



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

8th UNESCO Youth Forum

- Online consultations -

Results of Phase 2 on the preparatory process and format of the Forum

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I. Contexte

In the [final report of the 7th UNESCO Youth Forum](#), the youth delegates requested the General Conference to ensure the “full participation of all delegates, in setting the agenda [*of the Forum*], by focusing on increased interaction and open debates, through greater involvement of specialized youth NGOs”¹. This request was also reflected in the [evaluation of the Forum](#) by its young participants undertaken in October 2011.

To follow-up on the above, the Organization has launched online consultations on the 8th UNESCO Youth Forum, which will be held from 29 to 31 October 2013 at its Headquarters. The objective of the consultations is to design and prepare the Forum on the basis of the feedback of, and exchanges with, young women and men from the different regions of the world. To this effect, UNESCO has been leveraging social media and partners’ networks, including youth NGOs and youth networks of previous UNESCO Youth Fora.

The consultations are comprised of two main phases:

- Phase 1 – Identifying the thematic areas of the Forum, from 14 to 24 February 2013;
- Phase 2 – Exchanging on the format, preparatory process and outcomes of the Forum, from 13 March to 10 April 2013.

This report presents the results of **Phase 2** of the consultations, which was undertaken through an online Survey, disseminated in English and French, including through Facebook and Twitter. It was addressed to youth from different regions of the world, mobilizing all networks of UNESCO’s Youth Programme, including through National Commissions for UNESCO and the UN Interagency Network on Youth Development, interns, Youth focal points and other UNESCO civil servants. Within one month, responses were received from 595 youth respondents, providing good grounds for analysis of its results.

Technical note: The Questionnaire for Phase 2 was open to young women and men from 15 to 35 years old, in order to ensure coverage of all the definitions that apply by the different institutions concerned.

¹ UNESCO General Conference document 36 C/47

II. Characteristics of the respondents

In terms of the respondents' sex, **52.3% are female** and 47.7% are male.

The age group that responded the most to the Questionnaire (**47.6%**) is that of young women and men **between 19 and 25 years of age**, followed by those aged between 26 and 30 years (26.2%) and those between 31 and 35 years (17.1%). Only 9.1% of the respondents are between 15 and 18 years old.

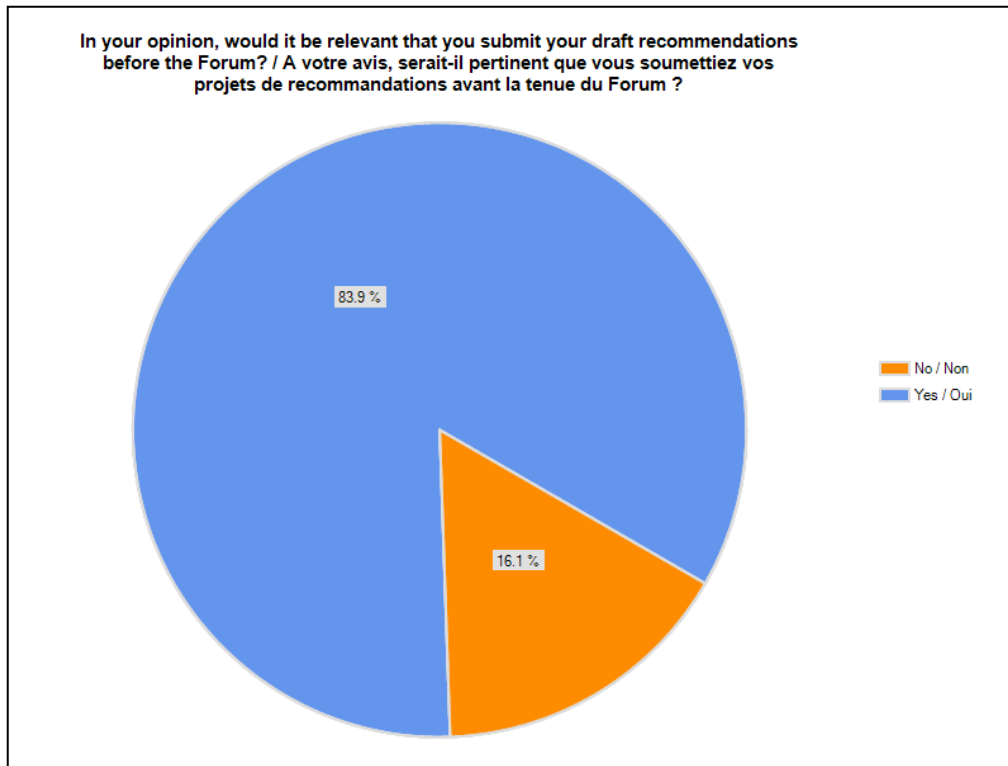
In terms of regional representation, the greatest part of the respondents are from **Africa (27.4%)**, followed by **Europe and North America (26.4%)**. Youth from Asia and the Pacific represent 25% of the respondents whereas 13.3% come from Latin America and the Caribbean. The lowest percentage of respondents is for the Arab region, with 7.9%.

Concerning responses from specific countries within the different regions, in the Arab region most respondents are from **Algeria, Tunisia** (with 10 respondents each) as well as **Morocco** (with 8 respondents). The number of respondents from Africa is the highest for **Nigeria** (26 respondents). In Asia and the Pacific, most respondents come from **China** (24), **Indonesia** (20) and **Pakistan** (24 respondents). The number of respondents from Europe and North America was the highest in **France** (36 respondents). With regard to respondents from Latin America and the Caribbean, most of them are from **Brazil** (24 respondents).

With regard to the respondents' occupation/status, the majority (**40.1%**) are **pupils or students**, followed by members of civil society organizations working on or with youth (17.3%) and by employed youth (15%). 7.1% of the respondents are trainees and 6.2% are currently seeking employment. The lowest percentages correspond to youth who are self-employed (4.2%), members of UN system entities working on youth (2.5%), members of National Commissions for UNESCO (2.2%), representatives of private sector entities working on youth development and civic engagement (2%) and of public authorities working on youth issues (1.5%) and members of academia (1.5%). Regardless of the respondents' occupation or status, the greatest majority of them (**80%**) are active in youth or civil society organizations.

In terms of the respondents' relation to the Forum and its preparations, the majority, or **52.5%** of the respondents to this second phase of the consultations, **also participated in the first phase** that focused on the themes to be addressed by the Forum. The wider majority, **80.3%**, have already had **experience of the UNESCO Youth Forum** through their **participation in past editions**.

III. Preparatory process and outcomes of the Forum

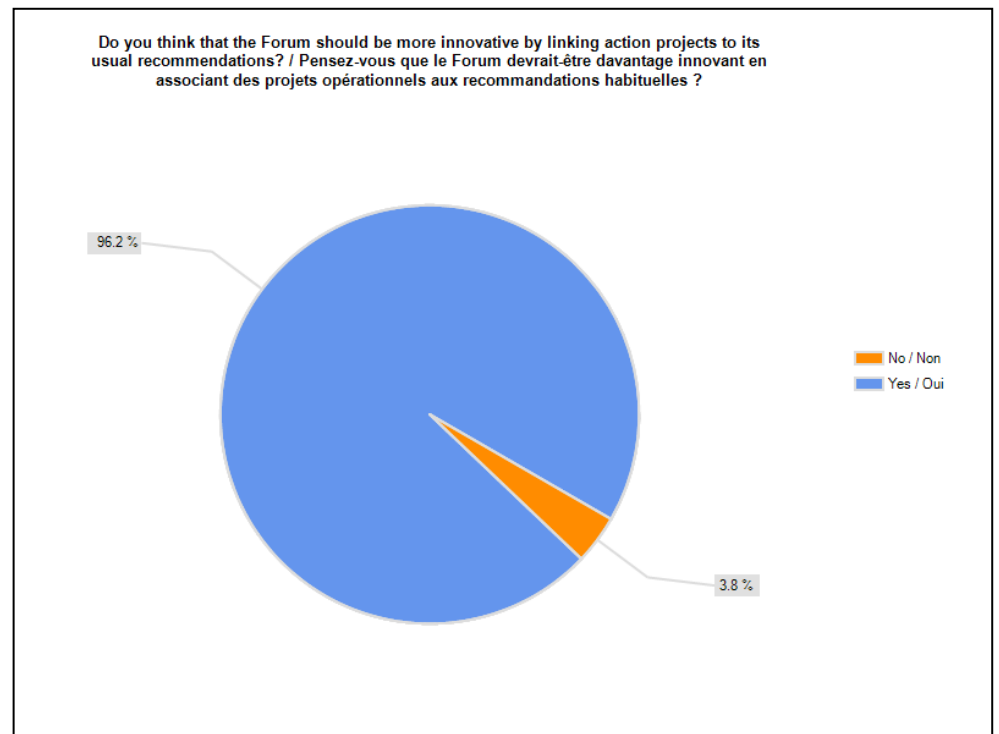


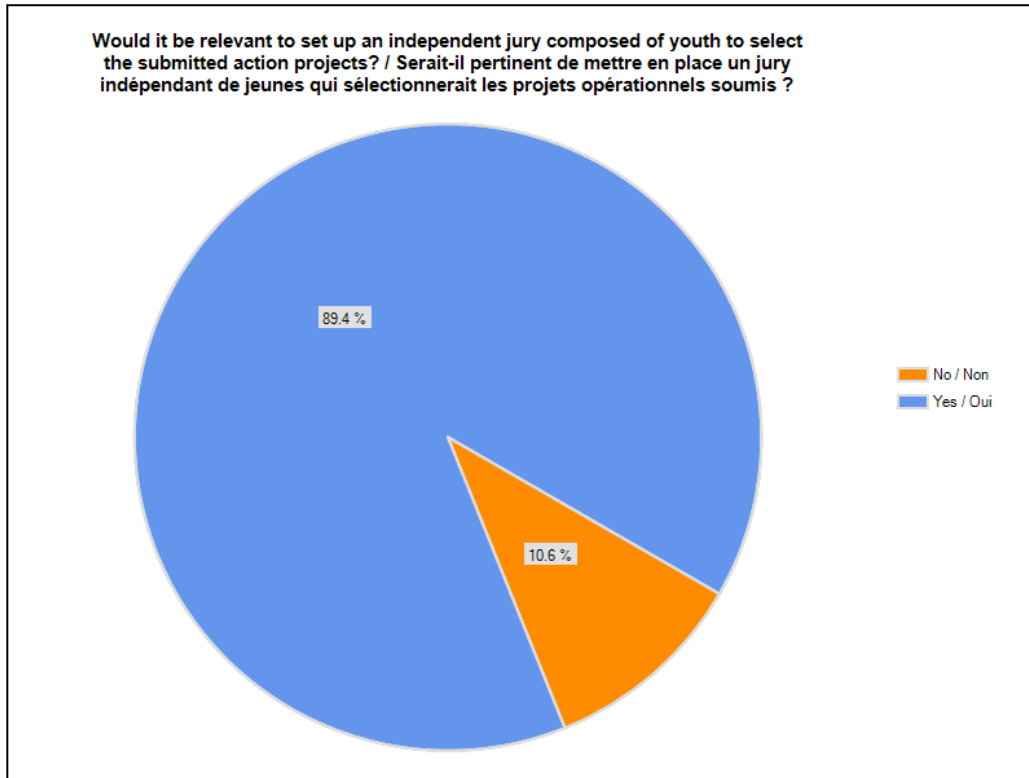
For an absolute majority, or **83.9%** of the respondents, it would be **relevant that youth delegates submit draft recommendations before the Forum.**

Figure 1. Pie chart of responses to the question "In your opinion, would it be relevant that you submit your draft recommendations before the Forum?"

The near totality of the respondents, or **96.2%**, agree that the Forum should be more innovative in **linking action projects to the recommendations** that have been its usual output in its past editions.

Figure 2. Pie chart of responses to the question "Do you think that the Forum should be more innovative by linking action projects to its usual recommendations?"





Youth respondents are also very supportive (**89.4%**) of the idea of setting up an **independent jury composed of youth in order to select submitted action projects** referred to in the previous question.

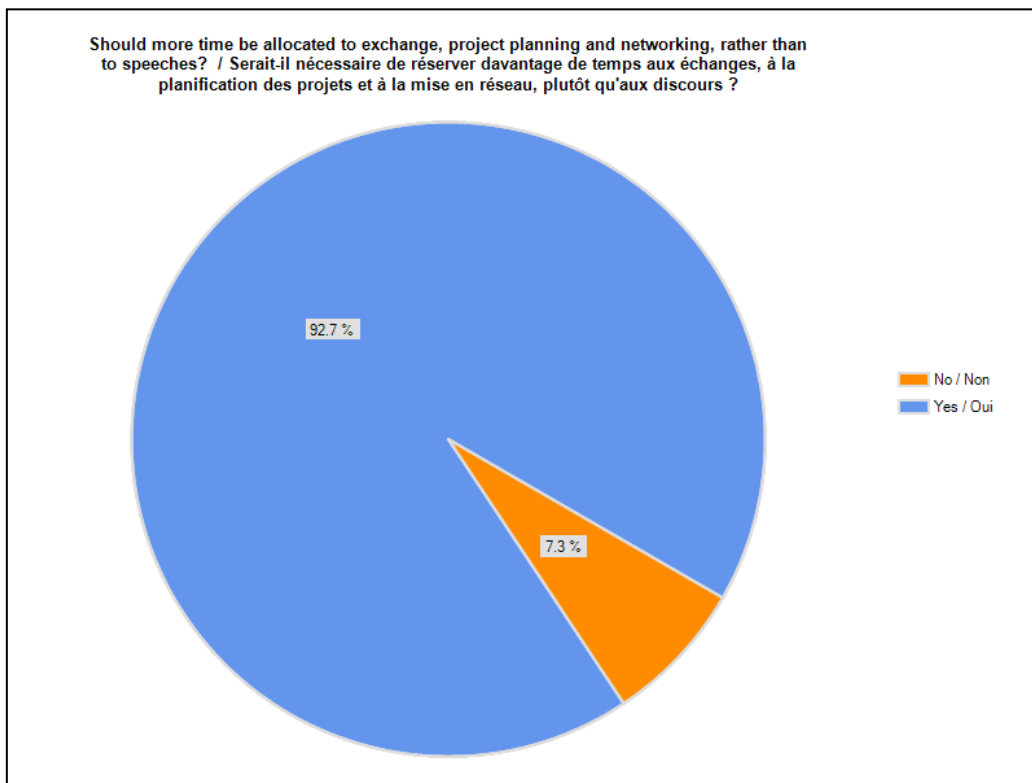
Figure 3. Pie chart of responses to the question “Would it be relevant to set up an independent jury composed of youth to select the submitted action projects?”

Youth respondents were also asked to provide **other proposals concerning the Forum’s preparation**. In what follows is a selection of the proposals, selected as being the most interesting and innovative relative to previous editions of the Forum, as well as those that have been made most frequently by respondents:

- Creating on-line platforms (including mobile platform, Skype, Google+ Hangout Sessions etc.) allowing youth discussions for the Forum’s preparation including its priorities, conveying information about the Forum, allowing exchanges about the Forum’s recommendations. Working groups on the sub-themes of the Forum could be constituted as part of the platform.
- Constituting a preparatory youth panel (“International Committee of Forum Facilitators” / “observatory group” / “Youth Advisory Committee” / “Youth organizing Committee”) to work, *inter alia*, on the Forum’s agenda and head youth activities. Also, involving National Youth Councils in the Forum’s preparations.
- Including youth representing LDCs, rural youth, minorities, etc., in the proposed independent youth jury for the selection of action projects. A similar proposal is the inclusion in the jury of experienced young project managers, to coach their peers in shaping their proposals before and during the Forum. A proposed alternative is the setting up of two juries for the submitted action projects, namely one composed of youth and another of scholars and youth organization representatives.

- Engaging indigenous youth in the Forum's preparations, as well as former youth delegates, who should also be engaged as speakers, facilitators, etc. There is also a proposal to maintain the generational balance in the preparation of the Forum in order to draw on experience.
- Organizing advocacy meetings to spread information about the Forum, its objectives and themes, as well as social and traditional media campaigns to promote the Forum, including through media interventions by youth on the Forum's theme.
- Preparing a motivation video and/or a common tune/song.
- Having preparatory regional and national fora, as well as local consultations with youth (at municipal level and in schools). These could also discuss the Forum's recommendations before the Forum itself.
- Involving youth (youth committee) in identifying national youth delegates to the Forum. Similar proposals are recruiting the youth delegates through an open competition at national level, and requiring that youth delegates are not the same as those having participated in the last, 7th edition. Another requirement could be that youth delegates participating in the Forum contribute with innovative ideas/action projects. Their selection should in this case be done also after examining their projects. Yet another proposal is linking the participation of youth delegates from a particular country to the existence of a Youth Desk at the relevant country's National Commission for UNESCO.
- Involving as participants in the Forum youth from diverse backgrounds, skills and fields (including research students) through a competitive process. Encouraging the participation of youth having already successfully completed projects, youth with disabilities, youth who do not reside in their countries of origin, indigenous youth, and journalists from remote areas.
- Organizing election procedures of moderators for workshops from among youth delegates.
- Financing the participation of youth delegates and other participants from remote and developing countries (e.g. through fellowships financed by sponsors or crowd-funding).
- Providing extensive training (one month) for youth delegates before the Forum, in order to ensure their availability, due process, effective participation, etc.
- Posting proposed action projects on-line, for comments, proposals, and for a symbolic financial contribution to determine projects that could receive actual funding.
- Constituting a recommendations drafting committee at the beginning of the Forum. Requesting that youth delegates exchange with youth from their communities to convey their ideas for the Forum's recommendations.

IV. Format of the Forum

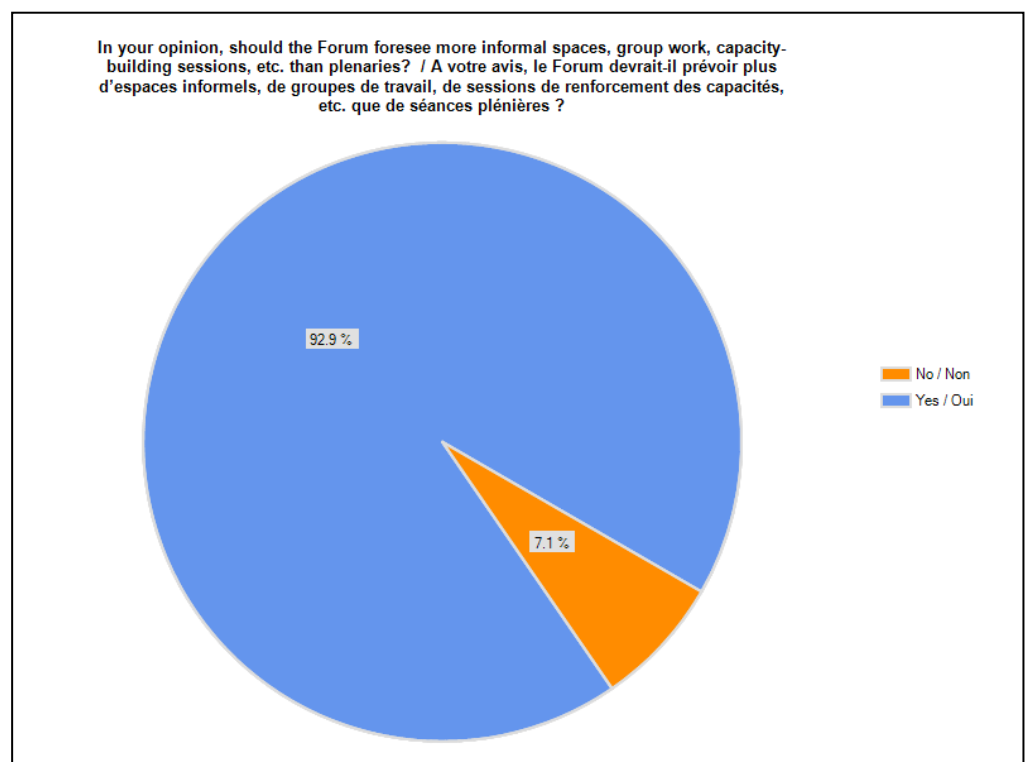


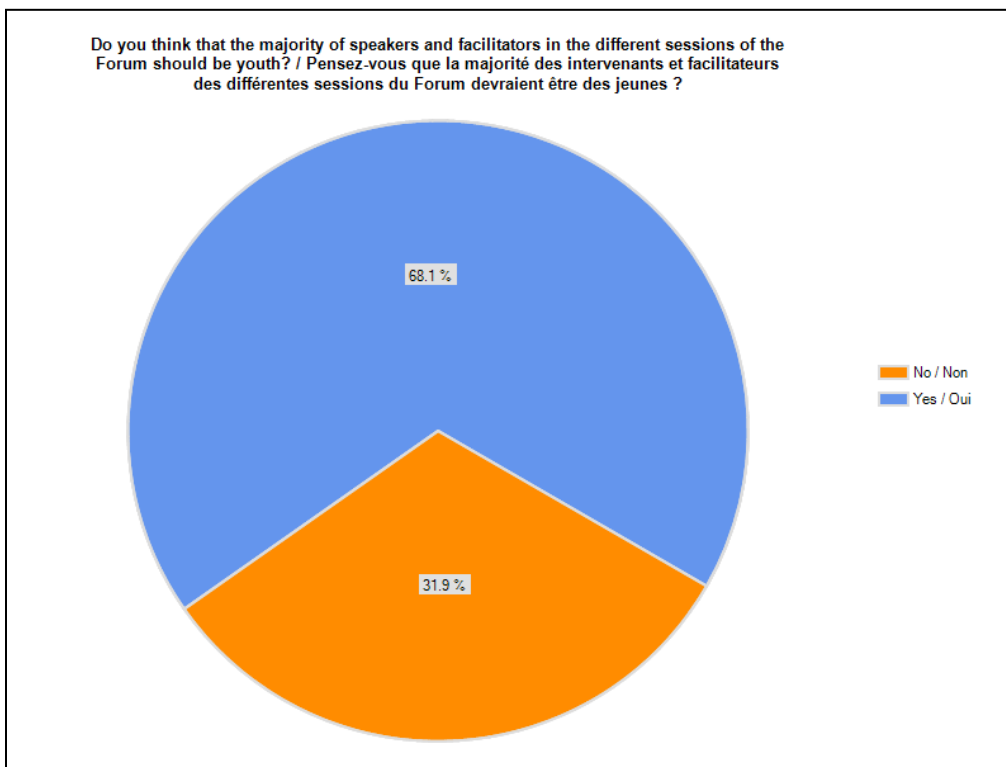
In terms of the format of the Forum and the activities organized in its framework, the greatest majority, or **92.7%** of all youth respondents, support the idea of **more time being allocated to exchange between participants, youth project planning and networking** rather than to more classical events that include one-directional speeches.

Figure 4. Pie chart of responses to the question “Should more time be allocated to exchange, project planning and networking, rather than to speeches?”

The same percentage, **92.7%**, agree that the Forum should **foresee more informal spaces, namely group work, capacity-building workshops, rather than plenary sessions.**

Figure 5. Pie chart of responses to the question “In your opinion, should the Forum foresee more informal spaces, group work, capacity-building sessions, etc., than plenaries?”



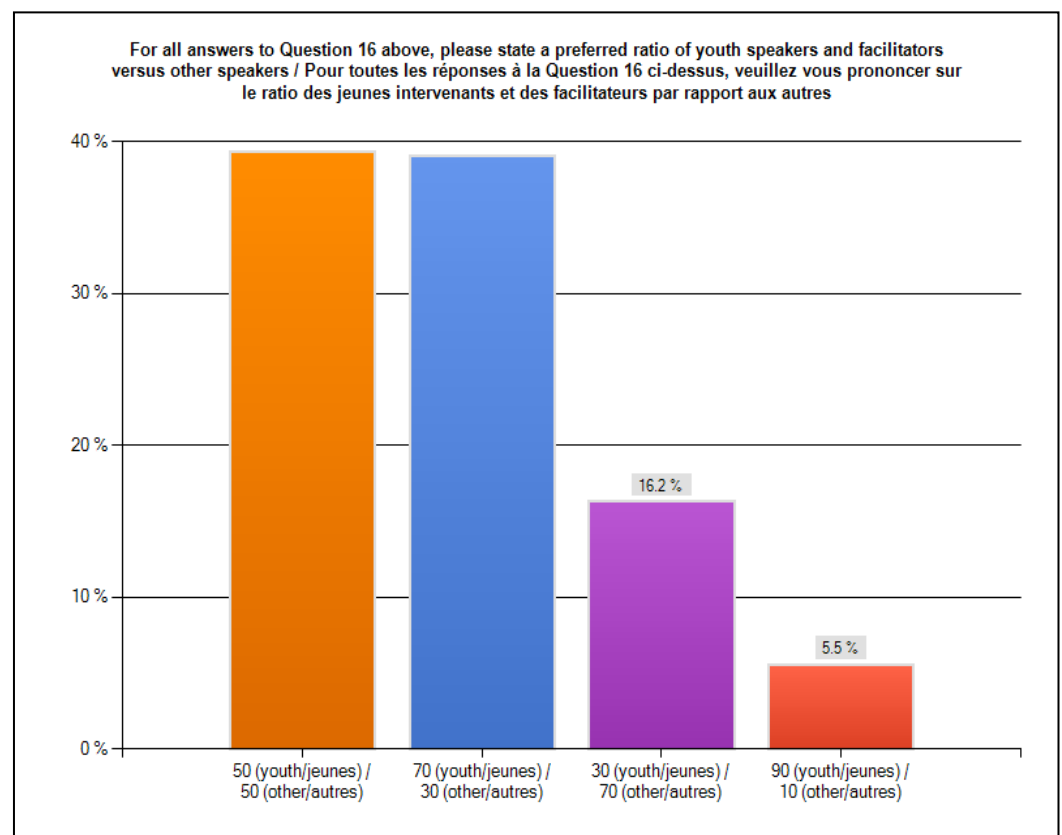


The majority, or **68.1%**, thinks that the Forum's sessions' **speakers and facilitators should be youth** in their majority.

Figure 6. Pie chart of responses to the question "Do you think that the majority of speakers and facilitators in the different sessions of the Forum should be youth?"

As regards the **ratio of youth speakers and facilitators versus others**, almost the same percentage of respondents, **39.3% and 39%** respectively, indicate that such ratio should be **50% youth vs. 50% others and 70% youth vs. 30% others**. Much fewer respondents, 16.2%, indicate a preference for the ratio 30% youth vs. 70% others, and even fewer, 5.5%, for the ratio 90% youth vs. 10% others.

Figure 7. Column chart of responses to the question "[...] please state a preferred ratio of youth speakers and facilitators versus other speakers"



The majority of respondents agree that the **Forum should provide opportunities for youth to exchange with different actors**, namely: **youth NGOs** – which received 315 responses; **UN system actors** – receiving 290 responses; **academic partners** – with 228 responses; and **private sector actors** – receiving the least, namely 207 responses.

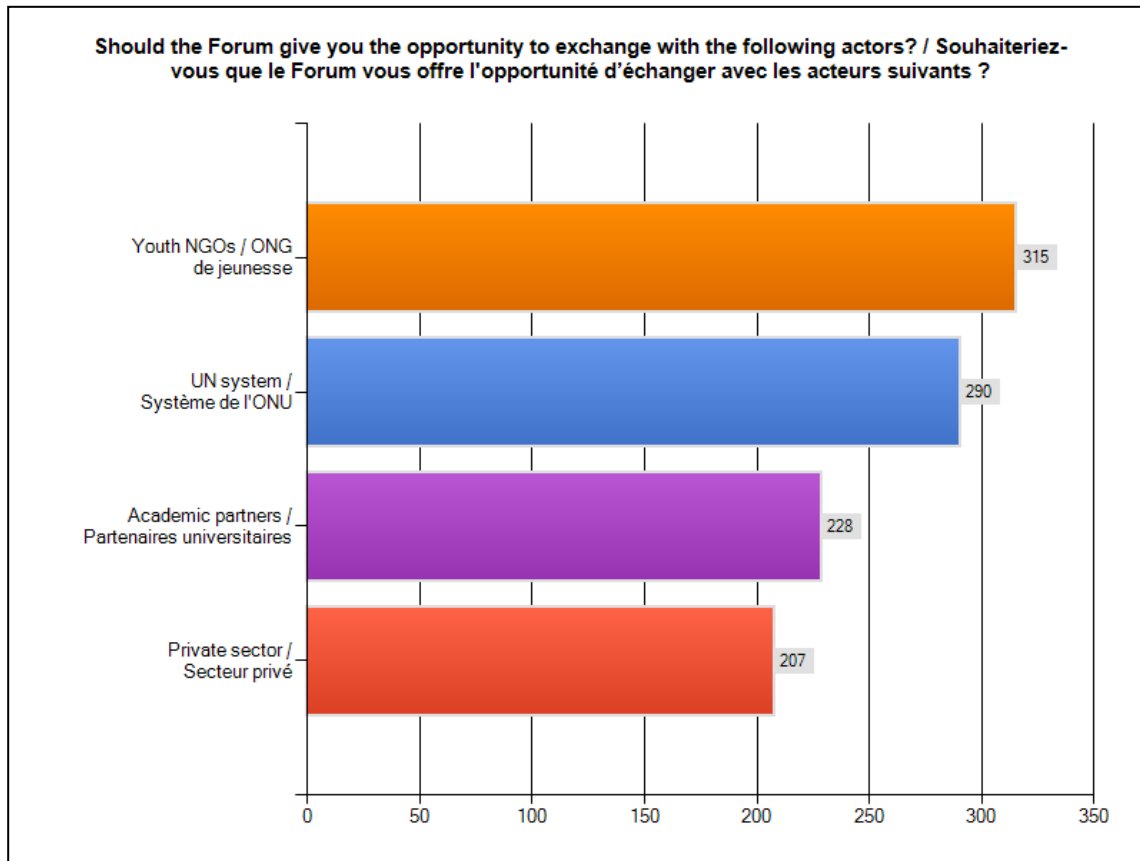
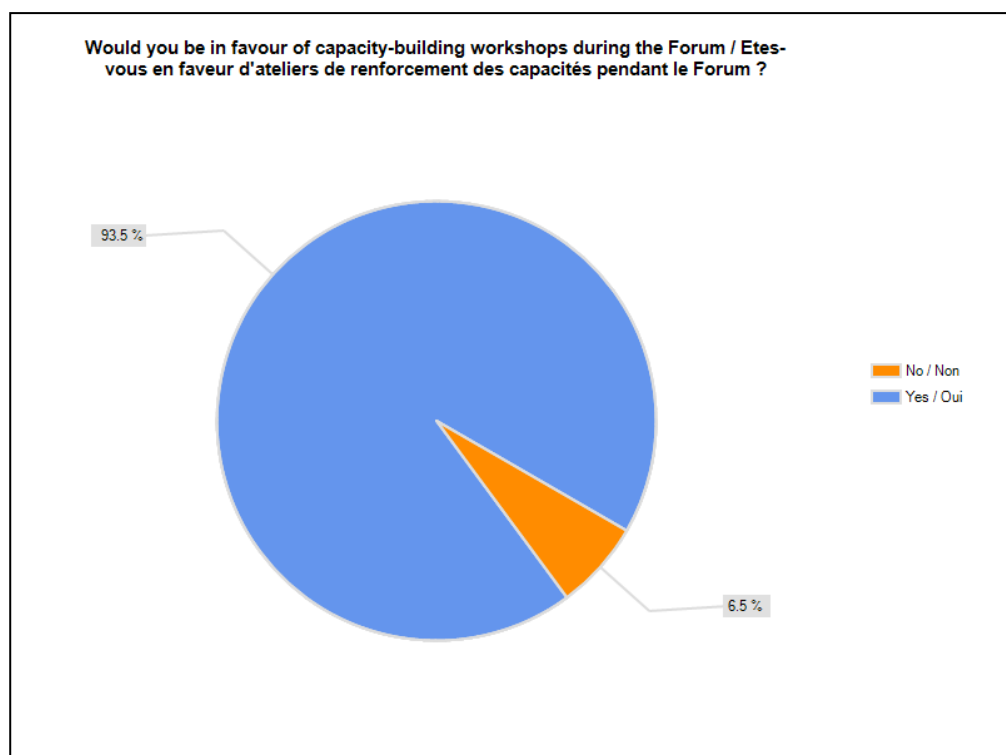


Figure 8. Bar chart of responses to the question “Should the Forum give you the opportunity to exchange with the following actors” (respondents could select as many answers as they wished)

Nearly all, or **93.5%** of the respondents, are in favour of having **capacity-building workshops** during the Forum.

Figure 9. Pie chart of responses to the question “Would you be in favour of capacity-building workshops during the Forum?”



77.3% and 75.1% of all respondents would be ready to **participate in the Forum respectively through remote participation and social media.**

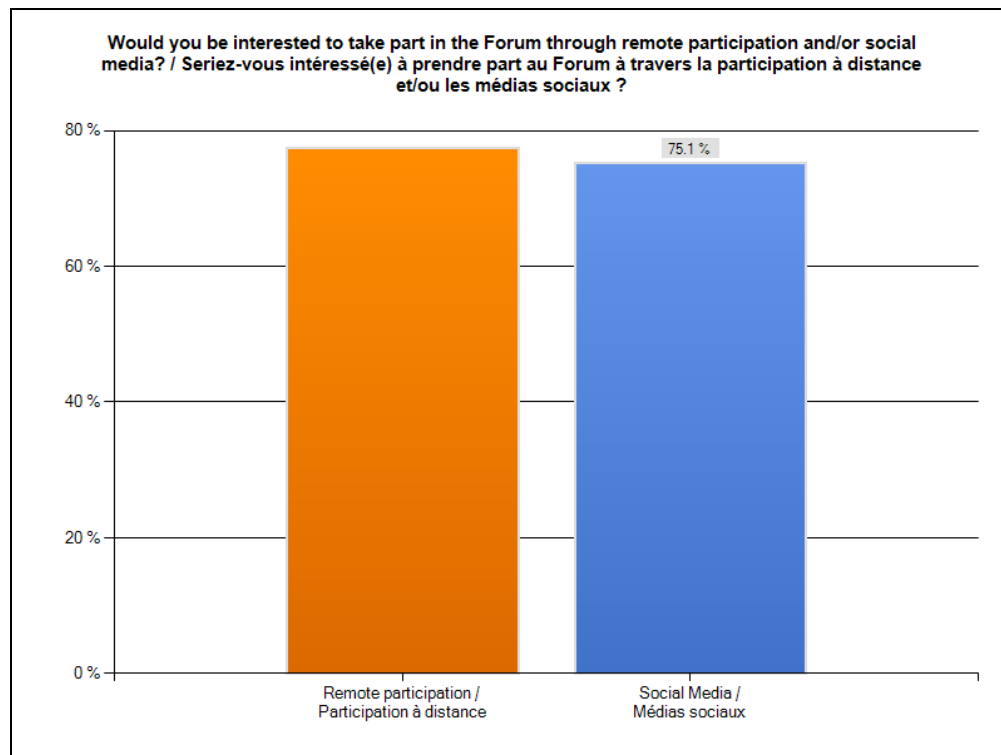
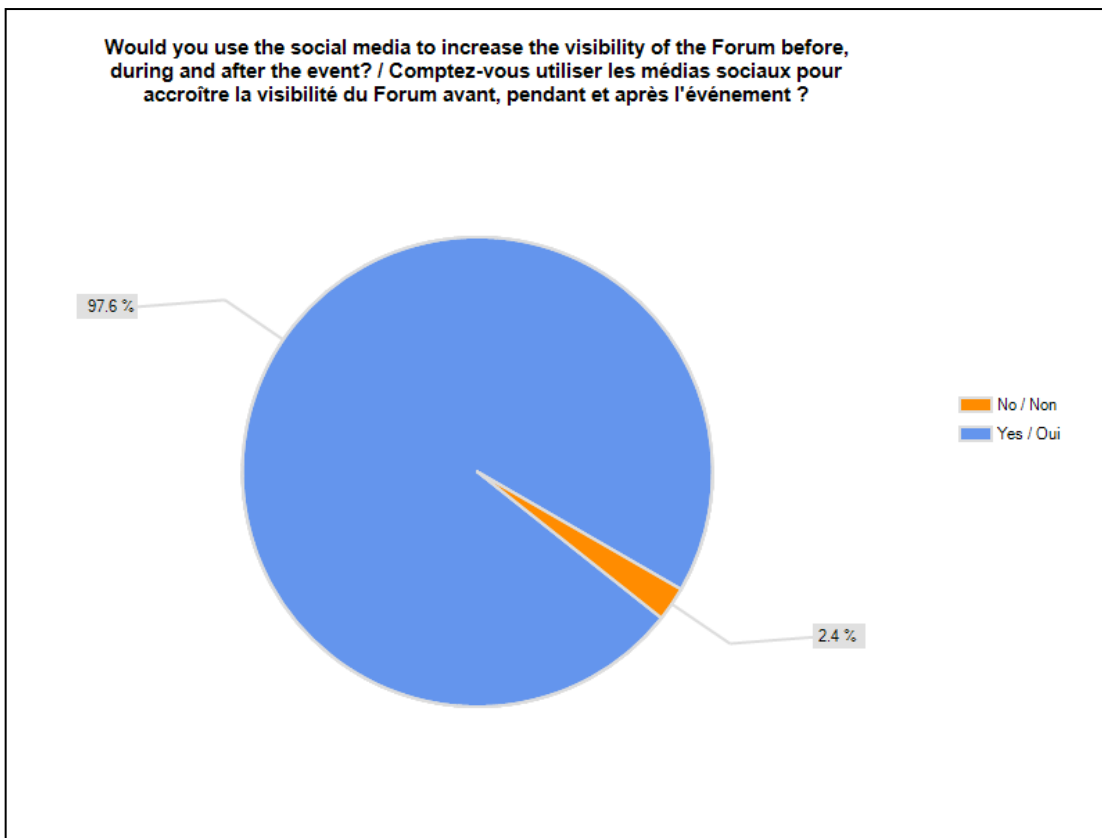


Figure 10. Column chart of responses to the question “Would you be interested to take part in the Forum through remote participation and/or social media?”

V. Communication and visibility

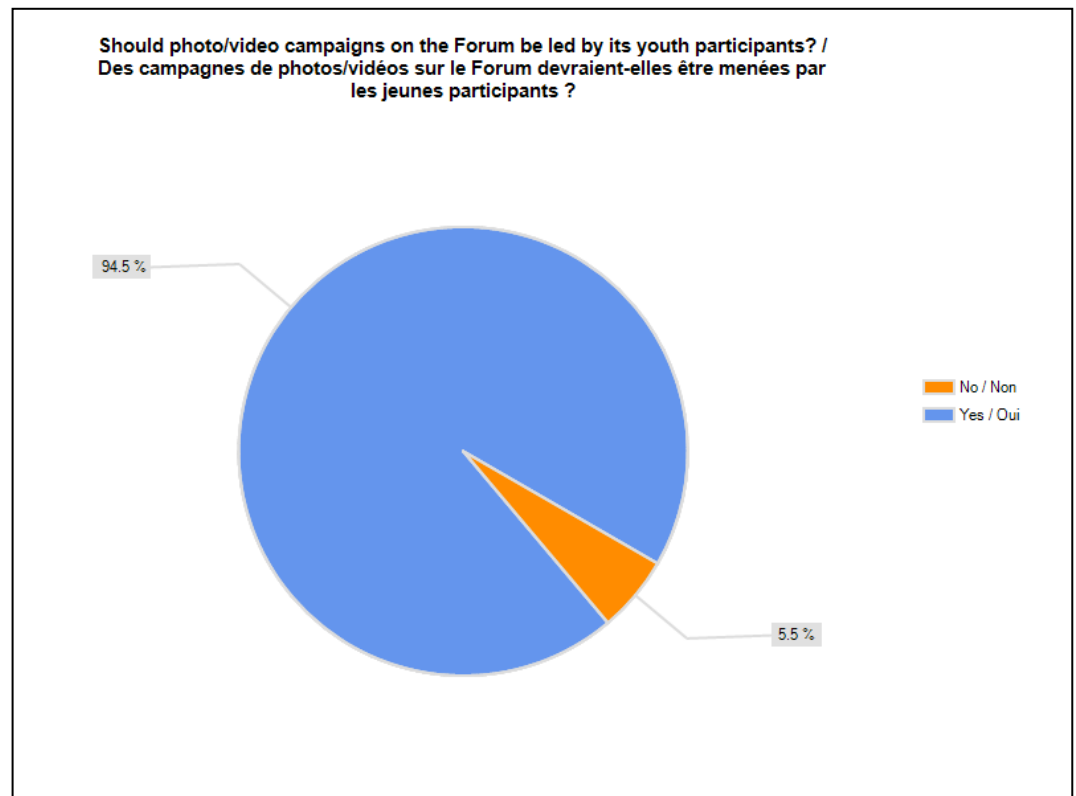


Almost all, or **97.6%** of the respondents affirm that they **would use social media to increase the Forum's visibility**, before, during and after the event.

Figure 11. Pie chart of responses to the question "Would you use the social media to increase the visibility of the Forum before, during and after the event?"

94.5% also agree with the idea of **youth-led photo and video campaigns** on the Forum.

Figure 12. Pie chart of responses to the question "Should photo/video campaigns on the Forum be led by its youth participants?"



VI. Other ideas

Youth respondents were asked to provide **any other ideas concerning the Forum's follow-up, implementation of action projects, or other aspects relating to its functioning**. In what follows is a selection of the proposals, selected as being the most interesting and innovative relative to previous editions of the Forum, as well as those that have been made most frequently by respondents:

Participants:

- Ensuring live-streaming coverage of the Forum's proceedings that would also allow long-distance participation (including through video conferences, social media and Skype). A similar proposal is the organization of a Cyber-Forum.
- Including experts who could guide the youth participants in the different workshops.

Proposed Forum activities:

- Providing space for youth to organize their own activities ("Thematic Square").
- Organizing interactive workshops allowing exchanges among youth and their sharing of best practices.
- Allowing youth define the subjects of workshops upon their arrival.
- Organizing the Forum's debates according to regions.
- Developing an exchange programme for youth-led organizations for the hosting of voluntary work of youths on specific projects.
- Cooperating with TEDx².
- Providing opportunities to build the capacities of youth desks.
- Giving presentation slots to self-employed young women and men.
- Organizing a career fair.
- Organizing a Youth Democratic Festival.
- Involving young artists, musicians, writers, singers, etc., for an emphasis of young talents and the encouragement of cultural exchange between youth.
- Despite the selection of the two main topics, including also the others during the Forum's discussions.
- Awarding prizes to youths making innovative impacts in their communities.
- Avoiding speaker panels.

Action projects:

- Ensuring follow-up to projects initiated after the 7th Forum (2011), e.g. through annual regional meetings. Participants from previous fora could present their realizations during the 8th Forum.
- Establishing a committee or on-line platform for the selection, monitoring and evaluation of action projects, whose follow-up should be based on specific timelines and reporting requirements. In terms of the follow-up of the projects, a proposal is the teaming up of youth delegates for their mutual motivation and support.
- Organizing (capacity-building) workshops focusing on the implementation of the action projects. Involving professional advisers from different sectors for the consultation by youth project leaders on the different stages of the conception and implementation of the projects.

² TEDx gives communities, organizations and individuals the opportunity to stimulate dialogue through TED-like (Technology, Entertainment, Design) experiences at local level.

- Enabling the submission of action projects after the Forum.
- Preparing an exhibition / fair / global village to illustrate action projects (best practices) that have made a difference in communities.
- Encouraging the establishment of national youth teams for effective implementation of action projects, which should be facilitated by UNESCO's structural support, or could be under the direct responsibility of National Commissions.
- Providing funding opportunities for feasible action projects. E.g., mobilizing extra-budgetary funds for projects based on the Forum's recommendations as part of the 37 C/5. Another idea is to facilitate the establishment of contacts between youth participants and potential donors.
- Allowing that action projects are communicated to youth at national level, with indications on how they could contribute to their implementation.

Follow-up:

- Requiring youth participants to draft reports after the Forum in order to diffuse its results at national level.
- Organizing national or regional follow-up meetings on the Forum's outcomes. The outcomes could be better promoted through visuals (photos/videos).
- Undertaking an evaluation of the implementation of recommendations and the advancement of action projects every six months.
- Ensuring that UNESCO field offices oversee the follow-up to the Forum alongside the youth delegates.
- Organizing youth working teams to implement the recommendations of the Forum.
- Using the Forum for the launching of a global campaign for youth empowerment.
- Creating a network of the Forum's participants, before and after the Forum, including with participants of its previous editions.
- Creating an international youth platform.
- Having youth delegates appointed as "National Youth Focal Points" of UNESCO.
- Encourage UNESCO national/regional offices to work in cooperation with youth-led organizations in the implementation of their programmes.
- Allowing the signature of a communiqué at the end of the Forum containing a strategic action plan for the implementation of national youth policies.
- Providing an opportunity to youth delegates to share their experiences with youth in their respective countries.
- Establishing partnerships with national media to promote the results of the Forum.

Other ideas:

- Giving the Forum a status of a commission, so that its participants could have greater authority with the National Commissions.
- Extending the Forum to 5 days, including one dedicated to discussion on the implementation of action plans.
- Use other languages for the Forum (Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, etc.).
- Preparing and circulating a brochure presenting the innovative ideas and interventions by youth.

VII. Formulations on the Forum's thematic areas

On the basis of [phase 1 of the consultation](#), two thematic areas were the most selected by respondents, namely employability on one hand, and democracy and sustainable communities on the other. Respondents to this survey were therefore asked to combine these two themes into formulating short and youth-friendly titles that could be used as mottos for the Forum or as titles for its specific activities. A total of 423 were provided, which will be considered by UNESCO.