

British Embassy Kuwait



UNITED NATIONS KUWAIT

Canada

YOUNG AMBASSADOR

SUSTAINABLE PEACE AND SECURITY

SEASON



Context:

For the past two seasons, the Young Ambassador programme has provided a platform for students in Kuwait to develop knowledge and skills to become confident champions for a more sustainable global community through exposure to "real world" diplomacy. Participants developed a deeper understanding of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 Agenda and its role in fostering economic, social, and environmental sustainability. Season One addressed the topic of Gender Equality, promoting women's empowerment, in relation to SDG 5. Students gained first-hand experience to advocate and promote women's inclusion and equality in Kuwait and beyond. In Season Two, participants acquired skills and explored priorities related to climate action to enhance leadership on climate diplomacy, in line with SDG 13. Both seasons were successful in promoting the SDGs and their importance, while providing the students with practical growth and development and the opportunity to become confident advocates on key issues facing the world today.

In Season Three, the programme will focus on the important topic of peace and security, and its role in promoting stable and sustainable societies globally. In line with the United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, and in particular Goal 16 (SDG 16), the theme for this year's programme is **"Sustainable Peace and Security"** with an emphasis on finding effective ways to promote and sustain peaceful coexistence, mitigate the threat of conflict and instability worldwide and build secure, safe and inclusive societies. The programme will explore the role and responsibility of leaders, current and future, to continuously enhance and strengthen institutions that are essential for promoting a more peaceful, stable and secure global community.

Objective:

Inspired by the SDGs, diplomatic missions and UN agencies in Kuwait are seeking to champion the next generation of leaders by providing youth with the opportunity to gain essential skills to promote and advocate for sustainable peace and security. Participants will shadow diplomats and participate in learning initiatives that provide them with invaluable hands-on experience and tools that are central to the practice of diplomacy such as communications, negotiation and conflict resolution. The programme aims to empower youth to become confident advocates for peace and security by engaging with seasoned diplomats and experts, gaining insights into the complexities of international negotiations, the importance of multilateral cooperation, and the art of building alliances. This exposure will not only nurture their understanding of diplomatic processes but also equip them with the skills and networks necessary to promote and advocate for conflict resolution, building of cohesive and inclusive societies, and the promotion of secure and stable communities. In doing so, young leaders in Kuwait can contribute significantly to the realization of SDG 16.





SUSTAINABLE PEACE AND SECURITY

Programme components:

The British Embassy Kuwait. in collaboration with the Embassy of Canada The United Nations Resident and Coordinator's Office, invite interested Embassies to join Season Three of the "Young Ambassador" initiative as a tangible contribution to support SDG 16 in promoting sustainable peace & security.

As a collaboration between UN agencies, Embassies. and local partners, this programme will open doors for emerging leaders in Kuwait by providing a select group of high school students (female and male; between 15 to 18 years old) with leadership development and mentoring over a 6-month period (from October to March) during which they will be exposed to the skills necessary for effective diplomacy and have the opportunity to share their ideas and initiatives on how to promote sustainable peace and security.

During this programme, each participant will:



Become a "Young Ambassador" and be matched with a participating host embassy or international organization



Participate in bi-monthly learning and networking activities with all participants by an embassy, UN agency or partner organization on a particular theme related to sustainable peace and security (leadership, negotiation, policy development, communication, conflict resolution, etc.)



Develop leadership skills and gain tools to become confident champions for a more peaceful, stable and secure global community through effective diplomacy.

Programme and timeframe:

- The initiative was launched on social media on **September 22nd, 2024**, marking the International Day of Peace.
- Applicants will have until October 13th, 2024, to apply to the programme by completing an application form (<u>Link</u> <u>Here</u>), which includes the submission of a 1-minute video response to a question linked to sustainable peace and security. Young Ambassadors will be selected based on their submissions, and selection criteria will ensure a diverse and inclusive group of participants. The Young Ambassadors will then be matched with a participating embassy or international organization.
- Following a joint launch event at the UN House for all participants and host organisations, each host can set its own agenda and plan to engage with the Young Ambassador. For ease of reference and consistency, the organizers will share guidance with hosting entities to clarify expectations for engagement and a sample programme or ideas for activities. This will include a monthly mentoring session for each Young Ambassador with their host embassy/ organization. Smaller host organisations are welcome to partner and jointly host a Young Ambassador.
- In addition, there will be one to two networking/learning activities per month for all participants to be hosted by the UN or partner organizations on key themes surrounding sustainable peace and security.
- Documentation through pictures and videos will be captured throughout the program, as it is instrumental to raise awareness and produce media material as we move along.
- Participating students will be required to submit a parents' consent form and school consent form.
- The program will conclude on March 31st, 2025.



Nomination Criteria:



Interested students between the ages of 15-18 will complete an application, which will include a short video (1 minute).



Interested students must submit their completed application by October 13th, 2024 (11:59 AST).

Communications Plan:

A detailed communications plan will be developed in collaboration with participating Embassies and UN agencies to ensure media engagement and coverage throughout the program, as a way to highlight the importance of furthering sustainable peace and security. Participating Embassies and Young Ambassadors will be encouraged to participate, whether through Op-eds, interviews, Instagram Live chats, or other avenues. Hashtags will include #betterfuture #diplomacy #SDG16 #YoungAmbassadorQ8 #sustainablepeaceandsecurity amongst others. Participating Embassies will amplify through their social media accounts and cross mention, tag as appropriate, and engage with participating schools for maximum outreach.

How Can You Get Involved?

The Diplomatic community is warmly invited to participate in this effort to advance sustainable peace and security. Embassies and international organizations interested in supporting this initiative and being matched with a Young Ambassador can signal their interest and/or questions to:

Dr. Bahareh Azizi: <u>bazizi@infocap.org</u> Ms. Lara Abdel Razzak: <u>Lara.abdelrazzak@fcdo.gov.uk</u>





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