

**BYND 2015 Global Youth Summit, Costa Rica, 9-11 September 2013**

The [BYND2015 Global Youth Summit](http://www.itu.int/en/bynd2015/Pages/default.aspx) is an initiative of [ITU](http://www.itu.int/en/Pages/default-24june2019.aspx), the specialized agency of the [United Nations](http://www.un.org/en/), and led by young people around the world to assess and discuss the key concerns of young people in the post-2015 era. With the 2015 deadline to achieve the [Millennium Development Goals](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/) drawing near, global leaders are preparing to review the process and prepare for future development priorities.

The time is now ripe for young people to lend their collective voice to this important process and contribute their concerns while taking a fresh look at possible solutions to meet the global concerns and challenges that face us today and in the future.

BYND 2015 is the global event where the youth of the world can express themselves. It is an opportunity for all of us to listen to the citizens and leaders of the future.

Young people can participate in a number of ways in BYND 2015. Some 500 youth from around the world will converge on San José, Costa Rica, for the Global Youth Summit that will take place, 9-11 September 2013. Many more will be present using a unique crowd-sourcing platform where they can submit their ideas and actively participate in the process.

The key themes and trends that are highlighted on our crowd-sourcing [platform](http://ideas.itu.int/) will form an unprecedented statement of policy recommendations that will be presented to the United Nations General Assembly this September by Laura Chinchilla, President of Costa Rica.

To generate interest among young people around the world, [virtual hubs](http://itu4u.wordpress.com/2013/08/15/bynd2015-national-hubs-promoting-youth-engagement-at-the-global-level/) have been established within communities, providing a central place to meet and discuss the key themes, ideas and issues that are raised at the Summit. Thanks to strong support from our partners, the remote hub participation has proved to be extremely effective, reflecting the enthusiasm of young people around the world.

A series of events at the Global Youth Summit, such as workshops and activities are designed to motivate young people and challenge them to develop innovative solutions. A 24-hour [Hackathon](http://itu4u.wordpress.com/2013/08/09/bynd2015-hackathon-24-hours-to-hack-the-millennium-development-goals-mdgs/) will also take place both at the Summit and at offsite locations around the world.

A combination of traditional and new media techniques are being used to effectively communicate key messages and engage with important stakeholders. Social media is increasingly important to businesses and individuals alike, but even more so for this project as it is youth-led and youth-focused.

A combination of elements has made this a refreshingly new and unique initiative for the UN and its agencies. Our partners from industry, academia and the media have a critical role to play in making BYND2015 a success – and helping us achieve the *Future We Want*.

For media accreditation, please visit: [www.itu.int/en/bynd2015/Pages/media-accreditation.aspx](http://www.itu.int/en/bynd2015/Pages/media-accreditation.aspx)