



Youth
ASSEMBLY



WORLD FOOD FORUM **YOUTH POLICY BOARD (YPB)**

TERMS OF REFERENCE
2027-2028 COHORT

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.

In alignment with the [FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31](#) and its guiding principles of the four betters (Better Production, Better Nutrition, Better Environment, and Better Life), the [WFF's Global Youth Action Initiative](#) (Youth Initiative) facilitated by the FAO Office of Youth and Women harnesses the passion and power of youth to transform our agrifood systems. It strives to spark youth engagement in food governance, foster innovation and support youth-led solutions for a sustainable future.

The WFF Youth Initiative is implemented through a set of 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 Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme](#) empowers young innovators; [Youth Education Programme](#) provides learning opportunities and resources that enable young people to become agents of change; [Youth Culture and Food Heritage Programme](#) inspires and empowers youth through film, art, music and gastronomy; [Young Women's Empowerment Programme](#) places young women at the centre of agrifood systems transformation, 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 and global thematic consultations and policy dialogues, the Youth Assembly fosters collective youth action on agrifood systems transformation, 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 promotes generational renewal in agrifood systems governance and ensures that young voices are heard and meaningfully reflected in policy recommendations.

Through its intergenerational approach, the FAO Office of Youth and Women and the WFF Youth Assembly contribute to advancing generational renewal in agrifood systems governance. By creating structured opportunities for young people to engage with FAO governing bodies, UN intergovernmental processes and policy dialogues, they help build the next generation of informed leaders, practitioners and decision-makers. This strengthens the continuity, inclusiveness and long-term effectiveness of agrifood systems governance, while ensuring that youth perspectives and innovations are meaningfully reflected in decision-making processes.

The YPBs will work closely with the Youth Assembly Secretariat as their main focal point. The Youth Assembly Secretariat serves as the coordination and facilitation body of the Youth Assembly and Youth Policy Board, working closely with FAO technical divisions, Decentralized Offices and external partners to ensure that youth engagement processes are evidence-based, policy-relevant and technically informed.

WFF Youth Policy Board

The WFF Youth Policy Board (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 40 young changemakers aged 18-35 from diverse regions and backgrounds that leads the WFF Youth Initiative's work on youth policy priorities within the agrifood systems. Through their work, the YPB members seek to provide a platform for young people to actively participate, contribute and influence policy discussions, accelerating the sustainable transformation of the agrifood systems.

To do this, YPB members organize regional and global thematic consultations, lead policy dialogues and work with FAO technical experts and the Youth Assembly Partner Organizations to create a space for youth priorities to be incorporated in intergovernmental processes and conferences of strategic importance to FAO and broader agrifood systems agenda.

Beyond convening and advocating, the YPB plays a critical role in facilitating intergenerational dialogue and shaping concrete outcomes that inform the importance of greater youth engagement and inclusion to foster generational renewal in agrifood systems.

Ethical principles and standards

All YPB members are expected to uphold the ethical principles and standards of the United Nations and to demonstrate integrity, responsibility, respect, professionalism and collaboration in all their activities. The WFF strongly encourages the participation of young people from diverse backgrounds and contexts, including farmers, Indigenous Peoples, women and other groups whose perspectives are often underrepresented in policy development and advocacy.

Structure and duties

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

For the 2027–2028 term, YPB members will carry out the following responsibilities at the regional level:

- Lead and facilitate regional consultative youth processes and engagements to gather young people's vision for the future of agrifood systems;
- Prepare the regional consultative youth process towards the 2028 FAO Regional Conferences and, where applicable, engage with regional technical commissions and bodies, in coordination with the Youth Assembly Secretariat and FAO Regional Offices;
- Convene and liaise ahead of youth consultation sessions with diverse stakeholders, including FAO Regional Offices, members of the [WFF Young Scientists Group \(YSG\)](#) and members of [WFF National Youth Chapters](#);
- Synthesize regional youth voices and perspectives into regional youth recommendations to be presented at intergovernmental processes and conferences;

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- Represent the YPB in relevant intergovernmental processes and conferences to advocate for the incorporation of structured youth policy inputs, where applicable; and
 - Summarize outcomes and progress during the term in an outcome document.

To strengthen collaboration, each regional group will have a YPB lead.

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

- Lead and facilitate consultative youth process and engagements on agrifood systems themes (Please check Youth Assembly's thematic areas [here](#));
- Convene and liaise ahead of youth consultations sessions with diverse stakeholders, including FAO technical divisions, Youth Assembly Partner Organizations, members of the [WFF Young Scientists Group \(YSG\)](#) and members of [WFF National Youth Chapters](#);
- Synthesize youth voices and perspectives into recommendations and outcome documents to be presented at intergovernmental processes and conferences;
- Represent the YPB in relevant intergovernmental processes and conferences to advocate for the incorporation of structured youth policy inputs, where applicable; and
- Summarize outcomes and progress from 2027 in an outcome document.

Scope of work

YPB members contribute to three primary areas:

- 1. Regional work:** YPB members will lead and facilitate consultative youth processes in their region to gather young people's vision for the future of agrifood systems, and will prepare the regional consultative youth process towards the 2028 FAO Regional Conferences. Where applicable, they will engage with regional technical commissions and bodies. This may include developing and administering youth-led surveys, hosting multistakeholder consultations and gathering diverse youth perspectives, drawing on shared cross-regional consultation tools and working in coordination with the YA Secretariat and FAO Regional Offices. These consultations will inform regional youth recommendations and outcome documents and, where applicable, structured youth inputs to intergovernmental and FAO member-led policy and governance processes, in the formats each process allows.

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 lead consultative youth processes, including conducting surveys and multistakeholder consultations, gathering diverse youth perspectives, drafting position papers and outcome documents and providing structured youth inputs to intergovernmental or FAO member-led policy and governance processes.

2. 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 2027;
- 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, knowledge or strong engagement in agrifood systems, policy advocacy and 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 to the supporting 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 FAO employees;
- Not be employed by FAO;
- Not be current or former members of the WFF's YSG or YPB; and

Preference is given to applicants with:

- Experience within youth constituencies or organizations;
- Experience in supporting consultative youth 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 YA Secretariat will review applications and score candidates based on eligibility and experience.
- **Round 2:** A committee composed of youth organization representatives and, when feasible, National Youth Chapter policy focal points 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

Members are expected to dedicate approximately 25 hours per month to YPB activities, including attending meetings, contributing to policy documents, 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:

- Join, support and engage with WFF [National Youth Chapters](#) to translate global policies into localized action.
- Take part in the WFF Youth Initiative's, such as the [Transformative Research Challenge](#), [Youth Food Lab](#), [Startup Innovation Awards](#), and the [Agrifood Leadership Education Programme](#).