

Background and objectives

Youth unemployment in the Arab countries remains a critical challenge, with the region experiencing the highest and fastest-growing youth unemployment rates globally. In 2024, the youth unemployment rate in the Arab region stood at 25.2 percent, with young women disproportionately affected at 37.7 percent. At the same time, the transition from education to employment is hindered by skills gaps, limited opportunities, and structural barriers, particularly for young women.

This session aims to assess progress made by the Arab countries to improve young people's transition from learning to earning. It will highlight best practices in multi-stakeholder partnerships, emphasize the integration of green jobs and gender equality in skilling initiatives, and align efforts with SDG accelerators and the Summit of the Future outcomes. The session will also serve as a platform for meaningful youth engagement, ensuring their voices are central to shaping solutions for a more inclusive and sustainable labor market.

Questions to be addressed

- How are policy and regulatory frameworks in the region supporting young people's learning, skilling, and transition to decent work, with specific attention for the situation of girls and young women?
- How to support young people's access to opportunities in both the digital and green spaces, with particular attention for the situation of girls and women?
- How can multi-stakeholder (Public-Private-UN-Universities-Youth) collaboration and partnership address this agenda?
- How have young people been able to continue to contribute to the process and help shape solutions to challenges being faced? From their point of view, what are still the needs?
- How to advance the meaningful investment in education and training for green jobs and reskilling initiatives to support young workers facilitating the transition from

Moderator

- Mr. **Mhamed Chamseddine Abdelmalek**, Youth Advisory Group Representative, Algeria

Panelists

- Ms. **Mbarka Taleb**, Director General of Human Capital Development, Ministry of Economy and Planning, Tunisia
- Mr. **Sayed Bou Francis**, Head of Vocational Training Department, General Directorate of Vocational and Technical Education, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Lebanon
- Ms. **Mantoura Nakad**, Assistant Dean of Administration, Faculty of Engineering, University of Balamand, Lebanon
- Mr. **Hasan Jaafar**, Co-Founder and COO, YY ReGen, Lebanon
- Ms. **Bassma Abdulkhaleq**, Youth Advisory Group Representative, Yemen
- Mr. **Mohammed Zaid**, Founder and Director, Lybotics, Libya
- Mr. **Carlos Ayyazian**, Lebanese social entrepreneur and Curator of the Global Shapers Beirut Hub

This Special Session will be organized as a hybrid event. To participate over Zoom, please [register here](#). Those physically present at the UN House can attend the session in the Mezzanine meeting room, MZ floor.