



CENTER FOR GLOBAL DIALOGUE AND
LEADERSHIP



Youth Empowerment Forum 2025

Official Event Report

Mercure Hotel Geneva, Switzerland | September 4–7, 2025



Introduction

In alignment with the EU Youth Strategy 2019–2027, which emphasizes youth engagement, empowerment, and cross-border collaboration, and the United Nations Youth2030 Strategy, which aims to enable young people to realize their full potential and stand up for their rights, the Youth Empowerment Forum 2025 (YEF 2025) was designed as a transformative global platform.

The Forum brought together young leaders to engage with international institutions, develop policy skills, and build cross-cultural networks, equipping them to drive meaningful change in their communities and beyond.

Held in Geneva, Switzerland, one of the world's leading hubs of diplomacy and innovation, YEF 2025 convened more than 120 delegates from over 100 countries, representing every global region and creating one of the most diverse youth gatherings of its kind.



Day 2 – Study Visits: United Nations & CERN

September 5, 2025

United Nations Headquarters, Geneva

Delegates participated in a guided visit to the United Nations, gaining first-hand exposure to the world's leading multilateral institution. The experience

included:

- Insights into the history and functioning of the United Nations
- Visit to the Human Rights Council Chamber
- Observation of a live session on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems

This direct engagement provided participants with a deeper understanding of global diplomacy, peacebuilding, and international cooperation.

CERN – European Organization for Nuclear Research

The day continued with a visit to CERN, where delegates explored the intersection of science and society.

Highlights included:

- Interactive exhibits at the Science Gateway
- Learning about scientific breakthroughs and innovation
- Engaging in hands-on, immersive activities

This experience expanded participants' perspectives on how science and technology shape global progress





Day 3 – Dialogue, Learning & Youth Leadership

September 6, 2025

Day Three marked the core of the Forum, combining intellectual engagement, practical learning, and youth-led action.

High-Level Panel Discussions

The Forum hosted a dynamic panel addressing key global themes:

- Good Governance & Policy Inclusion
- Human Rights & Social Justice
- Artificial Intelligence & Innovation
- Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development

Workshops & Masterclasses

Impact-Driven Leadership: Building Bridges and Meeting the Moment through Diplomacy

Delivered by Candice (Canada), this session explored leadership in complex global environments, highlighting the role of diplomacy in driving collaboration and meaningful change.

Policy Masterclass by Ahsan Hamid Durrani

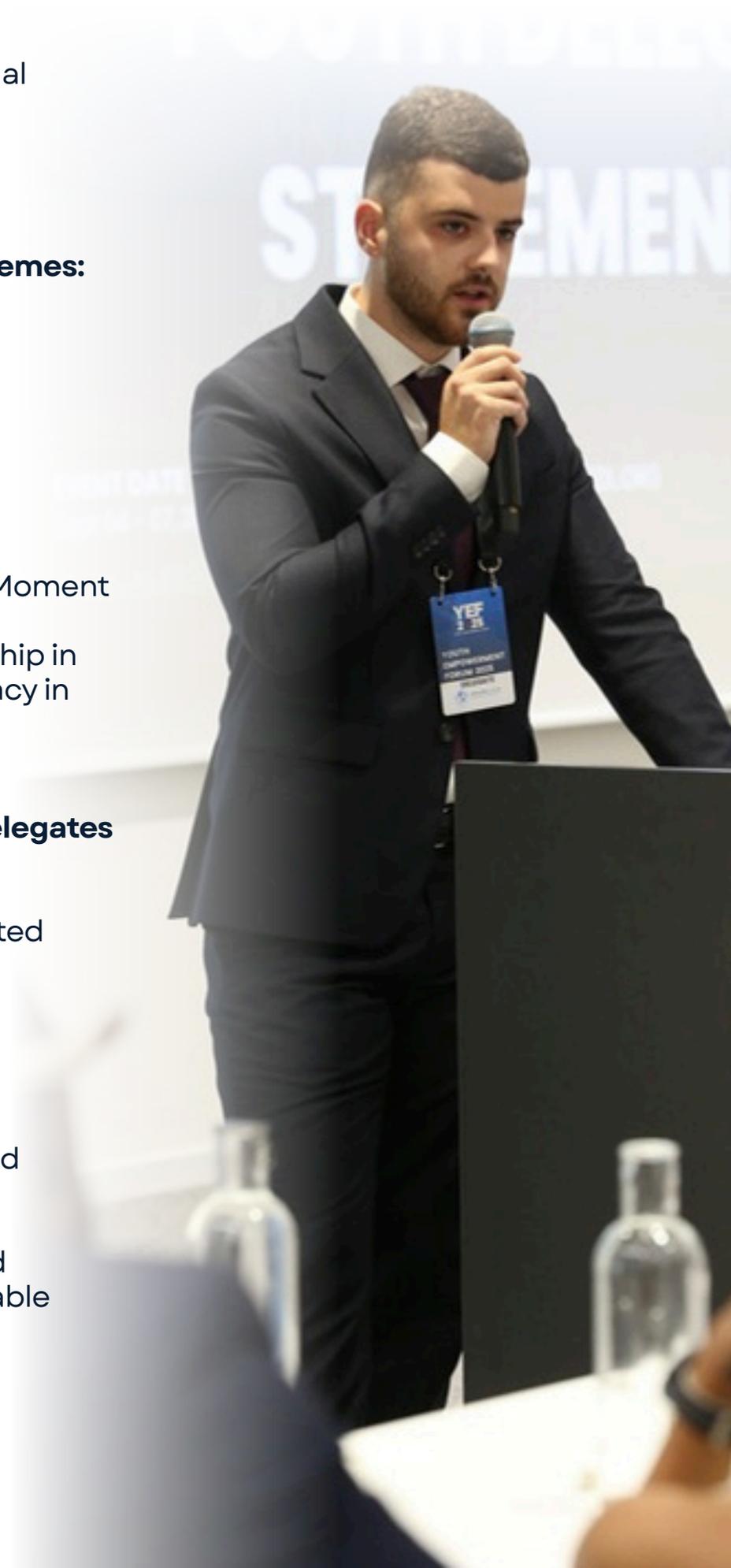
A hands-on session designed to demystify policymaking. Delegates engaged in:

- Understanding how policies are developed and implemented
- Group-based simulations to design policy solutions
- Collaborative discussions and negotiation exercises

Youth Policy Development

A key highlight of the Forum was the creation of eight youth-led policy frameworks.

Delegates, working in groups of 12–15, developed practical and actionable policy recommendations aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These policies reflected a global, youth-centric perspective, offering innovative solutions for policymakers and stakeholders worldwide.





Day 3 – Dialogue, Learning & Youth Leadership

Youth Delegate Statements

Delegates took the stage to present their personal journeys, ideas, and visions, amplifying youth voices and perspectives from across the globe.

Grand Pitch Competition

The Forum concluded its academic programming with a pitch competition.

Winner: Ruby Riethmuller (Australia), Founder of Womn-Kind
Award: USD 1,000 Seed Grant

Her project focused on advancing mental health awareness and accessibility for young people, demonstrating innovation, scalability, and social relevance.

Cultural Evening & Graduation Ceremony

The day concluded with cultural performances, celebrating global diversity, followed by the graduation ceremony and a symbolic group photograph.





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Day 4 – Closing & Departure

September 7, 2025



The Forum concluded with farewells and departures, as delegates left Geneva carrying new knowledge, global connections, and a renewed commitment to leadership and change



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Key Outcomes of YEF 2025

- Convened 120 delegates from over 100 countries, representing all global regions
- Enabled direct engagement with the United Nations and exposure to real-time global policy discussions
- Provided immersive access to CERN and scientific innovation ecosystems
- Produced eight youth-led global policy proposals aligned with SDGs
- Awarded a USD 1,000 seed grant to a high-potential youth-led initiative
- Created a unique model combining study visits with classroom-based learning
- Fostered cross-cultural dialogue and global collaboration among participants



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YEF 2025

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FORUM

Looking Ahead

Youth Empowerment Forum 2026

Building on the success of its inaugural edition, the Youth Empowerment Forum 2026 returns to Geneva, Switzerland, from September 03–06, 2026—bigger, more ambitious, and designed to create an even greater global platform for young leaders.

The upcoming edition will offer:

- 30 Fully Funded Seats
- 40 Partially Funded Seats
- Participation opportunities for applicants from around the world

This is your opportunity to be part of a global movement shaping the future of leadership, policy, and innovation.

Apply Now

www.thecgdl.org/yef2026

Join the next generation of global changemakers.