

2026 Asia-Pacific Youth Forum

Our Common Agenda for the next generation in the era of Conflict and Digital Transformation

17 August 2026

I. Background

The international community faces complex challenges, including conflict, deepening inequality, climate change, human rights concerns, rapid technological change, and declining trust in multilateral institutions. Young people are directly affected by these crises, yet their perspectives remain underrepresented in global decision-making processes.

The Asia-Pacific Youth Forum provides young people across the region with a dedicated platform to articulate their expectations for the next United Nations Secretary-General. This Forum serves as a regional preparatory event for the main gathering on 20 August 2026.

II. Theme

Instead of focusing on a single issue or Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), the Forum will address the shared priorities, concerns, and aspirations of youth across the Asia-Pacific region. The Forum will emphasize perspectives that reflect the region's diverse political, economic, social, and environmental contexts.

In this context, the Forum aligns with the three core pillars of the United Nations: Peace and Security, Human Rights, and Sustainable Development. Current global challenges are deeply intertwined; human rights and peace face an unprecedented crisis caused by a series of international conflicts. Simultaneously, achieving sustainable development requires innovative approaches amidst rapid digital transformation, including Artificial Intelligence (AI). Technological development must be ethically guided to strengthen our capacity to protect human rights and peace, while ensuring equitable knowledge-sharing to navigate digital transformation for our common future.

III. Objectives

- To collect diverse perspectives and strategic priorities from youth across the Asia-Pacific region;
- To strengthen meaningful youth participation in shaping the future of the United Nations and multilateral governance; and
- To formulate key youth recommendations and prepare a statement for the main event on 20 August 2026.

IV. Programme (Tentative)

Time	Programme	Speaker
20:00-20:15 (15 min)	Keynote (Title: TBD)	Prof. Jae Sung Kwak (GSPE, Kyung Hee University & President of KAIDEC)
20:15-21:15 (60 min)	Breakout Session - Peace - Human Rights - Development	
21:15-21:30 (15 min)	Roundtable	
21:30-21:40 (10 min)	Wrap-up	Prof. Jae Sung Kwak (GSPE, Kyung Hee University & President of KAIDEC)

※ The programme is subject to change.

V. Event Details

- Date and Time: 17 August 2026, 20:00–22:00 (UTC+9)
- Venue: Online (Zoom)
- Language: English
- RSVP: (TBD)

※ The Forum will feature moderated discussions and interactive exchanges among youth participants and invited experts.

VI. Expected Outcomes

- Discussion outcomes will be consolidated into the Asia-Pacific Youth Statement and key messages, drafted by Gongsamo and SDSN Youth Korea.
- A designated youth representative will present the statement during the main event on 20 August 2026.

VII. Participants

The Forum will bring together young leaders, researchers, students, civil society representatives, practitioners, and youth network members from across the Asia-Pacific region who are engaged in issues related to the United Nations, global governance, sustainable development, peace, human rights, and youth empowerment.

VIII. Organizer and Contact

- Gongsamo: 0044moim@gmail.com
- SDSN Youth Korea: korea@sdsnyouth.org
- KAIDEC