

**2024-
2025**

**UNA-USA
ANNUAL
AMERICAN
YOUTH
PRIORITIES
REPORT**



**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

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INTRODUCTION

The 2024-2025 American Youth Priorities Report captures the collective voices, concerns, and aspirations of American youth gathered through extensive national engagement and listening sessions conducted during Oscar Lopez’s tenure as the 13th UNA-USA Youth Observer to the United Nations. From the vibrant communities along the U.S.-Mexico border in San Diego and Tijuana, to the passionate advocates in Boston and frontline climate activists, this report reflects a diverse and determined generation committed to global cooperation, peace, and environmental action.

At a pivotal moment in global affairs, American youth find themselves at a crossroads. With threats to funding for vital United Nations programs and rising challenges to the role of international institutions and cooperation, millions of young Americans are raising their voices with urgency. They affirm the critical importance of sustained engagement with international institutions like the United Nations, recognizing that global challenges require unified, multilateral solutions.

UNA-USA is a grassroots movement of more than 20,000 Americans, most of whom are young people, who believe that their interests and values are best advanced by standing with the premier international forum that brings together the full diversity of the world’s nations: The United Nations. Through its mission to educate, inspire, and mobilize, UNA-USA empowers and emboldens members to advocate for a strong US-UN partnership in their communities and around the world.



MESSAGE FROM THE 13TH YOUTH OBSERVER



My journey as the Youth Observer has been deeply rooted in a belief that authentic youth advocacy and activism transcend traditional boundaries and titles. Throughout the year, as I met with countless passionate youth advocates, my understanding of and appreciation for the myriad ways young people drive change have deepened. From intergenerational dialogues about collaboration across borders to rigorous discussions about educational opportunity and climate action, each conversation underscored an unwavering commitment to building a more just and compassionate world.

One of the most impactful moments of this journey was in my hometown of Laredo, Texas, where I met with climate activists on the front lines of the environmental crisis. Laredo, a vibrant community along the U.S.-Mexico border, faces the devastating consequences of climate change, including extreme heat, water scarcity, and health risks from air pollution. The youth advocates there, driven by personal experience and fierce determination, exemplify why robust international engagement and climate action are indispensable. It was in my experience growing up in Laredo that I came to understand the importance of international collaboration firsthand. Laredo, and our neighbors to the south in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, share a history, culture, economy, and water source. We see ourselves as neighbors, tied together by a connection stronger than any of our differences. As *fronterizos*, people from the borderlands, we recognize that though issues like climate change and conflict have no borders, neither does hope. We've approached every challenge with the understanding that the only path forward is together.

As the global community navigates a period marked by retreat from multilateral commitments, it is vital to amplify youth voices calling for renewed dedication to global cooperation, diplomacy, and environmental stewardship. American youth continue to believe in the mission of the United Nations and in the idea of a strong U.S.-UN partnership, in the importance of concrete action on climate change, and in the promise of a more unified and just world.

MESSAGE FROM THE 13TH YOUTH OBSERVER

Young people have always been at the forefront of change, and our role in advancing the UN's mission has been no different. As we face mounting challenges, we cannot wait for the keys to be handed over to us; we must start leading now. According to the survey conducted by UNA-USA* during the listening tour, young people still believe that the UN provides the best opportunity to tackle the issues we face in every nation. Thus, a better world will only be created if we include young people, not solely as passive observers, but as active participants in decision-making processes.

This means ensuring that no young person is left behind. As someone whose first time engaging with the UN and visiting UNHQ was through this role and during my visit to New York for UNGA 79, I recognize how difficult it can be for some young people to engage with international institutions. The voices of those on the frontlines of crisis, the perspectives that most need to be considered, often do not have the opportunity to be heard. That's why throughout my time as Youth Observer and through the listening tour, I worked to engage with young people from underrepresented, frontline communities and to provide them with the opportunity to have their stories heard. Through the creation of the United Nations Youth Office, led by Assistant-Secretary General Felipe Paullier, the United Nations has made progress in ensuring that young people, especially those from the margins, have the opportunity to shape our collective future.

The testimonies shared throughout this report provide not just insights but clear directives: American youth believe that the United States must engage in collaborative global governance and environmental accountability.

This report honors the energy, vision, and passion of young advocates from coast to coast, and from border communities to urban campuses, all united by the recognition that the future we inherit will be shaped by actions taken today. I hope these insights and stories inspire decisive action and underscore the essential role youth must play in shaping American policy and global futures.

*See the appendix for more data from this survey.

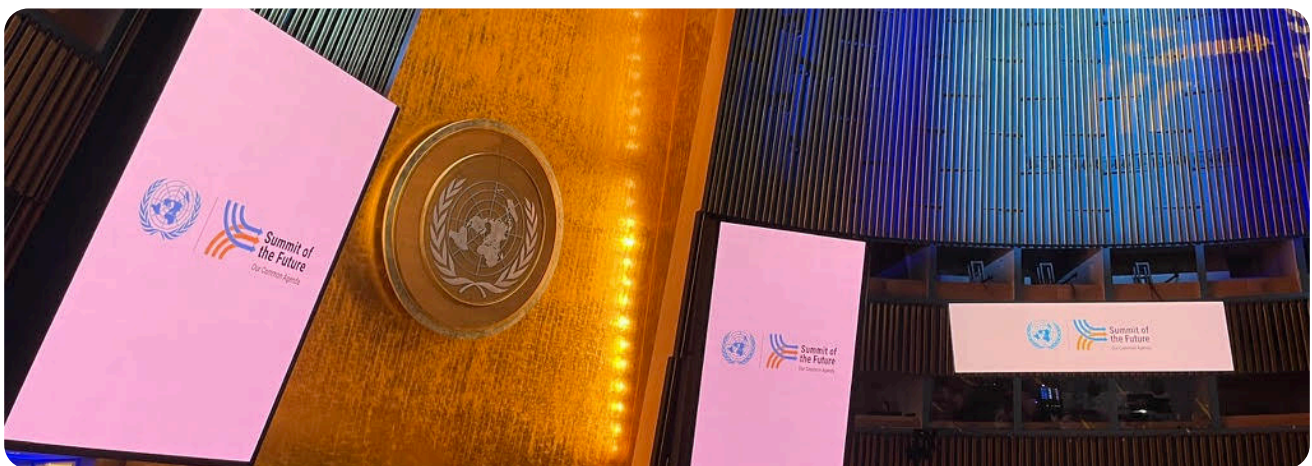
THE SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE & THE PROMISE OF THE PACT

In September 2024, I had the honor of representing American Youth at the Summit of the Future held at the United Nations HQ in New York City. This landmark gathering brought together world leaders, youth advocates, civil society, and UN representatives to map out an ambitious blueprint for lasting cooperation amid global uncertainty.

Central to the Summit was the adoption of the Pact for the Future—a visionary document comprising 56 commitments across sustainable development, peace and security, climate action, technology, youth and future generations, and multilateral reform. The Pact’s dedicated chapter on youth affirms that young people must play a central role in shaping policies and solutions globally, not be sidelined from them.

In this report, the priorities surfaced in the 2024-2025 listening tour mirror these global commitments. From demanding meaningful youth engagement and inclusive institutional reforms to advancing climate action and equitable access to opportunity, the aspirations of American youth reflect and reinforce the pact’s ambitions.

By situating our findings within the framework of the Pact for the Future, this report positions youth as partners and leaders in driving transformative change. Across every page, American youth are ready to help move the world toward the sustainable, just, and inclusive future envisioned at the Summit.



UNA-USA YOUTH BY THE NUMBERS

NUMBER OF YOUTH MEMBERS:

16,000

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS:

250+ COMMUNITY AND CAMPUS

PERCENT OF MEMBERS THAT ARE YOUTH:

70%

KEY THEMES

Throughout the listening tour, youth repeatedly expressed several core themes:

- A deep commitment to inclusion and empathy, particularly towards marginalized communities.
- Recognition of the importance of cooperation and global solidarity, especially at the United Nations.
- Urgency regarding climate change and environmental justice.
- A clear demand for equitable education and accessible opportunities to foster long-term social mobility and community resilience.
- Significant concern over limited youth representation and meaningful engagement within global governance systems.

These themes reflect an interconnected vision for a future rooted in justice, equity, and collaborative internationalism.



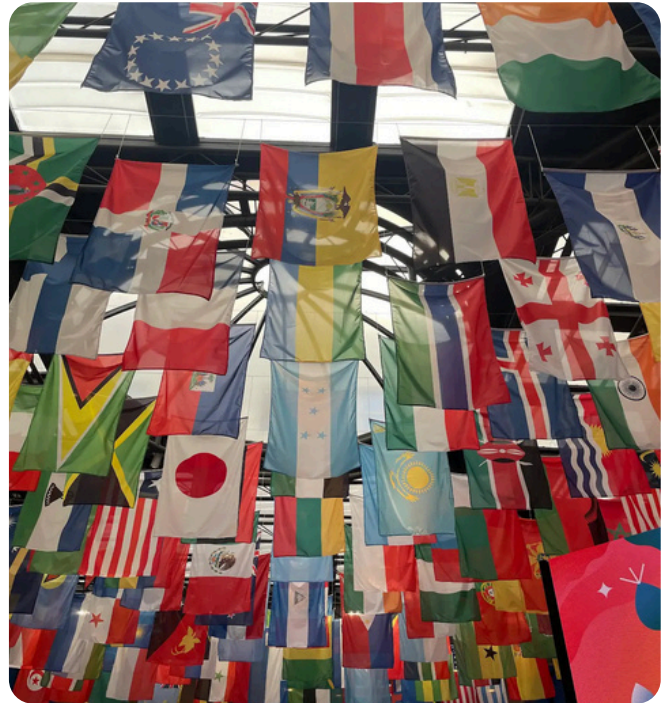
Young people passionately advocate for inclusive communities free from discrimination. In San Diego, a student named Yael specifically highlighted the need for solidarity with LGBTQ+ individuals, explaining how essential such support is after witnessing her peers being mocked and marginalized at school. Sasha, a young technologist, emphasized the transformative potential of technology to enhance empathy by allowing individuals to experience life through others' perspectives. Alexis, another participant, stressed the importance of relationships and human connection, stating that technological advancement alone is insufficient without community and interpersonal relationships. Youth collectively called for educational reforms to instill empathy and solidarity as core values, thus fostering resilient and supportive societies. They underscored that inclusion must be a proactive and sustained effort embedded in everyday interactions, community norms, and institutional practices. Moreover, youth identified the critical need for broader societal dialogues addressing systemic discrimination and promoting inclusivity at all societal levels. They emphasized implementing policies and practices that dismantle discriminatory structures, advocating for widespread awareness campaigns that educate communities on the importance and benefits of diversity and inclusion.

INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, AND EMPATHY



GLOBAL COLLABORATION

Youth from border communities emphasized the need for effective cross-border cooperation. Participants advocated for practical improvements, including enhanced affordable housing availability and strengthened economic and educational collaborations. They emphasized that the border should be perceived and utilized as an opportunity for unity and shared prosperity rather than a point of division. Several participants envisioned innovative policy solutions that could serve as global models, demonstrating how binational cooperation could effectively address broader international issues such as environmental degradation. Youth consistently highlighted the unique position of border regions in fostering mutual understanding, cultural exchange, and peacebuilding efforts. Additionally, youth broadly recognized the importance of cooperation and global solidarity, particularly through engagement with international institutions like the United Nations.



They emphasized the need for nations, especially the United States, to actively participate in UN initiatives and uphold international commitments to address global challenges collaboratively. Youth voices called for stronger multilateral diplomacy and international partnerships, emphasizing that global solidarity is crucial for tackling complex issues such as climate change, public health crises, human rights, and conflict resolution. The discussions reflected a worry about the current direction of international affairs, but a continued hope in a collective vision for the future. This vision is characterized by collaborative governance frameworks, shared community initiatives, and cross-border partnerships designed to improve overall regional well-being and prosperity.



CLIMATE ACTION & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Climate change consistently emerged as a critical priority across discussions. Participants from Boston University underscored their generation's unique circumstances, despite not being responsible for the climate crisis, emphasizing the urgency of immediate action. Youth from Laredo, Texas, detailed their personal encounters with severe climate and environmental impacts, including extreme temperatures, water scarcity, and air pollution, all exacerbated by ongoing environmental degradation. They passionately advocated for comprehensive climate education, stressing the importance of equipping younger generations with accurate information and practical tools to tackle environmental challenges effectively.

Participants called for bold policy action at local, national, and international levels, emphasizing the necessity of robust international cooperation to achieve meaningful change. Moreover, they underscored the importance of supporting communities disproportionately affected by climate change, highlighting the need for equitable resource distribution, resilience planning, and targeted interventions to address the uneven burden borne by frontline communities. Participants further emphasized the urgency of enforcing stringent environmental regulations, incentivizing renewable energy development, and promoting sustainable consumption patterns to mitigate environmental degradation.



EQUITABLE EDUCATION & ACCESSIBLE OPPORTUNITIES



Participants from UCLA, Boston, and Santa Barbara identified significant barriers to educational equity and accessible opportunities, emphasizing issues like transportation limitations, insufficient funding, and inadequate outreach efforts for marginalized groups. At UCLA, a participant described the difficulty of accessing volunteer opportunities due to transportation challenges, stressing the need for enhanced logistical support to improve student participation in community-based initiatives. Youth highlighted educational disparities arising from resource allocation and systemic inequities, advocating for increased investment in underserved schools and communities. They called for initiatives that address financial, logistical, and social barriers to education, ensuring all young people have access to quality learning environments. The discussions underscored the profound connection between educational equity and social justice, emphasizing education as a cornerstone for achieving long-term societal transformation and equitable community development. Youth urged policymakers and educational leaders to prioritize comprehensive reforms to create inclusive, accessible educational systems. Additional recommendations included the development of scholarship programs, mentorship networks, and community-driven initiatives specifically tailored to support historically marginalized and underrepresented students

MEANINGFUL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AT THE UN

Youth expressed significant frustration regarding limited meaningful engagement within global governance frameworks. Participants from Boston University described barriers in securing volunteer and internship positions within international institutions, highlighting complex processes and inadequate funding opportunities that excluded many capable and passionate youth. Students emphasized the necessity of structured, accessible pathways enabling youth to participate directly in international policymaking and implementation processes.

These findings closely align with the Pact for the Future, particularly its chapter on Youth and Future Generations, which reaffirms the global commitment to expanding youth participation, improving access to opportunities, and integrating youth perspectives into decision-making at all levels. American youth see these parallels as encouraging and as evidence that their priorities are being recognized at the highest levels of international diplomacy.

Participants also welcomed the creation of the UN Youth Office as a historic development for ensuring there is sustained and meaningful youth engagement within the UN system. While acknowledging persistent barriers, young people viewed this new office as a vehicle for delivering on the Pact for the Future's commitments, particularly through advancing youth participation, capacity-building programs, and funding mechanisms that can transform ambition into action.

Young Americans called for the UN to not only uphold these commitments but to model best practices in inclusion and accessibility. They stressed that implementing the Pact for the Future's youth provisions will require innovative, youth-friendly communication channels, more entry points into the system, and dedicated platforms where diverse youth voices are genuinely represented and influential. By fully realizing these commitments, the UN can unlock the full potential of youth contributions in addressing global challenges and ensure meaningful, lasting participation in shaping the world's future.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LISTENING TOUR

San Diego & Tijuana: Advocates emphasized inclusion and binational collaboration, envisioning innovative cross-border solutions to regional and global challenges.

UCLA: Students highlighted barriers to equitable education and called for increased engagement by universities in advancing SDGs the UN's mission.

Santa Barbara: Local activists addressed housing instability and called for stronger local government commitment to the SDGs sustainable development.

Boston University: Discussions focused on climate education, equitable resource distribution, and enhancing youth accessibility to UN platforms.

Laredo: Frontline climate advocates underscored the urgent need for environmental justice, policy action, and sustained international cooperation.

The San Diego-Tijuana Intergenerational Town Hall offered a unique and powerful platform for cross-border dialogue on the future of our communities and our planet. As part of Our Future Agenda's Road to 2100 Intergenerational Town Hall Series, this event gathered young people from both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border, Tijuana and San Diego, to engage in participatory panels, visionary discussions, and intergenerational dialogues. These youth voiced strong hopes for a more connected, inclusive, and empathetic world by the year 2100.

One young participant from San Diego remarked that it's easy to be pessimistic, but it's hard to be an optimist. Despite this, they felt that the fact that everyone was present at the town hall was a reason to be hopeful. Another youth from Tijuana shared their concern that "everything that comes across their phone gives them a reason to be sad, citing environmental degradation and inequality. Still, they recognized the power in coming together and imagining a better future.

Themes of empathy, digital connection, and solidarity with marginalized communities, including LGBTQ+ individuals, surfaced throughout. "Tech doesn't have to divide us," said a participant who used virtual reality to explore an LGBTQ+ museum, suggesting instead that technology can foster understanding across differences.

In group discussions, young people described their vision of 2100 as a more unified world, where sister cities like San Diego and Tijuana collaborate on sustainability, public transportation, and economic opportunity.

This town hall highlighted that while optimism may be difficult, it is still possible, and youth must be part of shaping the long-term vision for peace, climate justice, and global collaboration.

THE CASE FOR CONTINUED UNITED STATES ENGAGEMENT WITH THE UN AND CLIMATE DIPLOMACY

Across the listening tour, a consistent theme emerged from youth participants nationwide: deep concern about the United States' retreat from international leadership. Young people voiced apprehension about the U.S. withdrawing funding from core United Nations programs, pulling out from global treaties like the Paris Climate Agreement, and signaling a diminished role in multilateral diplomacy. These actions, they argue, not only weaken the institutions built to maintain peace and development but also send a dangerous message that the U.S. is turning away from global cooperation at a time when it is most needed.

At UCLA, youth expressed how the current political climate made it difficult to trust that global commitments would be upheld, pointing out that "it's hard to have hope for the SDGs as young people." Students described feeling disillusioned by policy rollbacks, particularly those affecting climate action and human rights, emphasizing that U.S. disengagement directly undermines youth-led and community-based progress.



THE CASE FOR CONTINUED UNITED STATES ENGAGEMENT WITH THE UN AND CLIMATE DIPLOMACY

This disengagement has practical and emotional consequences. When the U.S. pulls out of international climate agreements or reduces support for UN programs, it leaves frontline communities more vulnerable to the cascading effects of environmental degradation, economic instability, and global inequity. The withdrawal also reduces youth faith in multilateralism as a valuable tool, eroding trust in the very systems designed to address global challenges.

Despite this, there remains a deep well of optimism and belief among American youth in the UN's potential. Many see the UN as one of the few remaining bastions of global problem-solving, and they want to see the United States recommit to its leadership role. They are calling for bold action, such as rejoining the Paris Agreement in full, championing youth-focused climate programs, and ensuring that the U.S. delegation to the UN meaningfully engages with civil society.

Youth across the country are urging U.S. leaders to understand that climate diplomacy and international engagement are not optional. The voices from this listening tour make it clear: American youth believe in the power of international cooperation, and they want their country to lead with courage, collaboration, and commitment.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Based on feedback gathered during the listening tour, American youth recommend a series of urgent and actionable steps to ensure that their voices are not only heard but that their priorities are implemented in both national and global arenas. These recommendations reflect the lived experiences, frustrations, and aspirations of young people across diverse communities, particularly those who have historically been left out of decision-making spaces.

1

Strengthen Binational and Cross-Border Cooperation:

Youth in border regions strongly emphasized the need for smarter, more compassionate binational policies. These communities, which exist at the intersection of two nations, see themselves as natural models for peaceful cooperation. Participants called for the U.S. to support initiatives that foster economic collaboration and jointly address shared environmental challenges. Cross-border partnerships should be seen not as exceptions but as guiding examples of 21st-century diplomacy.

Support Grassroots and Youth-Led Movements:

Young people highlighted the power and potential of grassroots efforts, particularly those led by youth, to effect real change. From Laredo's climate advocates to students organizing housing and food security projects at UCLA and Boston University, young leaders are addressing systemic problems with limited resources. Policymakers, philanthropic institutions, and global organizations should prioritize direct funding, mentorship, and logistical support for these efforts. As one student expressed, "We have the passion and the plans. What we need now is the support."

2

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

3

Recommit to Climate Diplomacy and Global Agreements:

Across every stop on the tour, climate action emerged as a top priority. Young Americans view the U.S. withdrawal from agreements like the Paris Climate Accord as a betrayal of their future. They are demanding that the U.S. reassert its leadership by fully re-engaging in climate diplomacy, committing to science-based emissions targets, and participating in UN climate platforms.



Ensure Equitable Access to Education and Opportunities:

Education is seen as a vital pathway to opportunity, yet youth continue to face barriers to access. Transportation challenges, lack of institutional outreach, and rising housing costs affect students. Participants proposed expanding funding for public transportation, incentivizing institutions to develop community partnerships, increasing education and outreach for resources, and investing in programs that bridge opportunity gaps. A young person from UCLA noted, "The programs exist, but so many people don't even know they're there."

4

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

5

Institutionalize Youth Engagement at the UN:

Youth want to move from symbolic participation to structural inclusion within the UN system. Participants recommended the establishment of permanent youth advisory boards, paid youth fellowships, and the expansion of national youth delegates who can inform policy and speak on behalf of their communities. To be meaningful, youth engagement must be embedded in the UN's institutional DNA—not treated as a one-time consultation. As one participant put it, "Listening is the first step. Acting on what we say is what real inclusion looks like."

Recommit to International Collaboration and Multilateralism:

Finally, young Americans strongly call for a renewed U.S. commitment to global cooperation, particularly through the United Nations. Participants across the listening tour expressed concern that U.S. disengagement from international institutions and treaties weakens our credibility and hampers the global response to shared challenges. They recommend the U.S. actively rejoin, fund, and help lead multilateral efforts—especially in areas such as climate change, peacebuilding, global health, and sustainable development. Youth also emphasized the need for U.S. leaders to uplift international frameworks like the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement as central to their policymaking agenda.

6

Together, these recommendations represent a roadmap toward a more inclusive, sustainable, and globally connected future—one led by and with young people.

TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE READING THIS:

This report is not just a reflection of what American youth believe, it is an invitation to join a movement. Whether you're organizing in your local community, speaking out online, or showing up at the polls, your participation is shaping the future of our world. At a time when global challenges grow more complex, youth are not just stakeholders: we are changemakers, visionaries, and leaders.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN TAKE ACTION:

STAY INFORMED:

Learn more about the United Nations' work, sustainable development, and global issues that impact your community.

BUILD COMMUNITY:

Join or start a local UNA-USA chapter, climate action club, or civic initiative. Collective action starts with shared purpose.

SPEAK UP:

Use your platforms—whether in classrooms, town halls, or social media—to raise awareness and advocate for change.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS MORE THAN EVER

TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE READING THIS:

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN TAKE ACTION:

HOLD LEADERS ACCOUNTABLE:

Demand transparency and ambition from elected officials. Push for U.S. reengagement in multilateral efforts like the Paris Agreement.

PRACTICE SOLIDARITY:

Support movements across communities, including those fighting for racial justice, LGBTQ+ rights, disability inclusion, climate justice, and immigrant and refugee rights.

VOTE AND MOBILIZE:

Participate in elections, organize youth voter registration drives, and make sure your generation's voice is heard.

Our generation has inherited immense challenges—but also tremendous power. From coast to coast, youth have made clear: we are ready to lead.

**NOW IS THE TIME TO
ACT, TO ORGANIZE,
AND TO REIMAGINE
THE FUTURE WE
DESERVE.**

CONCLUSION: A CALL TO ACTION

The priorities shared in this report are more than a snapshot of youth perspectives, they are part of a broader global movement toward the future we agreed to at the Summit of the Future. When world leaders adopted the Pact for the Future, they committed to action on peace and security, sustainable development, climate action, digital cooperation, multilateral reform, and empowering youth and future generations.

American youth echo those commitments. The calls for inclusive decision-making, ambitious climate action, equitable education, and stronger international cooperation are directly aligned with the Pact's core pillars and its vision of a multilateral system that is fair, responsive, and future-focused.

clearly articulate a unified call for action, collaboration, and renewed international commitment. Throughout the listening tour, young people voiced not only their deep concern about current global challenges—such as the climate crisis, educational inequality, and the erosion of trust in democratic institutions—but also their unwavering hope in the possibility of change. Their vision is ambitious yet grounded in lived experience.

Youth across the country emphasized the urgency of embedding their perspectives and leadership in policy development at every level—local, national, and international. They are not asking for symbolic gestures, but for meaningful partnerships and structural changes that reflect their capacity, creativity, and commitment. The future is not a distant concept for them; it is a rapidly approaching reality they are already shaping. Across the U.S., young Americans are stepping into the role of bridge-builders, changemakers, and global citizens.



CONCLUSION: A CALL TO ACTION

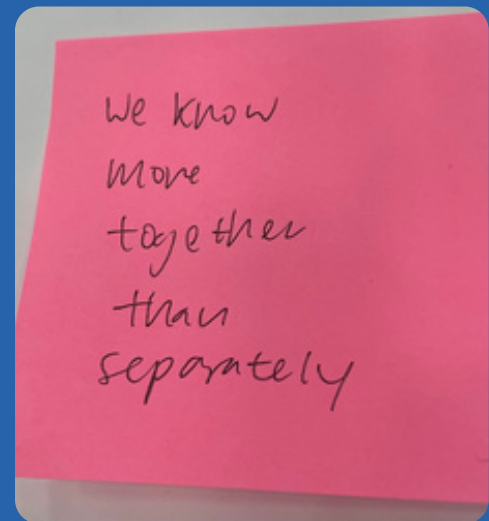
The creation of the UN Youth Office, welcomed with optimism by American youth, is one step toward realizing this vision. Its mandate—to connect, support, and elevate youth voices—will help ensure that the perspectives reflected here do not remain on paper, but actively inform the decisions that shape our shared future.

As global dynamics shift and challenges grow more complex, the promise of the Pact remains a moral anchor. Implementing it will require government action in addition to the sustained energy, creativity, and leadership of young people in every country.

Policymakers, civil society leaders, educators, and international institutions must rise to meet this moment. A recommitment to global cooperation, particularly through active U.S. participation in the United Nations and its work is essential. By uplifting youth priorities and supporting youth-led solutions, we not only address urgent global challenges but also cultivate a generation of informed, empowered leaders equipped to carry forward the ideals of peace, equity, and justice.

This report is a call for U.S. policymakers, civil society, and communities to champion that vision, to recommit to international collaboration, and to see youth not as the leaders of tomorrow, but as essential partners today.

Together, we can build a future where youth are not merely consulted but are co-creators of a world that reflects our highest aspirations. This report is a testament to their vision—and a call to act on it.



BIOGRAPHY OF THE 13TH YOUTH OBSERVER

Oscar Armando Lopez III is a researcher, writer, and artist from the U.S.-Mexico border whose work spans public policy, youth advocacy, climate action, and multilateral diplomacy. He served as the 13th UNA-USA Youth Observer to the United Nations, where he represented American youth in global forums and helped advance youth priorities within UN processes.

Oscar holds a B.A. in Government and a B.B.A. in Business Honors from the University of Texas at Austin. His commitment to inclusive policy making has led him to roles across sectors, including the White House where he advanced federal climate policy through the Council on Environmental Quality. In 2025, Oscar was selected to represent the United States at the Y20 Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, where he served as the Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability delegate, working alongside young leaders from across the globe to shape policy recommendations for G20 leaders.



Oscar also serves as a Young Advisor to the Story Lab, a flagship initiative of the United Nations Foundation's Unlock the Future coalition. In this role, he provides strategic input on content development to ensure that global storytelling initiatives—on issues such as climate justice, youth empowerment, and economic reform—resonate with young people and influence decision-making on the world stage.

Oscar has served on several boards, including Lady Gaga's Born This Way Foundation's Advisory Board, where he championed mental health equity in Latinx communities and supported the foundation's \$3 million Kindness in Community Fund, helping direct funding to 65 youth-led mental health initiatives across ten countries. He also serves on the Laredo Food Policy Council, where he helped pass a plan to alleviate food deserts in South Texas.

BIOGRAPHY OF THE 13TH YOUTH OBSERVER

A longtime advocate for digital equity, Oscar was selected as the youngest-ever Google Public Policy Fellow in 2019. His research on the effects of the digital divide on low-income communities led to a formal filing with the Federal Communications Commission focused on improving nationwide efforts to close the digital divide.

In response to growing concerns about water scarcity in his hometown, Oscar co-founded the El Río Es Vida Coalition, a collective of scientists, organizers, and community members working to protect the Rio Grande and secure long-term water access for border communities.

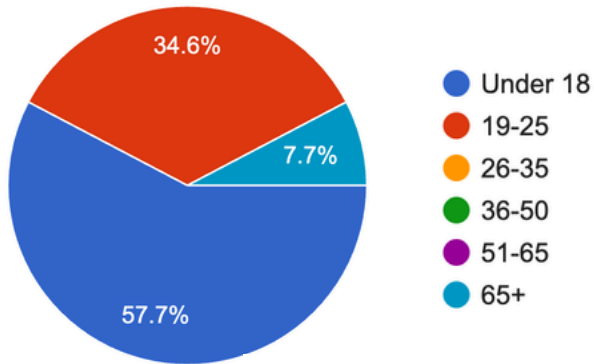
As a student leader, Oscar was the first student of Central American descent to serve as Speaker of the Student Government Assembly at UT Austin and helped allocate over \$41 million to initiatives that improved mental health resources and campus diversity. His research has been supported by the Mellon Foundation, and his photography has been exhibited throughout the U.S.

In 2025, Oscar was named UNA-NCA's Emerging Human Rights Leader. He has spoken and been featured at international forums including the Clinton Global Initiative, the Concordia Summit, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' World Food Forum.

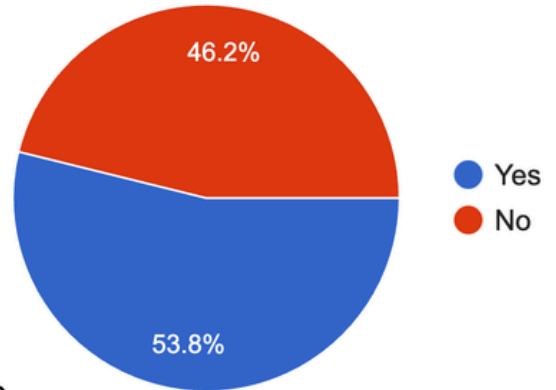


APPENDIX - DEMOGRAPHICS

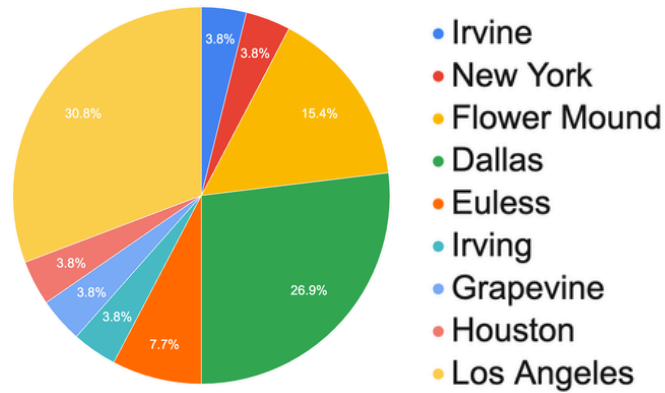
Age



Are you a UNA-USA Member?



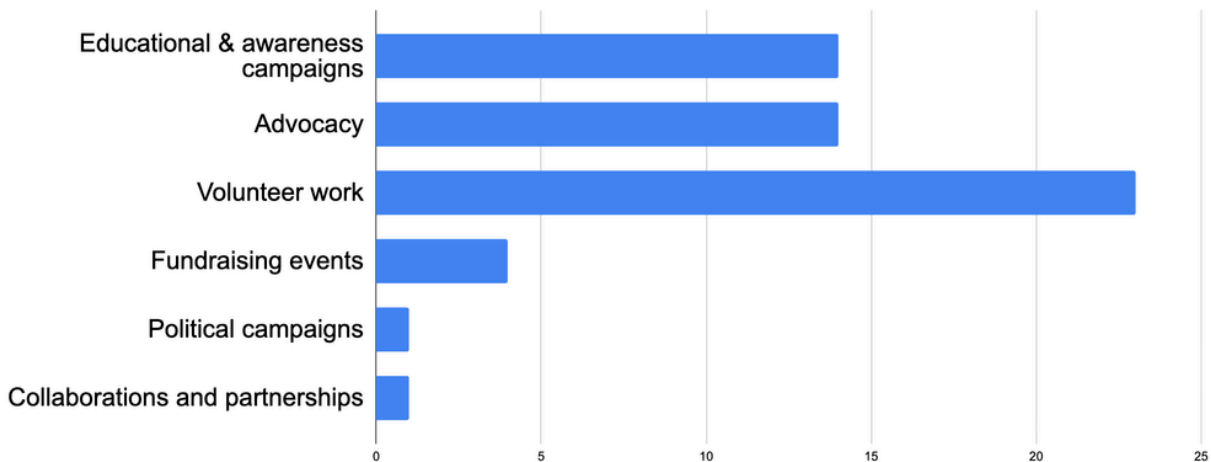
What city are you from?



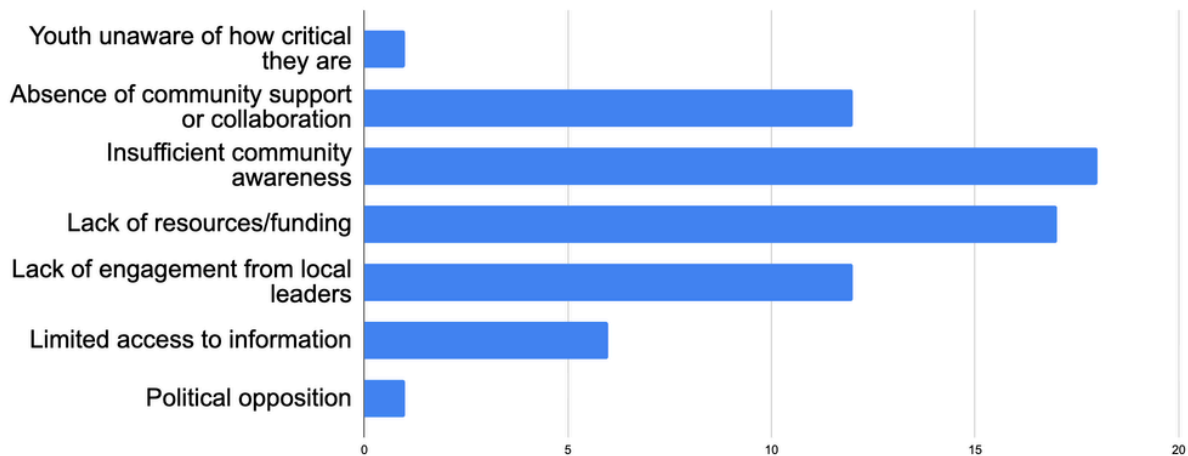
Which SDGs are you most passionate about? (Select up to 3)



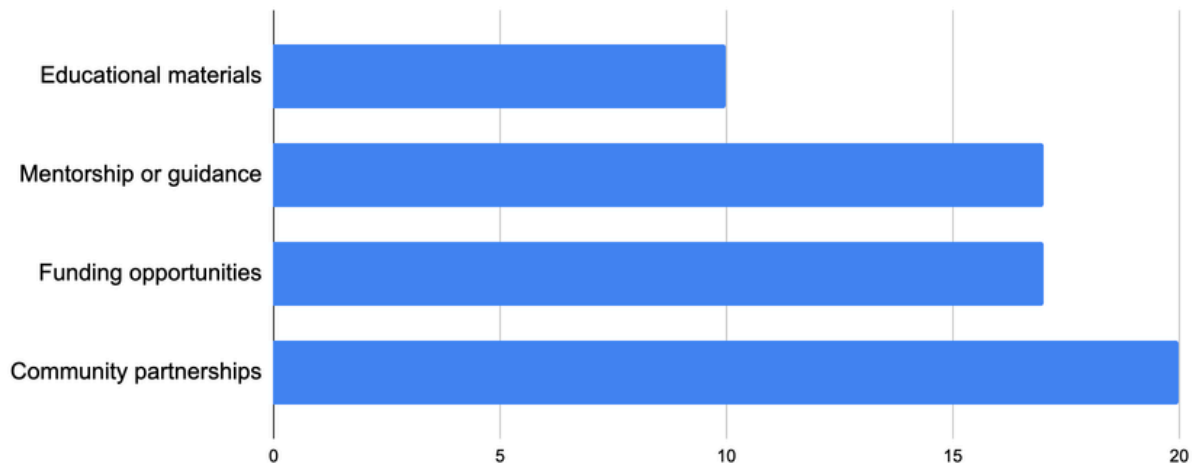
In what ways are you supporting the SDGs in your local community? (Select all that apply)



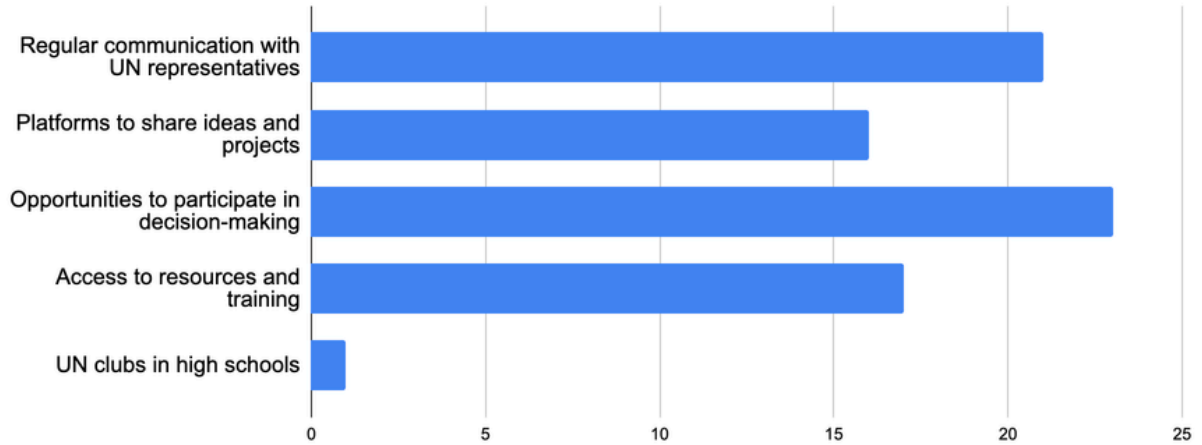
What challenges do you face in advancing the SDGs in your community? (Select all that apply)



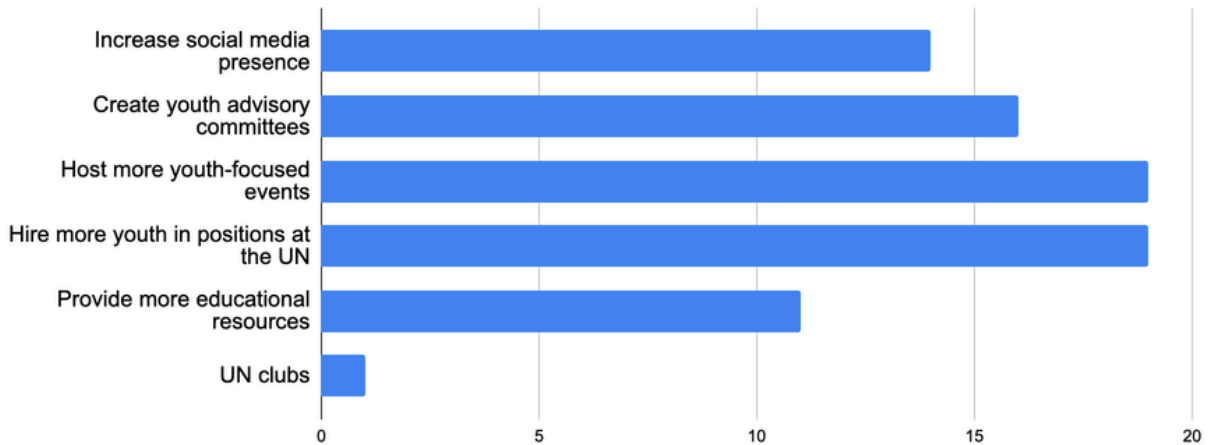
What resources or support do you need to better contribute to the SDGs? (Select all that apply)



What does meaningful youth engagement at the UN look like to you? (Select all that apply)



How can the UN improve its engagement with American youth? (Select all that apply)



What issues do you believe should be prioritized by the UN in relation to youth?

