

**Reporting back: Youth Pre-Meeting (21 March 2019)**  
**Rosalyn Old, board member of the European Youth Forum**

1275 days ago, all of you here in this room committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda - more than three and a half years later, we have seen a lot of talking, but not enough action. Humanity is currently causing another mass extinction of species and the global climate system is at the brink of a catastrophic crisis. Inequality is increasing - the world's 26 richest people own as much as half of the world's population, more than 3.5 billion people.

Is anyone seriously scared about that? Do you ever think about where this is going? Is this just a problem for my generation, or the next generation to solve?

My name is Rosalyn Old, I'm a board member of the European Youth Forum, today speaking on behalf of the youth constituency. I had the pleasure of moderating the first youth pre-meeting yesterday.

What I saw there inspired me. I know that young people have incredible skills, experience and knowledge to share.

We are not future leaders, we are leading the change now. The time of meaningless jargon and empty promises is over - we're ready to work with you, are you ready to work with us?

I don't have time to share all of our points - speak to young people and you can hear for yourself.

But here are our key suggestions from our meeting:

- We don't just want decent work, we want meaningful work
- We don't just want to be educated for the labour market, but for life
- We don't want inaccessible processes, we want real inclusion
- We don't want tokenism, we want a real dialogue as equals
- We don't want our future to be stolen away in front of our eyes - we want to lead this change, and young people are doing that right now in the youth climate movement

We need to recognise that the climate crisis is the biggest crisis that humanity has ever faced. And in the words of UN Secretary General at [COP 24](#):

“For many people, regions, even countries, this is already a matter of life or death.”