

# United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth

## Children and Youth International Board

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**Background** 2

**Structure and Members** 2

**Length of Term** 2

Term Year 2

Allocation of Duties and Responsibilities 2

Process and Timeline 2

**Annex** 3

    Grievance Redressal Mechanism 3

    Timeline and Calendar 4

## Background

According to the *Processes and Procedures* of the UN MGCY<sup>1</sup> Children and Youth International (CYI) is the financial and legal body of the *UN Major Group for Children and Youth* (UN MGCY). It (CYI) was established for this specific purpose in 2010. It supports the functioning of its secretariat<sup>2</sup>, it oversees the work of the Organising Partners (OPs)<sup>3</sup>, co-leads the OPs election process along with the UN MGCY coordination team, convenes UN MGCY's grievance redressal mechanism, and provides the organisational avenue for young individuals aged 30 and below to engage in the work of the UN MGCY.

## Structure and Members<sup>4</sup>

CYI's activities are executed through its board. The membership composition is based on the structure that was constituted in 2014 at the CYI General Assembly during the World Conference on Youth in Sri Lanka. The positions are held in an individual capacity and those aged 35 or below are eligible<sup>5</sup>. It includes:

- 5-7 Seats allocated to nominations by the existing board
- 7 Seats<sup>6</sup> allocated to nominations by the coordination team<sup>7</sup>
- 5-7 Seats allocated to nominations through an open call in CYI membership
- Ex-officio<sup>8</sup> seats for Organising Partners and the Administrator

If the number of nominations in any category exceeds the number of available spots, then the candidates are finalised through an election (including the red flagging process) within the scope of the composition of the nominating structure. All efforts will be made to reflect gender parity and regional balance.

## Length of Term

The length is two (2) years. In order to ensure institutional continuity, the outgoing and incoming members of the board, (other than the ex-officio positions) are staggered at half and half within each category. An individual can serve up to two non *ex officio* terms (consecutive or otherwise) as a board member.

## Term Year

Ideally the term year (including handover period) of the board extends between sessions of the ECOSOC Youth Forum with the handover aligned with that of the UNMGCY secretariat.

## Allocation of Duties and Responsibilities

The board internally determines its distribution of work in line with its obligations as per its charter and the *UN MGCY Processes and Procedures*.

## Process and Timeline

The process to establish the new CYI board ideally starts *in January* and is concluded by the *ECOSOC Youth Forum the same year with the handover finalised at HLPF*.

## Accountability

The board is accountable to the members of UNMGCY and CYI as per its (CYI's) charter.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unmgcy.org/governance>

<sup>2</sup> The specific distribution of tasks will be determined bilaterally and further shared publicly, including with the UNMGCY Coordination Team.

<sup>3</sup> Elaborated in the terms of reference of the secretariat organising partners

<sup>4</sup> The board will open a call within each of the nominating structures, which are expected to carry out their deliberations in a transparent manner (process communicated to the board) as per their existing modalities.

<sup>5</sup> If they became individual members of CYI when they were aged 30 and below

<sup>6</sup> These individuals cannot be representatives on the UN MGCY coordination team at the time of start or during their term. In the event of an overlap of calendars a case by case arrangement may be worked out

<sup>7</sup> One from each substantive cluster- 1) Resilience and Humanitarian Action, 2) Peace and Security, 3) Sustainable Development- Environmental Dimension, 4) Economic Dimension, 5) Social Dimension, 6) Human Rights ; and one collective from the (7) regional caucuses- Asia Pacific, Africa, Western Asia, Europe and North America, Latin America and Caribbean

<sup>8</sup> Outgoing individuals have the non mandatory option to stay on the board for a term as non ex-officio members

## Annex

### Grievance Redressal Mechanism

All members of the UN MGCY are encouraged to address and solve disputes within the context of the working or coordinating structures or other UN MGCY bodies in which the dispute arises. If doing so presents any hardship, members can request the invocation and assistance of the Grievance Redressal Mechanism. The mechanism seeks to follow human centric values of restorative justice.

- (a) The request occurs when the aggrieved member or members of the UN MGCY or CYI make a formal complaint within the scope of the UN MGCY's work and engagement in writing by email to the CYI Board of Trustees. The board, after due consideration of the complaint, can either accept, deny, or ask for more information regarding the issue at hand. If the complaint is denied, an explanation must be provided in writing. If the complaint is accepted, the Grievance Redressal Mechanism is officially invoked.
- (b) When invoked, the mechanism results in the formulation of an ad hoc body convened by the board (excluding any board members that may be a party to the dispute), created in light of the dispute at hand and should contain at least three (3) people from within the organisational structures of the UN MGCY. Before the ad hoc body is finalised and proceeds with its work all parties will need to provide agreement with its composition. If there is no agreement within a reasonable timeframe, the CYI board will carry out the process.
- (c) The ad hoc body is mandated to take up the dispute, hear the grievances presented, and formulate a means by which to address the problems at hand, including conducting mediation (if agreed to by all parties). The ad hoc body should speak directly to the parties involved in the dispute and any other persons with relevant information. Moreover, the ad hoc body can organise a hearing with all parties involved in the dispute. Hearings are closed to all other members of the UN MGCY and CYI, whether mandated or ordinary, so as to protect the privacy of the aggrieved member(s) and the accused, as well as to preserve the integrity of the work of the ad hoc body.
- (d) The decision of the ad hoc body is binding on the parties to the dispute. The Secretariat is tasked with enforcing this decision in a way that continues to protect the privacy and ensure safety of involved parties.. If the parties to the dispute ignore the decision of the ad hoc body, then further measures can be taken by the Secretariat in order to resolve the dispute. At each stage of the ad hoc body's work, the CYI Board of Trustees will play an oversight role so as to ensure the fair and timely execution of the ad hoc body's mandate.
- (e) The mandate of the ad hoc body ends once it has made its decision, and all the information pertaining to the matter has been recorded and documented. Decisions should be reached within three (3) months. If this is not possible, the CYI Board of Trustees can elect to extend the mandate of the ad hoc body on a month to month basis. If the ad hoc body is unable to fulfill its mandate, the Board may rescind the mandate of the ad hoc body and appoint a new one.
- (f) Follow-up ad hoc bodies can be established if further investigation or a new decision is needed using the above process.
- (g) Privacy and safety of all parties (the aggrieved, accused, witnesses, etc) must be ensured at all times.

## Timeline and Calendar

The following provides an overview of the composition of the board and associated ideal timelines:

Composition			Timeline		
Nominating Entity	Number of Seats	Staggered Distribution	Opening process	Elect/Handover	Complete Transition
Existing Board	5-7	2 + 2	Winter	January or ECOSOC Youth Forum	ECOSOC Youth Forum or HLPF
Coordination Team	7	3 + 3	Winter	January or ECOSOC Youth Forum	ECOSOC Youth Forum or HLPF
Assembly	5-7	2 + 2	Winter	January or ECOSOC Youth Forum	ECOSOC Youth Forum or HLPF
Ex Officio- Organising Partners and Administrator	4	4	Winter	January or ECOSOC Youth Forum	ECOSOC Youth Forum or HLPF
Non Mandatory Seats for Outgoing Organising Partners and Administrator	4	NA	NA	January or ECOSOC Youth Forum	ECOSOC Youth Forum or HLPF

