



2020
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
FOR GLOBAL ACTION

PODCAST CONCEPT NOTE

Overview:

International Youth Day 2020 will be commemorated with a podcast, released on 12 August 2020. For this year's theme, *Youth Engagement for Global Action*, we will be discussing how the engagement of youth is enriching local, national and global institutions and political processes. Importantly, this podcast will be hosted by youth for youth. Accompanied by a host, two guests will join the conversation for each segment (6 guests in total [tbc]). The guests will represent the different scales of youth action and political engagement, covering local (sub-national/community level), national and global scales. The goal of the podcast is to showcase effective examples of youth engagement in political processes and activism and draw lessons with regard to how youth representation and participation in formal politics can be enhanced, especially for the purpose of responding to global challenges. To break up the substantive conversations, there will be creative elements to the podcast. Namely, a poetry exercise and a musical piece. These will mark the ends of the first and second sections respectively.

Structure:

The podcast will be pre-recorded in July, and will aim for an episode length of 45 minutes. Split up into three sections: local, national, and global engagement, the podcast will be divided into 15-minute segments [tbc]. The host will introduce each of the sections, then open up the discussion to the guests, with guiding questions provided to facilitate the discussion. A preliminary structure has been provided below, with summaries of each of the sections:

Introduction: *Introduce theme, format and guests ~ 2 mins*

Section 1: *Local scale ~ 12 mins*

Introduce scale and main issues ~ 2 mins

The local segment of the podcast will discuss youth participation at the sub-national scale. Effective examples of engagement and issues that exist at this scale will be discussed, with guests deliberating the role of youth in addressing them and how their participation in sub-national governance structures can be enhanced. The segment will conclude by noting

the role of language in youth engagement at this scale, providing a bridge to the poetry feature.

Conversation ~ 10 mins

Feature 1: Poetry session ~ 2 mins ('14)

Poets respond to the theme during a collaborative exercise. Lines of poetry are collectively assembled and spoken aloud, with poets adding to the composition in sequence. Each line is a response to the previous line spoken.

Section 2: National scale ~ 12 mins ('16)

Introduce scale and main issues ~ 2 mins

A third of countries do not allow persons under 25 to run for parliament. With young people making up just over 2% of the world's MPs, the parliamentary representation of youth remains poor. Similarly, youth tend to be highly underrepresented in the executive branches of government and the civil service. This can leave youth disenchanted with the world of politics and it distances them from the decision-making processes. Guests will discuss the importance of involving young people in political conversations and processes at the national level, including in the formulation and implementation of national level laws and policies. Collaborations between nations could provide a bridge to the musical feature.

Conversation ~ 10 mins

Feature 2: Music collaboration ~ 2 mins ('28)

Musical response to the theme produced by an international collaboration of musicians.

Section 3: Global scale ~ 12 mins ('30)

Introduce scale and main issues ~ 2 mins

Globally, the international system of governance is paying closer attention to the the participation of youth in its processes, and youth led movements have also gained traction on a number of global issues in recent years. This segment will discuss the engagement of youth at the global level, such as the UN Youth Delegates programme, and how local and national action can be scaled up to the global stage. With the help of digital platforms, dissemination of information and international collaborations both local and national engagement play a part in enabling youth to tackle issues high on the global agenda.

Conversation ~ 10 mins

Summary and Conclusions. ~3 min ('42)