

UN YOUTH BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATION INFORMATION

Background

Following a Special General Meeting (SGM) of UN Youth on 2 July 2019, the members of the organisation passed a resolution to adopt a new constitution. This new constitution reforms the governance structure of UN Youth, with a Board set to assume the governance responsibilities previously held by National Council on 1 January 2020.

Between September-December an Establishment Board, elected at an SGM in August, has been working to prepare the appropriate documents and systems for the transition to the new constitution on 1 January 2020. One Director of the Establishment Board has recently resigned in order to pursue another exciting opportunity. Accordingly, an election will be held at the 2019 National AGM in order to fill this vacant seat in preparation for the transition.

About Us

UN Youth New Zealand is a non-profit organisation that provides civics education outside the traditional classroom context. Our goal is to inspire young New Zealanders to be global citizens in the rapidly globalising world of today.

Throughout Aotearoa, our work equips young people to become informed, engaged, and critical New Zealanders who understand their global context and the connections between the local and the global. Our organisation provides young people with the necessary educational and social skills to excel. Annually, over 3000 young New Zealanders from Northland to Southland attend a UN Youth event.

UN Youth hosts three conferences nationally each year drawing together hundreds of students from across the country. One of the conferences looks at solving problems in the community and government policy, the second considers international affairs and diplomacy, and the last aims to engage young New Zealanders in politics and democracy. An online Diplomacy Competition is also available for all high school students across New Zealand to help them further develop their understanding of these issues.

We also lead three annual international trips for high school students — a study tour through Europe and the United States, a cultural exchange trip to Australia and the Pacific, and a small delegation to the Evatt Competition run by UN Youth Australia. For tertiary students, we run a trip to the Harvard National Model UN in the United States, and a trip around South East Asia focused on globalisation.

UN Youth is powered by a body of 150 volunteers across the country who dedicate many hours of their week to engaging young people and growing the organisation.

The Role

On 1 January, the Ordinary Directors and Volunteer's Representative shall be automatically installed as Directors of the Board. Through this, the members of the EBD will become the inaugural Board, allowing for a smooth transition. While it is not envisioned that the successful candidate will be required to complete much work in December, from January 1 2020 onwards they will be a full member of the Board. Sitting on the governing body of UN Youth will require a substantial commitment. Collectively, the Board's functions include:

- Setting and approving UN Youth's strategic plans
- Exercising financial oversight
- Performing risk management
- Determining UN Youth's policies and values
- Overseeing key volunteer appointments

The Board is required to hold a meeting at a minimum of every six weeks, and the ability to attend online meetings is expected of Directors. The Board may also hold strategic retreats, and this and any other travel for events or meetings in your role as a Director will be covered by UN Youth, to the extent that is possible under our Protocols.

Please note that UN Youth is a charity and does not provide any remuneration to members. This will extend to Directors. All positions are entirely voluntary, however, reasonable expenses may be claimed.

Nominations

Ordinary Directors are Directors other than the Volunteer's Representative and National President. Of the Ordinary Directors, a minimum of one, but no more than two, may be Independent Directors. An Independent Director is an individual who is **not** a member of UN Youth. Someone is a member of UN Youth if they have registered as a member and:

- They are currently enrolled in a New Zealand primary, secondary or tertiary institution; or
- They are a New Zealand permanent resident or citizen aged 25 years or younger; or
- Have been appointed as a member of UN Youth by the relevant body (under the current structure, the National Executive)

As a default, all Ordinary Directors, whether independent or not, must be aged 25 years or younger at the time of their nomination, or be enrolled in full time tertiary education at the time of their election. However, this default requirement can be overridden by a majority vote of the Board and the National Executive. As such, it is possible for candidates over 25 to be nominated for the Board.

Ordinary Director nominees must be referred to the AGM by the Board's Appointments Committee in order to be eligible for election.

The Committee will refer all candidates they consider have the requisite skills and experience. When considering whether to refer a nominee for Ordinary Director, the Committee will consider the following factors:

- Previous governance experience - in particular, governance experience in the non-profit sector
- Relevant qualifications, professional memberships or accreditations - in particular, the Board is seeking candidates with a legal background and experience

- Ability to work well with fellow Board members, as well as members of the National Executive and other volunteers.
- General skills such as reliability, adaptability and organisation
- Commitment to the unique nature of the organisation, and its values (including Tikanga)
- Intended length of service on the Board - in particular, at least one year's service on the Board
- The Board desires to improve gender and ethnic/cultural diversity in its composition
- Any other factors which may inform whether a candidate has the requisite skills and experience to be a Director.

In order to be considered, a nomination must include:

- The name and age (at the time of nomination) of the nominee; and
- Whether the nominee is currently enrolled at a tertiary institution; and
- The names of two Voting Members of UN Youth who nominate the individual and second the nomination (a nominee cannot nominate themselves or second their own nomination); and
- Whether the nominee intends to serve a two year or one year term on the Board from the 1st of January 2020 (as a priority of the organisation is ensuring rotating succession); and
- A covering letter of no more than two pages outlining how the nominee fulfils the criteria above; and
- A CV of no more than two pages; and
- A professional head and shoulders photograph; and
- A short candidate blurb of no more than 500 words, to be released to members of UN Youth should the nominee be referred by the Appointments Committee.

Should an individual be over 25 years and not enrolled at a tertiary institution, the Appointments Committee will consider whether to approve an exception to the age limitation. Prospective Independent Directors may ask to be put in contact with voting members who can nominate/ second their nomination.

Nominations for Ordinary Directors will **close 11.59pm Wednesday 13 November.**

Nominations for Ordinary Directors must be emailed to the Secretary of the Board, James Sutherland at boardsecretary@unyouth.org.nz by the deadline. All materials must be included in order for a nomination to be considered. Late nominations will not be considered.

Any questions can be directed to either the Chairperson of the Board, Jonathan Gee at chairperson@unyouth.org.nz, or the National President, Jayden van Leeuwen at president@unyouth.org.nz.