**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Young SDG Ambassadors (cohort #4)

March 2024

**Background**

Sustainable Development Goals, also known as the Global Goals, are the architecture of the global plan for better future. That plan is called 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is based on 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and represent the vision of a better world and clear direction to the mankind for advancement of quality of life in the period 2015-2030. It was adopted in September 2015 by all the UN member states. It officially came into effect on January 1st, 2016, and is to be achieved by 2030. The 2030 Agenda applies to every country.

The SDGs determine the direction of development work over the 15 years. The SDGs are set to influence government planning, national and local level policy making and donor funding priorities, making the Agenda 2030 a blueprint for development priorities for the period 2015-2030. Articulated through 169 targets, 17 SDGs cover a broad range of sustainable development issues, from ending poverty and hunger to improving health and education, reducing inequality, and combating climate change.

The 2030 Agenda represents a historic commitment not just to those living on our planet today but to the generations that will follow. Less than 7 years remain to achieve the 2030 Agenda. With half-way to 2030 decisive actions are needed to accelerate progress to realize the vision of the SDGs.

# Relevance of the Contest

* At the UN Summit in 2015, Government of Turkmenistan expressed its full support for the Agenda for Sustainable Development until 2030, thereby initiating the process of nationalizing SDG in the country.
* On September 1, 2017, SDG training and methodology center in Turkmenistan was opened in the Institute of International Relations under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Center is a national school of knowledge, popularization and advocacy on the concepts of sustainable development.
* In July 2019 Turkmenistan presented its first Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the SDGs. In July 2023, Turkmenistan demonstrated the progress in achieving the country's sustainable development goals adopted by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
* During the SDG Summit in September 2023, Turkmenistan shared its national commitments to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs in the country.
* Given the government’s broad support for the implementation of Agenda 2030, it is necessary to systematically inform communities and civil society about sustainable development and the urgency of the Agenda 2030 in order to ensure that “no one is left behind”.
* The youth of Turkmenistan is the main driving force of change, and the Agenda for Sustainable Development is an excellent platform that allows young people to use their unlimited potential to build a better world.
* In 2024 the United Nations country team, the Ministry of Finance and Economy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan announces the next call for applications to enable Turkmen youth to contribute to raising awareness on SDGs at the national level.

# Description of the contest

The aim of this initiative is to mobilize the youth of Turkmenistan and their potential to contribute to the effective achievement of Agenda 2030.

The application for SDG Ambassadors will be open from March 1, 2024, to March 31, 2024, inclusive. The selection will take place in May 2024. Selected "Young SDG Ambassadors" are mandated to disseminate information about the meaning and significance of achieving SDGs in their communities, among peers and society at large throughout 2024-2025, actively promoting and facilitating their implementation.

# Objectives and Tasks of the Contest

* To raise awareness on SDGs among youth at local and national levels through carrying out advocacy activities/campaigns and implementing public initiatives.
* To continue creating a pool of active youth leaders, whose knowledge and activities will contribute to the national strategy in implementation of SDGs.
* To provide a space for Turkmen Youth to participate in national and international events as youth experts in the areas of SDGs when supported by Government and UN Agencies.
* To build capacities of youth in the areas of SDG advocacy, public speaking, communications skills and other.
* Strengthen communication and coordination within the SDG Ambassador network to maximize the impact of public initiatives on sustainable development.

**Application Process:**

To submit you application, click on the link below to access the application form. In the form, you will be asked to:

* Provide contact information.
* Describe your current occupation.
* Select one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and explain how it resonates most with your values and interests.
* Write an essay in English expressing motivation for becoming an SDG Ambassador and mentioning the corresponding Goal number.

Link for application to the Google Forms: <https://forms.gle/Co9arw6175TFyGH58>

**Selection of SDG Ambassadors for 2024-2025 cohort**

* All applications will undergo review, and shortlisted candidates will be invited for interviews via email.
* The selection process will take place in May 2024 and involve representatives of the UN, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Finance and Economy as panel members. Interviews will be scheduled individually with each shortlisted participant.
* **Note:** Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for interviews.

# Eligibility

* **Age category:** 18-30 years old.
* **Residency:** Must be a resident of Turkmenistan.
* **Activity:** Must be an active youth leader contributing to the achievement of one of the SDGs at the local and/or national level through unique public initiatives.
* **Language Proficiency:** English language proficiency is required (knowledge of other official UN languages is an asset).
* **Skills:** Proficiency in organizing events, public speaking, and blogging.
* **Commitment:** Commitment to the principles and values of sustainable development.