



HECHO POR NOSOTROS



animaná

ECOSOC

NGO Hecho por Nosotros

B-Corp animaná

“Weaving Resilient Futures:
Young entrepreneurs building
collaborative networks for a
sustainable and inclusive society.”

The 2024 ECOSOC Youth Forum Hecho por Nosotros Side Event.



Event focus:

Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions.

Event objectives:

Facilitate knowledge exchange and dialogue: Aim to foster dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders, focusing on the role of young entrepreneurs in building collaborative networks for sustainable and inclusive societies.

Explore interconnectedness: Delve into key topics such as policy-making, artisan heritage, education, leadership, entrepreneurship, and collaboration to understand how different sectors contribute to sustainable development.

Inspire concrete actions: Motivate actionable insights and collaborations to drive positive change, particularly focusing on goals under review at the 2024 High-Level Political Forum.

Event summary:

The event focused on the role of young entrepreneurs in fostering collaborative networks for sustainable and inclusive societies. It aimed to facilitate knowledge exchange, explore interconnectedness across various sectors, and inspire concrete actions towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The event engaged youth change-makers and stakeholders globally, fostering intergenerational dialogue and collaboration. It featured panel discussions, breakout sessions, and calls to action, emphasizing empowerment, resilience, and systemic change. Participants gained insights from international experts, identified opportunities for innovation, and contributed to building a more inclusive and sustainable creative economy. Overall, the event provided a dynamic platform for meaningful exchange, collaboration, and collective action towards a brighter future.

Main session report

The session commenced with a warm welcome from Paula Ruiz Díaz, collaborator at Hecho por Nosotros (HxN) and moderator of the event. She highlighted the significance of fostering empowerment and resilience among tomorrow's leaders and emphasized the event's commitment to open dialogue surrounding the role of young entrepreneurs in weaving resilient futures aligned with the 2030 Agenda.

Following Paula's introduction, the floor was given to Paloma Guaita, a collaborator of HxN and the speaker who represented the organization. Paloma provided insights into the event's alignment with the 2024 ECOSOC Youth Forum theme. Likewise, she emphasized the forum's role in providing a platform for youth to

share their visions and engage with stakeholders to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Then, the spotlight was on Angy Nash, representative of Enactus Colombia and Co-host of the side event. She introduced the work done by the organization and its commitment to promoting systemic change through youth empowerment.

Lastly, the platform was passed to the main panel speakers: Ivana Feldber, Darlyn García, Rodry Rivera, Farid Nallim. They engaged in a discussion regarding the role of youth in fostering sustainability, thus transforming the current system.

Labs/breakout rooms Summary

Following the primary session, the participants, mainly comprising youth change-makers, were separated into five lab sessions to delve further into the topics that had been discussed previously. Paula introduced these rooms as a reflection of the work that HxN has done for 15 years: creating an open space of dialogue and collaboration that allows all of its participants, particularly youth, to experience sustainability and inclusivity. All this considered, what the HxN community is trying to do through these discussions, debates, and dialogues is aligning with the 2024 ECOSOC Youth Forum theme, emphasizing collaboration and integration as critical elements for advancing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

LAB 1

Policymakers:

Exploring How youth can be included in policy networks and engage in decision - making.

Following the main session, participants immersed themselves in Lab 1, delving into policymaking dynamics with Ivana Feldfeber from Data Genero and Or Yacobi, a seasoned political science professional. The dialogue centered on empowering youth to actively shape policy agendas, emphasizing their pivotal role in fostering inclusive decision-making processes. Ivana highlighted the significance of gender-inclusive data practices and underscored the challenges young women encounter in accessing policy networks due to entrenched stereotypes. Or provided insightful examples of successful youth engagement in policy reform, advocating for substantive involvement rather than mere representation. The session illuminated the transformative potential of youth-driven initiatives in catalyzing progressive policy outcomes, echoing the forum's overarching theme of youth empowerment and inclusion in global governance agendas.

LAB 2

Threads of Change:

Exploring the impact of cultural heritage among younger generations.

Lab 2, facilitated by Wendy Juárez from Corazón Contento and Darlyn Garcia, an Arawuaco representative, explored the profound significance of cultural heritage among younger generations. Wendy highlighted the importance of systemic change and community empowerment in preserving cultural traditions while fostering economic development. She emphasized the necessity of diverse skill sets and collaborative efforts to strengthen local economies. Through innovative initiatives, such as creating one of the world's largest embroideries, Wendy demonstrated how cultural entrepreneurship can attract global attention and support. The discussion underscored the essential role of policy support and access to resources in sustaining artisanal practices and safeguarding cultural identities, particularly in the face of challenges like climate change.

LAB 3

Pathways to Enlightenment: Education, leadership and entrepreneurship towards a resilient future.

In the third lab led by Enactus representatives, Nicolas Vergara, Haroldo Uemura, Derrick Sanchez, and Luciano Tom shared insights into collaborative frameworks driving positive change. Nicolas discussed the Yataru project, a collaboration between Enactus Colombia and the Universidad de la Costa, aimed at community empowerment. Haroldo highlighted the global impact of Enactus projects, emphasizing the role of mentorship and funding in project success. Derrick showcased a circular economy initiative in Puerto Rico, producing dog beds from recycled tires to engage low-income communities. Luciano spoke about Enactus Guatemala's focus on leveraging advanced technology and financial education to uplift businesses. Throughout the discussion, the importance of partnerships with academia, investors, policymakers, and communities was underscored. This emphasized Enactus's commitment to empowering youth-led projects and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals.

LAB 5

Systemic change.

Present word: Youth and education.

Lastly, authors and intellectuals met in this laboratory to discuss the role of writing in the transformation of the contemporary system towards a more sustainable and inclusive model. Felipe Benegas Lynch, Claudia Santantera, Javier Gonzales, and Enzo Bustos participated in the laboratory; together they analyzed the writing of the young poet, Bustos, to later engage in a dialogue on how writing serves as a tool for empowering humanity by reconnecting us with our roots. Through this analysis, they explored how words facilitate a re-encounter with ourselves and others that enhances collaboration, thus having the potential to drive systemic change.

LAB 4

Weaving circularity: Empowering young people through sustainability, Creativity and education.

In this lab, participants delved into the intersection of circularity and youth empowerment, exploring how sustainability initiatives can foster more equitable economic growth. Ana Peralta emphasized the importance of creating products with added value to shape a better future, while highlighting the transformative potential of circular economy entrepreneurship. Violeta Moreno defined circular economy entrepreneurs as innovative individuals who integrate social and environmental considerations into their businesses, reflecting a growing trend towards eco-friendly consumer choices. Farid Nallim underscored the purpose-driven nature of circular entrepreneurs, stressing the imperative to leave a better world for future generations. Sebastian Gonzales echoed this sentiment, emphasizing the altruistic mindset of such entrepreneurs and the importance of addressing societal challenges. Throughout the discussion, the role of incentives, including subsidies and a shift towards sustainable business models, emerged as key drivers in promoting circularity and sustainability initiatives among young entrepreneurs.