



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Youth and the Rule of Law: Effective agents of change

Concept note for a High-Level Event at the 14th Crime Congress in Kyoto

Wednesday 22 April 2020, 2:30-4:00PM

Today, there are 1.8 billion people between the ages of 10-24, which is the largest generation of youth in history. Close to 90% of these youth live in developing countries, where they make up a large proportion of the population. This demographic is only expected to grow, with about 1.9 billion young people are projected to turn 15 years old between 2015 and 2030. Connected to each other like never before, young people want to and already contribute to the resilience of their communities by proposing innovative solutions, driving social progress and inspiring political change. They are also agents of change, mobilizing to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in order to improve the lives of people and the health of the planet.

This multisectoral, inter-generational initiative would bring together youth participants – including youth policy makers – UN officials and high-level representatives to emphasize and discuss the role of youth in promoting and strengthening the rule of law. The goal of this high-level event is to identify some key ways in which youth influence could be strengthened in policy making processes at the global level and to showcase their role as agents of change to strengthen the rule of law at a local level.