SV Talks First Edition

Catalysts for Change: Youth Participation and the Future of Global Agendas

Date: Thursday, 25 September 2025
Time: 14:00-15:00 (UTC) / 9:00- 10:00 (UTC-5)
Format: Virtual, ensuring global accessibility.
Duration: 60 minutes
Registration: Please register for this event through Zoom

This second session of the first edition of Southern Voice Talks brings a fresh perspective on global challenges, by putting the spotlight on youth and their potential to shape the future of development. Young people across the Global South are already leading change in their communities, and this conversation will explore how we can support and amplify their role as drivers of global transformation.

This session will highlight how we can engage more young people in policy debates, their role in shaping the global development agenda, and their contribution to solving global challenges. To explore this topic, we will present a study from our latest publication, Global South Perspectives (GSP), on youth engagement and participation in Bolivia. The session will also draw from the experiences of experts who work to increase youth participation, and to make youth participation more meaningful and impactful.

This session is also a chance to hear directly from young thinkers across our network, and to open up a conversation about why meaningful and impactful youth participation in policy discussions is important. With the youth of Global South, this session will explore ways to break down barriers to youth engagement and what kinds of spaces young people need to truly influence global agendas.

Speakers and Moderators

- Adriana Tordoya Huanca, Researcher at Fundación Aru Bolivia
- Harshani Dharmadasa, Senior Director Global Partnerships and Initiatives at United Nations Foundation
- Hamza Saoudi, Senior Economist at Policy Center for the New South Morocco
- Valeria Colunga, Executive Strategy Officer at Southern Voice (moderator)

Agenda

Time	Activity	Description
2 minutes	Opening by Margarita Gómez	- Welcoming participants - Short intro to SV Talks
3 minutes	Introducing panellists and getting started with the event	- Brief introduction of panellists and commentator - Setting the scene for the conversation
7 minutes	Presentation by GSP Author	The GSP author is given **a maximum of 7 minutes** to present. **The presentation is to be guided by a presentation with maximum of 3 slides,** which should answer these following questions: - Why is global youth participation in policy discussion important? - What are the findings from your study?

		● What are the key recommendations of your article and how can we move forward? The moderator will highlight two to three interesting points from each presentation before continuing.
10 minutes	Commentators' response	Each commentator is given 3-5 minutes to respond to the author's presentation
15 minutes	Moderated short discussion	Following the commentators' responses, the moderator will proceed with additional questions directed to the speakers. ● For Harshani: From your experience working with youth, what persistent barriers prevent inclusive and diverse youth participation that includes youth from indigenous or marginalised groups, or youth living in rural areas? What specific collaborative actions could we take together to overcome them? ● For Adriana and Hamza: From your perspective as young Global South researchers who may have participated in youth forums and discussions, what gaps still exist and what are the necessary improvements to ensure youth don't just have a voice, but ability to influence decision-making?
15 minutes	Q&A Session	Engaging the audience on issues raised throughout the session
6 minutes	Key Takeaways from	Speakers to mention one specific call to action for improving youth participation

	Speakers	
2 minutes	Closing remarks	- Thanking participants, panellists, commentators, and partners - Summarising the discussions and highlighting key takeaways - Inform participants of upcoming talk dates