



Youth Policy-Makers Roundtable Consultation Summary

Facilitator: Eugenia Ochoa

Note-takers: Elham Shabahat, Jessica Singh

Consultation Objectives

- Present OCIC's Youth Policy-Makers Program
- Understand the landscape: map active groups in the policy & advocacy space and identify gaps
- Determine the role and appropriate space for OCIC in this landscape
- Gather insights on intersectional, intergenerational change-making processes

Guiding Questions

- What are some active groups in policy and advocacy? Which groups are not in our radar?
- How are you already collaborating with groups within policy/advocacy spaces?
- What are other ways you would like to be collaborating with some of the groups identified?
- What could OCIC's role be, vis-a-vis your needs and what you already do?
- Do you have ideas for collaboration with the Council?

KEY INSIGHTS

- Identified **roles for OCIC** are: to act as middle table, resource liaison and cross-sector connector
- Organizational and individual **needs identified**:
 - access to formal and informal mentorship opportunities for youth
 - developing standards of accessibility and good practice to share with the sector. For example, volunteer vs. paid time for youth contributions.
 - facilitated connections with sustainable development sector and OCIC members
- Opportunities for **collaboration**: capacity building & learning opportunities (e.g. policy and advocacy training), OCIC Innovation Labs, partnerships with relevant college and university programs, joint delegations to sub-national, national and international programs & meetings

Questions that remain:

Selection criteria for youth and allies hubs

Revising OCIC definitions for policy & public engagement in the context of sustainable development and including domestic/local angle

Mapped groups engaging in Policy & Advocacy:

Impact Hubs Globally YWCA Canada Indigenous Youth & Solidarity Groups National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs)	Centre for Social Innovation Parkdale Centre for Innovation Citizen Lab Logic Lane Consulting Student Groups Fridays for Future Development & Peace	Defense for Children (DCI) Canada Save the Children Canada Canadian Feed the Children RESULTS Canada CARE Canada The Remix Project
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About OCIC's Youth Policy-makers Program

OCIC will convene and support a **Youth Policy-makers Hub** as a means of supporting diverse youth from across Ontario in international cooperation policy processes in support of FIAP action areas and the SDGs.

In October-November 2019 we will call for and select up to **15 diverse youth** (18-35 years of age), and **5-10 diverse "allies"** representing organizations with policy advocacy experience and expertise (of all ages) from our community and beyond to form the core membership of this Hub. OCIC will support regular virtual (online) and in-person meetings, and will support the Hub in developing TORs and priorities, and in implementing an annual work plan.

We anticipate activities such as:

- strengthening the capacity of youth to influence policy making and advocacy processes on gender equality and the SDGs;
- supporting 2-4 youth members of the Hub per year to attend relevant sub-national, national or international meetings and delegations;
- advising the Council on its own policies, practices and programs, as appropriate; and
- collecting and sharing resources, learnings and practices for youth-led and youth-focused policy-making work in different ways.

Guiding Principles

OCIC community engagement and learning program will be guided by: 1) the [Istanbul Principles for CSO Development Effectiveness](#); 2) FIAP's feminist and integrated approach to development, which sees gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in a manner that is both targeted and cross-cutting; 3) OCIC's gender transformative approach, which emphasizes intersectionality and policies on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, anti-oppression, and public engagement; and 4) research-informed principles of effective capacity-building.

For more information, please refer to OCIC's Community Engagement and Learning Programs Concept Note, [here](#).

Participant List

William Sparks, PT Professor - Centennial College

Habiba Desai, Inclusive Growth Project Consultant - BLove Consulting

Eugenia Ochoa, Community Engagement Specialist - Ontario Council for Int'l Cooperation

Hansika Gunaratne, Director of Operations - comdu.it

Reema Bazzi, Representative - Young Diplomats of Canada

Liam O'Doherty, Director of Digital Youth Engagement Programs - TakingITGlobal

Gary Pluim, Assistant Professor - Lakehead University

Elham Shabahat, Volunteer - Ontario Council for International Cooperation

Julia Rao, Youth Employment Lead - Youth Challenge International

Robin Green, Student - University of Ottawa

Jessica Singh, Founder - Logic Lane Consulting Inc.

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Leah Polonenko, Program Coordinator, IDST - University of Toronto Scarborough

Zareef Ahmad, Director - Citizens of Earth

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STAY CONNECTED

Questions? Ideas?

If you were unable to make it to the consultation but would still like to connect, please email Eugenia Ochoa at eugenia@ocic.on.ca