF Youth Initiative is implemented through a set of five thematic programmes, that work together to create awareness, foster engagement and inspire youth-led transformative action. The [Youth Assembly](#) amplifies youth voices in policy discussions; [Youth Innovation Lab](#) empowers young innovators; [Youth Education Programme](#) provides learning opportunities and resources that enable young people to become agents of change; [Youth Culture Programme](#) inspires and empowers youth through film, art, music and gastronomy; and [Local Youth Action](#) mobilizes youth at local level to transform agrifood systems.

## WFF Youth Assembly

The [WFF Youth Assembly](#) is a year-round, open and inclusive platform led by the WFF [Youth Policy Board](#) (YPB). It brings together young individuals, organizations and constituencies to co-create policy priorities, exchange knowledge and develop joint recommendations and solutions. Through regional policy dialogues and global thematic consultations, the Youth Assembly fosters collective youth action on agrifood systems, sustainability and the broader objectives of the SDGs.

The Youth Assembly also builds a unique bridge between youth-driven insights and global policy frameworks. By creating spaces for intergenerational dialogue, it ensures that young voices are heard and meaningfully reflected in policy recommendations.



## WFF Youth Policy Board

The YPB was launched in 2021 with the aim of providing a strategic youth-led vision to the policy-related activities carried out by the WFF Youth Initiative through the Youth Assembly.

The YPB is an independent group of change-makers from diverse regions and backgrounds that leads the WFF Youth Initiative's work on youth policy positions. Through their work, the YPB members seek to provide a platform for young people to actively participate, contribute and influence agrifood systems discussions, accelerating the sustainable transformation of the agrifood systems.

To do this, YPB members organize thematic consultations and regional dialogues, lead activities at a regional level and work with FAO technical experts and [Youth Assembly Partner Organizations](#) to create a space for youth priorities to be incorporated in intergovernmental processes and conferences. Beyond convening, the YPB plays a critical role in facilitating dialogue and shaping concrete outcomes that serve as advocacy tools for greater youth engagement and inclusion.

## Core Values

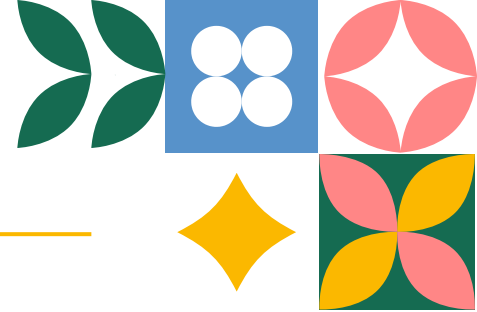
All members of the YPB are expected to embody the WFF Youth Initiative's core values of integrity, responsibility and collaboration while upholding the highest ethical standards. YPB members should demonstrate respect for diversity and promote equity and inclusion in all activities. The WFF strongly encourages the participation of women, farmers, Indigenous Peoples and underrepresented minorities in the YPB to ensure diverse perspectives in policy development and advocacy.

## Structure and duties

The YPB members serve for a one-year term, participating in both regional and thematic work, with each member having a primary area of responsibility.

For the 2026–2027 term, YPB members will carry out the following responsibilities at the regional level:

- Lead and facilitate regional consultations and engagements with diverse stakeholders – including FAO Regional Offices, Youth Assembly Partner Organizations, members of the WFF Young Scientists Group (YSG), members of WFF National Youth Chapters and the Youth Assembly Consultative Group;
- Synthesize regional youth voices and perspectives into regional compendia/ youth statements to be presented at intergovernmental processes and conferences;
- Represent the YPB in relevant intergovernmental processes and conferences to advocate for the incorporation of youth perspectives;
- Lead the implementation and reporting of the [Global Youth Action Plan](#) (GYAP) within each region, in partnership with relevant stakeholders; and
- Summarize outcomes and progress from 2026 in an outcome document.



For the 2026–2027 term, YPB members will carry out the following responsibilities at the thematic level:

- Lead and facilitate consultations and engagements on agrifood systems themes with diverse stakeholders - including FAO technical divisions, Youth Assembly Partner Organizations, members of the YSG, members of WFF National Youth Chapters and the Youth Assembly Consultative Group;
- Synthesize youth voices and perspectives into recommendations and outcome documents to be presented at intergovernmental processes and conferences; and
- Represent the YPB in relevant intergovernmental processes and conferences to ensure youth perspectives are reflected in decision-making.

To strengthen collaboration, the YPB is led by a regional and a thematic lead.

## Scope of work

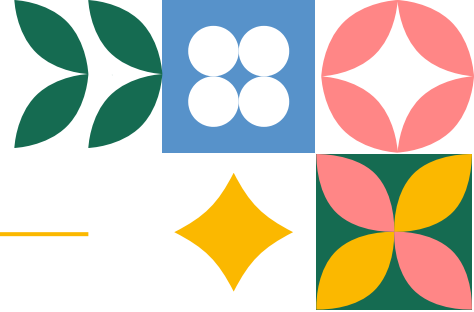
YPB members contribute to three primary areas:

1. **Regional work:** The YPB members will implement the GYAP, carrying out two actionable items for each region throughout 2026. They will also lead consultative processes by developing surveys and hosting consultations to identify key youth priorities. These efforts will contribute to the development of the 2026 Regional Youth Priorities document, which will outline actionable recommendations to be presented at intergovernmental processes.
2. **Thematic Work:** The YPB members will focus on key agrifood governance themes with each member leading activities in their area of expertise. They will conduct surveys and consultations to gather youth perspectives and will develop position papers and outcome statements that advocate for stronger youth inclusion in FAO and other intergovernmental platforms.
3. **Youth engagement:** YPB members will support wider WFF Youth Initiative activities to enhance meaningful youth participation and engagement globally, ensuring youth voices drive lasting agrifood systems transformation.

## Eligibility criteria

To be considered for the YPB, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Have graduated from high school and either have completed or be enrolled in a bachelor's degree programme at the time of application;
- Be between 18 and 35 years as of 30 April 2026;
- Be national of an FAO Member State;
- Demonstrate proficiency in spoken and written English at C1 level (fluency in other FAO official languages is an advantage);
- Be available to participate in at least one weekly YPB meeting (duration of 1 hour) between 09:00 – 18:00 CEST/ CET
- Have demonstrated experience or interest in agrifood systems, policy advocacy or youth empowerment;



- Be able to dedicate approximately 25 hours per month to the role:
  - 20 hours will be dedicated to their core area of responsibility (regional/ thematic) ;
  - 5 hours will be dedicated for the other area.
- Demonstrate the ability to work effectively in an international, multicultural environment and possess strong intercultural communication skills.
- Not be immediate family members (spouses, parents, children, siblings or their respective spouses) of WFF or FAO employees;
- Not be employed by the WFF or FAO;
- Not be current or former members of the WFF's YSG or YPB; and
- Demonstrate commitment to fostering diversity, equity and inclusion in all activities.

Preference is given to applicants with:

- Experience within youth constituencies or organizations;
- Experience in supporting youth-driven consultative processes;
- Backgrounds as underrepresented stakeholders, including farmers, Indigenous Peoples and women; and
- Understanding of international governance frameworks related to agrifood systems.

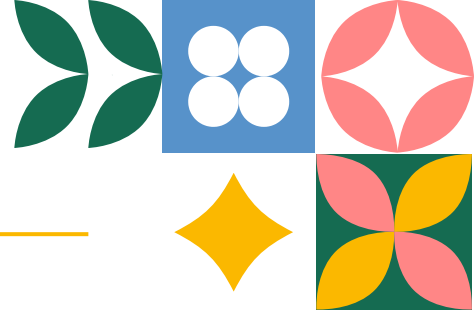
## Selection process

The selection process consists of four rounds:

- **Round 1:** The WFF Secretariat will review applications and score candidates based on eligibility and experience.
- **Round 2:** A committee composed of youth organization representatives will further assess applications and create a shortlist. Candidates advancing to this stage will be asked to submit a CV, a letter of recommendation and a two-minute video explaining how they would contribute to the YPB and the Youth Assembly.
- **Round 3:** The outgoing YPB cohort will evaluate shortlisted candidates against key criteria, including knowledge of agrifood systems, leadership skills and policy expertise.
- **Round 4:** Top candidates will be invited to interviews, with final selections based on interview performance and overall ranking.

## Key attributes for YPB members

- Demonstrated passion for transforming agrifood systems and engaging youth in policy processes;
- Leadership and strategic thinking skills, with the ability to collaborate across diverse teams;
- Knowledge of policy development, advocacy and global governance structures; and
- Excellent communication skills combined with a proactive, solution-oriented mindset.



# Commitment

YPB members serve a one-year term with the possibility of reapplying for a second term. Members are expected to dedicate approximately 25 hours per month to YPB activities, including attending meetings, contributing to policy documents, Global Youth Action plan implementation and participating in external engagements among others.

Current YPB members are listed on the WFF Website [here](#).

# Optional engagements

Outside of their YPB commitments, members are also encouraged to:

- Support and engage with WFF [National Youth Chapters](#) to translate global policies into localized action.
- Take part in the WFF Youth Initiative's [Transformative Research Challenge](#), [Youth Food Lab](#) and [Startup Innovation Awards](#).
- Contribute and/ or take part in the [AGx Fair](#) and the [Agrifood Leadership Education Programme](#).