



TOGETHER WE *Serve*

UNITED NATIONS

GLOBAL COMPACT

Communication on Engagement 2023





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Statement from the Secretary-General of Humanitarian Affairs

I am pleased to validate the continuing work of Humanitarian Affairs in support of the ten principles of the **UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT** (UNGC), with a focus in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and global citizenship.

We have stepped forward in our engagement to advance these principles amidst global crises. Difficult times are challenging and raise interpellation on our resilience capacity as humans, individually and collectively.

At Humanitarian Affairs, we believe that adverse situations are the best opportunities to demonstrate our strengths and learn from our weaknesses. Always moving forward, we mobilised the international community of young leaders to take action, despite any external challenges they may face.

Throughout 2022 and 2023, the organisation equipped over 1000 people from more than 100 countries with the principles of the United Nations Global Compact. We will continue to reach out beyond our global community of social changemakers and empower more young people to contribute to achieving the UN SDGs.

Being a member of the UN Global Compact is an honor and a privilege at a time when global cooperation is required more than ever to lift humanity to the transformational changes needed to better society.

We are proudly committed to upholding the ten principles of the **UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT** whilst inspiring and empowering young global leaders and our global community to do the same.

With Best Regards,

Kim Solomon
Secretary-General



The future of humanity and of our planet lies in our hands. It lies also in the hands of today's younger generation who will pass the torch to future generations.

- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals -
DECLARATION, A Call For Action to Change Our World



**HUMANITARIAN
AFFAIRS ASIA**

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www.humanitarianaffairs.org

MISSION

At Humanitarian Affairs, we understand many young people feel out of their league to make a positive impact. They fear they are too poor, young or inexperienced to contribute to a better world. We believe youth have limitless potential to do good. With this in mind, we create youth empowerment events and programs to bring together like-minded individuals, organisations and communities so young people have the necessary resources to lead the change in building a more peaceful, inclusive and sustainable world.

We believe when young people are provided with the right tools, knowledge and network, they stand the greatest chance to champion positive societal change.

Finding Purpose



Inspiring Engagement



Reshaping the World

Transforming Lives

Humanitarian Affairs seeks to present youth with multi-faceted learning opportunities to contribute towards the UN SDGs. We are a global community of social changemakers.

In addition to championing the cause for youth, Humanitarian Affairs has established and supported several humanitarian and educational initiatives: giving back to the local community through volunteer English teaching at Bangkok's *Darakam Elementary School*, appeal to support Afghan families, voicing for fair access to covid-19 vaccines, and fundraising for *Sunrise Children Village Cambodia*, with an aim to make the world we call home a better place.

HUMAN RIGHTS PRINCIPLE

Respecting and supporting human rights is at the core of what Humanitarian Affairs stands for. Through our core business activities that support the UN SDGs, we promote human rights and take action to make a positive contribution towards its fulfillment.

Volunteer English Teaching

At Humanitarian Affairs, we champion the 2030 United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly in the realm of inclusive and equitable Quality Education. We believe that global citizenship education transcends the confines of traditional classrooms, manifesting itself through acts of volunteering and community service.

Our interns serve as a Volunteer English Teacher at Darakam Elementary School in Bangkok. This collaboration in partnership with Thailand's Ministry of Education aims to prepare the children of Thailand to become global youth leaders who are proficient in English.

Darakam School's parents primarily fill roles of domestic helpers, cleaners, tuk-tuk drivers, delivery riders, taxi drivers, and street vendors in bustling Bangkok. In an era of rapid globalisation and tourism, the demand for high-quality English education becomes increasingly imperative for better career opportunities.

We believe that education is the single most powerful tool for change and advancement. Access to quality English education not only broaden the horizons of individual students but also exerts a profound influence on the sustainable development of Thailand as a whole. Our mission is nothing short of catalyzing positive change through education.

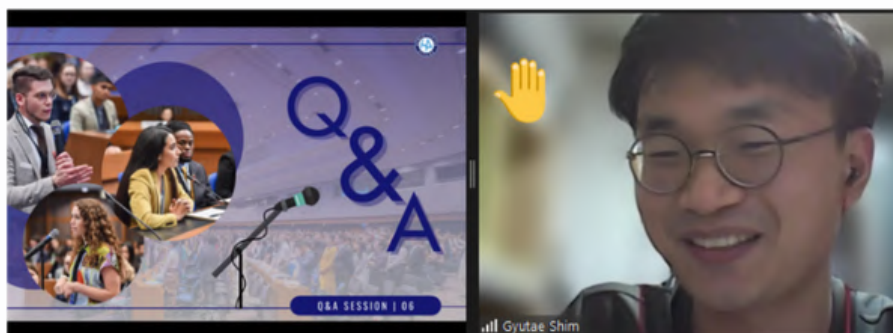


Lead as a Global Citizen World Series Webinar 2.0

At Humanitarian Affairs our mission is to empower global youth for social change. Following the success and positive feedback from the Global Citizen Webinar series during the Covid-19 pandemic, we introduced the Global Citizen Webinar 2.0. This accessible educational platform equips youth worldwide with the tools for a purposeful global career.

Amidst all the challenges faced by today's youth and the immense void of digital information it can often be difficult for youth to understand how to effectively prepare and invest for their passion of having a Global Career. The webinar featured three speakers, two of whom had previously participated in Humanitarian Affairs programs. Their relatable stories resonated with attendees, showing that by grasping meaningful opportunities, they can find direction towards impactful careers. As one speaker, Goistemang Khutsafalo said, "the greatest realisation in life is realising that you do not know"; no matter someone's age, we all need to continuously learn and grow.

Quality education does not just inform; it provides actionable tools. After the webinar, attendees received a job board, summarizing platforms for meaningful careers. This initiative aligns with UN SGDs on Quality Education, enabling international youth to access guidance for leading global careers.



LABOUR PRINCIPLE

Global Youth Advocate (Internship Placement)

Humanitarian Affairs strongly values diversity, inclusion and the advancement of staff and interns at all levels. We pride ourselves with having a diverse workplace, and recruiting interns from various ethnic backgrounds and nationalities.

At Humanitarian Affairs Asia, our core belief revolves around recognising the untapped potential within youth. We are dedicated to empowering young individuals to become today's advocacy leaders, regardless of any perceived challenges that may hinder them. In line with this principle, we provide the Global Youth Advocate internship placement, which serves as a platform for young talents to cultivate essential life skills and advocate for their peers to have equitable access to resources for effective social change.



Participants in this program undergo rigorous testing in areas such as advocacy and global communication, fostering creative thinking and problem-solving abilities. Humanitarian Affairs is committed to nurturing these interns, entrusting them with responsibilities that empower them to shape a better world by engaging with local and global stakeholders.

Beyond professional skills, this internship, as described by former intern Alycia Kawitzki, represents “a transformative personal development journey”. Humanitarian Affairs’ workplace values the diversity of our interns and creates a welcoming environment in which interns can collaborate towards a common goal.

Our interns benefit from invaluable mentoring aimed at unlocking their boundless enthusiasm and potential, thus, enabling them to actively contribute to driving positive change.



Networking Lunch Organised by National University of Singapore

Humanitarian Affairs is passionate about collaborating with local and international partners to enhance youth empowerment. Our executive team was graciously invited to attend a networking lunch hosted by the National University of Singapore (NUS). NUS has been consistently ranked as a top global university due to its innovative and transformative education that empowers students to become effective global leaders.

The networking lunch provided a welcoming atmosphere for leading businesses, professionals and NUS students to connect and understand the employment and industry trends across Thailand and Singapore. Such experiences are rare for students but empower them to grasp the inner workings of the employment industry.

This initiative was not only inspiring but also crucial for students to develop future partnerships and explore potential internship and employment opportunities. Humanitarian Affairs was honored to participate in fostering open dialogue between students and industry professionals. Collaboration spaces like these are vital as no single force can transform the labor industry alone.

We believe in the transformative potential of youth when equipped with the right tools and knowledge. With more young people gaining workforce insights through such experiences, we'll witness positive social change in action.

ENVIRONMENT PRINCIPLE

Humanitarian Affairs undertakes initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility, to support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges, and to encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

Green Dialogue Webinar - Reinventing Youth Participation and Partnership on Climate Action

The global climate crisis presents a significant challenge, but unfortunately, there is a notable lack of opportunities for young individuals to actively engage and contribute to its resolution. Despite the proliferation of high-level meetings on climate change, young individuals often find themselves excluded from meaningful participation. This exclusion leads to feelings of discouragement and disempowerment, diminishing their enthusiasm for social and environmental causes.

To address this gap, Humanitarian Affairs Asia introduced the Prologue to the Green Summit: Global Forum on a Future Together. This is an exclusive workshop that empowers youth to become passionate advocates, skilled implementers of green ideas and dedicated servants of humanity and the environment. The primary objective of this initiative was the equip students with the confidence and competence to excel in the emerging green economy.



The program which was open to all, consisted of three webinars, each with a distinct focus. The Green Dialogue Webinar challenged the traditional youth participation model in climate action by featuring speakers selected from the applicant pool, acknowledging that young individuals are not mere learners but knowledgeable contributors. Ntokozo Ngcobo, a student at Durban University, exemplified this through his impactful speech, where he shared the impacts of climate change in South Africa and urged his peers to work together to “change this narrative and mitigate the impact of climate change”.

The Green Dialogue webinar recognizes that young people's passion and dedication to climate action must be harnessed and heard to achieve environmental sustainability.



HKBU GreenHack Challenge 2023

At Humanitarian Affairs we recognize that meaningful change requires collaboration with like-minded organisations and community members. We are honoured to have attended the GreenHack Challenge 2023 hosted by the Centre of Innovative Service Learning at Hong Kong Baptist University.

The GreenHack Challenge is an international social innovation competition that brings together bright minds from across the world to collaborate and brainstorm solutions for urgent environmental challenges and climate change.

Guided by mentors, participants have 48 hours to form teams, engage in workshops to deepen their understanding of global warming, and craft innovative ideas to address these critical issues. This event promotes collaboration, nurtures innovation and problem-solving skills, empowering individuals to develop solutions that genuinely impact the sustainability of our planet.

Climate change is an immense issue that necessitates diverse and extensive collaboration for effective solutions. Initiatives like the GreenHack Challenge play a pivotal role in cultivating environmentally conscious leaders who push the boundaries of conventional solutions, turning their ideas into tangible positive changes for our future.



Green Summit 2022

The Inaugural Green Summit 2022, hosted by Humanitarian Affairs addressed the growing concern of climate change and youth empowerment. Amidst rising greenhouse gas concentrations, accelerated sea-level rise, and biodiversity loss, the Green Summit underscored the urgency of climate action. Young people were positioned as pivotal agents for change, offering innovative solutions.

Delegates participated in a four-day program featuring workshops led by green experts, engagement with sustainable activities and gained the knowledge and tools needed to become a Humanitarian Affairs Green Ambassador that is empowered to champion sustainable development in their community. The highlight for many participants was the Green Activities in which delegates were able to put their passion into action and participate in conservation actions such as reforestation of indigenous species and marine and coastal conservation.



As described perfectly by a delegate, Ewan Sheperd from the United Kingdom, “far too often, young people are led to believe they lack the tools to impact change. We are told we lack experience, wisdom and sense.” To combat this incorrect belief, “the Green Summit provides a forum in which brilliant young minds from across the globe can come together and coordinate their actions, expand their network, and enhance their skills in being climate action leaders, to work collaboratively toward a better tomorrow” (Talea Grootenhuis, The Netherlands).



University Scholars Leadership Symposium 2023

The 11th University Scholars Leadership Symposium (USLS) offered a transformative experience for young leaders who are passionate about making a positive impact on the world. In a world burdened by pressing global issues like climate change and inequality, many individuals may feel overwhelmed and isolated in their pursuit for change. However, as delegate Anne Wandu described the “USLS reassures advocates that they are not alone”. This symposium brings together a vibrant community of like-minded young leaders from around the globe, providing them with the tools and confidence needed to address these critical challenges.

The USLS offers a unique platform for participants to engage with UN workshops from agencies such as UN Women and UNEP, listen to inspiring talks from real-life change-makers, and network with peers who share a common goal. Throughout these experiences, attendees discover their voice, purpose and power to make a meaningful difference.

The USLS is centered around the Kindness Day that commits to having practical action. Although education in a classroom has a vital role, issues such as climate change and unsustainable practices will not be solved without proactive change. The activities such as mangrove planting, river cleaning and tree planting not only allowed the approximately 430 delegates to put their passion into action but it had an immense impact on significant environmental issues within the local Bangkok community.

The impact of the symposium extends far beyond its durations, as delegates leave equipped with the knowledge and confidence to initiate their own humanitarian projects and create positive change in their communities and environments.



TOGETHER WE SERVE

At its heart, Humanitarian Affairs is a global movement that empowers, enables, enlarges and develops youth to step forward as champions of societal change. We value the immense privilege and responsibility to take actions that advances societal goals. We are proud to contribute to the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative and the principles of the United Nations Global Compact.

