**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Young SDG ambassadors (cohort #3)

March 2022

 **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) represents 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 next 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 an historic commitment not just to those living on our planet today but to the generations that will follow. Less than 10 years remain to achieve the 2030 Agenda. In this, the Decade of Action, effective advocacy is more important than ever 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.
* Given the government’s broad support for the implementation of Agenda 2030, it is necessary to systematically inform civil society about sustainable development and the SDG in order to ensure that “no one is left behind”.
* The youth of Turkmenistan is the main driving force of change, and the new Agenda for Sustainable Development is an excellent platform that allows young people to use their unlimited potential to build a better world.
* In 2018 and later in 2020 the United Nations country team, the National SDG Center, the Ministry of Finance and Economy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan announced the call for applications to enable Turkmen youth to contribute to raising awareness on SDGs at the national level. As a result, around 35 young people were selected and served as young SDG Ambassadors.

#  Description of the contest

To mobilize the youth of Turkmenistan, whose activities can contribute to the effective achievement of Agenda 2030, it is offered to continue this initiative and call for Cohort 3 of “Young SDG Ambassadors of Turkmenistan”.

The selection of “Young SDG Ambassadors” will be held from April 4, 2022 to May 30, 2022. Selected “Young SDG Ambassadors” will have to conduct/be part of various public events during 2022-2023 to raise overall awareness on SDGs and thereby promote/facilitate 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 strengthen coordination and provide more focused and effective support to the SDG Ambassadors in the implementation of public initiatives in the field of sustainable development;
* To provide a space for SDG Ambassadors to participate in national and international events as youth experts in the areas of SDGs supported by Government and UN Agencies;
* To build capacities of youth/SDG Ambassadors in the areas of SDG advocacy, public speaking, communications skills and other;

 **Selection of SDG Ambassadors 2022-2023**

* The contest will be announced through all national media and other means of communication **from April 4, 2022 till May 30, 2022.**
* The applicant shall select **one** SDG, ambassador for which he/she would like to become and send the **essay/motivation letter** in English "Why #IamSDGambassador" with the number of the corresponding Goal **by April 20, 2022** to email- unct.turkm@gmail.com
* The best applications will be invited for the interview. The selection will be held both by national and international experts (the date and time of the interview will be agreed with each participant of the selection individually).
* The results of the selection will be published on UN website <https://turkmenistan.un.org/en> and will be announced through social media channels.

#  Eligibility

* Age category is 18-30 years old;
* Be a resident of Turkmenistan;
* Be an active youth leader who already contributes to the achievement of **one** of the SDG at the local and/or national level through his/her unique public initiatives;
* English language proficiency (knowledge of other official UN language is an asset);
* Skills of public leadership, public speaking, blogging;
* Commitment to the principles and values of the sustainable development.