



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

# GLOBAL YOUTH FORUM 2026

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT THE FRONTIERS OF NEW TECH

26 JANUARY – 6 FEBRUARY 2026  
UNITED NATIONS TURIN CAMPUS, ITALY

*Information Note*



International  
Labour  
Organization

ITC

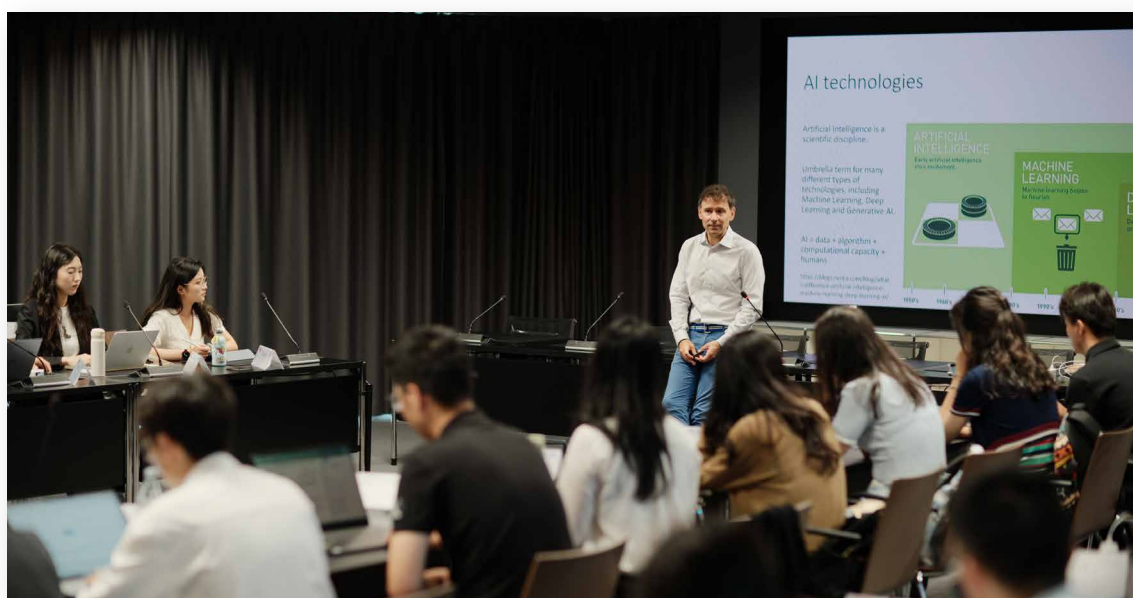


International Training Centre



# OVERVIEW

The UN80 Pact for the Future highlights emerging technologies as drivers for innovative governance. Skills for the digital era - cornerstone of the UN 2.0 “Quintet of Change” - are essential for policymakers, UN officers and development practitioners to tackle local and global questions, at all levels of leadership. With the 2026 edition of its Global Youth Forum, the **International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITCILO)** calls for a deep exploration of the emerging technologies — **quantum computing, neurotechnology, biotechnology, robotics** — with AI as a cross-cutting technology, acting in service of all others, to understand both their potential and impact for accelerating sustainable development. By fostering the understanding of what those technologies are and the principles they are grounded in, the **ITCILO Global Youth Forum 2026** is a unique opportunity for an experiential, multidisciplinary training journey for university students and young professionals eager to craft sustainable development solutions. Explore how emerging technologies can effectively serve sustainable development efforts in the public and private sectors at the intersection of science, sustainability and diplomacy.



The ITCILO provides a safe space for the **experimentation with innovative capacity development** solutions that accelerate social development. Through collaborative dialogue, and taking the United Nations **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** as a guide for project development, participants will be encouraged to reflect critically on how emerging technologies shape social and economic dynamics and receive guidance and mentoring in the design of a group project proposal. Working collaboratively in **global teams**, participants are also invited to identify synergies among their intended development objective, the development needs of the communities they seek to serve, and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 for economic growth and decent work.

As part of the **INTEGRŌ** curriculum for global competencies development, the ITCILO Global Youth Forum further offers dedicated side-workshops for the honing of soft skills relevant to the design of a global career across sectors, countries, and roles. From self-leadership to executive presence and intercultural communication, participants receive exposure to concrete strategies to navigate global workplaces: multicultural, multilingual, and multigenerational. **Global Youth Forum** participants complete their learning journey ready to take their next step towards a career in the UN, international organizations, and in the private sector at the intersection between science, sustainability and diplomacy.

# LEARNING AIMS

By the end of two weeks of training at the United Nations Turin Campus, participants are able to:

- **Develop** a deeper understanding of the foundations of emerging technologies and their potential to serve society effectively;
- **Navigate** the socio-economic and ethical impacts of emerging technologies on societies and the world of work;
- **Design** and **contribute** to sustainable development projects grounded in the 2030 Agenda, its Sustainable Development Goals, and in the mandate of the International Labour Organization;
- **Support** the management of sustainable development projects with emerging technology components in the public and private sectors at the intersection of science, sustainability and diplomacy;
- **Apply** selected UN global competencies to their day-to-day life, leveraging their potential for a global career.



# METHODOLOGY

Plenaries, seminars, interactive workshops and in-class debates take centre stage at the Global Youth Forum, with a dedicated world-class faculty of ILO, UN and academic guest speakers already leveraging emerging technologies and their potential for concrete, sustainable results in the international development domain. Underpinning each conversation is a commitment to exploring sustainable solutions in support of promoting social justice for decent work **through human-centred technology**. Assessment includes formative and summative components, at the heart of which lies a **Group Project Proposal** supporting the development of each participants' global competencies for a career in international development, the social and solidarity economy, and the private sector.

# THEMES

You will engage in discussions on the following topics during plenary sessions, roundtables, breakout groups, and expert dialogues:

## Track 1: Quantum Computing

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The research and development communities advancing quantum technologies have increasingly been focusing not on “if”, but on “when” they may impact societies at large. The domain gathering the most widespread international attention is quantum computing. Today, the level of uncertainty in existing roadmaps forecasting the applicability of use-cases for quantum computing technology calls on future policymakers and international development practitioners to probe into internationally supported quantum regulatory and governance measures and realistic timescales for introduction and adoption.

## Track 2: Neurotechnology

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ITCilo action research has shown that neuro-wearable, non-invasive, market-ready neurotech products hold the promise of reshaping education and learning. At a mature stage of development, neurotechnology may gradually make its way into the world of work for new and unforeseen applications. This raises questions on the licences and regulations necessary to leverage neurotech ethically, responsibly and inclusively, thereby creating a healthy space for debate.

## Track 3: Biotechnology

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Some of the world’s ground-breaking solutions for enhancing food security, providing clean water, and protecting biodiversity have their roots in biotechnology. Harnessing biotechnology for good may require new skills, open up ethical considerations, and could call for shifts in the regulatory landscape. Awareness of what lies at the nexus between sustainable development, social justice and innovation in biotechnology thus becomes key for policymakers and researchers alike.





## Track 4: Robotics

Humanoid robots integrated with large language models (LLMs) such as GPT-4 have captured public attention and raised expectations about collaborative machines that can understand natural language, plan, and act. Explore what is the current stage of maturity of these technologies, and join discussions over appropriate international governance frameworks and ethical guidelines for application and action.

### SERVICING NEW TECH: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

AI has the potential to be turbo-charged by the development of quantum computing, neurotechnology, biotechnology, and robotics. The overnight explosion of accessible, free, massive-use AI applications has opened up new development frontiers and is inviting entire sectors of the global economy to reinvent themselves. Explore how to make AI applications human-centred, driving world regions closer together rather than further apart.



## KEY FEATURES

### EXPERIENCE THE UNITED NATIONS TURIN CAMPUS IN THE HEART OF EUROPE

Immerse yourself in the vibrant environment of the United Nations Turin Campus — a hub of international learning and collaboration. Participants will engage directly with the multicultural community of the ITCILO, while exploring Italy's rich cultural heritage and dynamic innovation ecosystem in Turin. This unique setting offers both intellectual inspiration and cultural discovery.

### EXPLORE HOW TECHNOLOGY IS RESHAPING THE WORLD OF WORK

Delve into how digital transformation — from quantum computing to robotics — is redefining labour markets, and human resource systems worldwide. Deep analysis on reshaped employment relations, social protection and legal regulation is included — while discovering the role of sound policy design in ensuring that innovation supports decent work and social justice.

## MEET THE UN VOICES GUIDING GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Connect with leading experts from the United Nations and global academia who are shaping how emerging technologies serve humanity. Dialogue with their insights, participants will understand how global governance bridges innovation with the Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring that progress remains human-centred and ethical.

## ATTEND HANDS-ON, PRACTICE-ORIENTED WORKSHOPS

Step into action through experiential workshops and sessions with development practitioners working with emerging technology, where participants translate theory into practice — experimenting, co-designing, and reflecting on real-world solutions that link technology, policy, and sustainable impact.

## COLLABORATE THROUGH DIVERSE AND INTERACTIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCES

At the heart of the programme lies dialogue and participation. From plenary sessions and debates to group projects, interviews, and roundtables, participants will exchange perspectives, build networks, and shape visions together — developing the mindset and confidence of future global leaders.



## TARGET

The **Global Youth Forum 2026** welcomes undergraduate, graduate students and young professionals with a demonstrable interest in exploring subjects at the intersection of emerging technologies and sustainable development. Eagerness to kick-start a career in the United Nations, its specialized agencies, other international organizations or the private sector working for sustainability is considered an asset. In your online application, consider highlighting both aspects of your academic and professional development. Availability to sojourn in Turin, Italy for the entire duration of the programme (two weeks), as well as the ability to adapt to a fully English-speaking learning environment are a must.



## HOW TO APPLY

Applicants are kindly asked to submit:

1. A complete online registration form: <https://oar2.itcilo.org/SHF/A9019055/en>.
2. If you are financed by your organization (or a donor) an official sponsorship letter is required to finalize your registration. The letter can be uploaded to the application form or sent by email to [itcilo\\_youthforum@itcilo.org](mailto:itcilo_youthforum@itcilo.org).
3. If you're a self-funded participant, please note that the payment is due prior to course enrollment. Further information on payment methods is available [here](#).

## DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION

15 January 2026

## FEES

Tuition: €2,330

Subsistence: €1,620

**Total costs per participant: €3,950**

## FURTHER INFORMATION

### LANGUAGE

English

### CERTIFICATE

On completion of all required course activities, participants obtain an official **ITCILO Certificate of Participation**

## CONTACT

[itcilo\\_youthforum@itcilo.org](mailto:itcilo_youthforum@itcilo.org)

# ABOUT INTEGRŌ

INTEGRŌ is the global competence development facility for future leaders in the world of work of the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITCILO).

Highlighting the ILO's contributions in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, INTEGRŌ motivates future leaders to leverage synergies that connect Sustainable Development Goal 8 (SDG 8) to all of the other Goals for the benefit of their communities of reference.

INTEGRŌ offers a wide range of global competence training opportunities which, while being stand-alone, work in synergy with one another for the formulation of a dynamic, integrated curriculum.

## WITHDRAWAL, CANCELLATION POLICY, AND REFUNDS FOR OPEN COURSES

If an enrolled participant wishes or must withdraw from a course, they may choose to apply to a different course or be substituted by another candidate. The participant must notify the Centre, in writing, of their decision at least 14 days prior to the start date of the course. Cancellation of participation in regular courses will result in the following penalties:

- 14 days or more prior to the start date of the course: No penalty, 100% refund of amount paid less applicable bank charges
- 8 to 13 days prior to the start date of the course: Penalty of 50% of course price, refund of residual amount paid (if any) less applicable bank charges
- 7 days or less prior to the start date of the course: Penalty of 100% of course price.

## INFO

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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**COURSE CODE: A9019055**