

# UN YOUTH BOARD DIRECTORS EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

## 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 assuming the governance responsibilities previously held by National Council on 1 January 2020.

One Director has recently resigned due to their election as 2020 National President. As a result, the Board has decided to seek Expressions of Interest for the vacant position.

## 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

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.

### **Expressions of Interest**

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.

An appointment to fill the Board vacancy will be made by unanimous resolution of the Board, in accordance with clause 12.1.1 of the National Constitution. The Constitution also states that the Board must consist of at least one Director with requisite financial knowledge and experience. This is a skillset that is lacking on the Board. As a result, this skillset will be a pre-requisite for anyone wishing to apply for the Board vacancy.

In addition, the following factors will also be considered when deciding to appoint an individual to fill the vacancy:

- 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
- 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

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.

Expressions of Interest will **close 11.59pm Friday 28 February.**

Expressions of Interest must be emailed to the Chairperson of the Board, Jonathan Gee at [chairperson@unyouth.org.nz](mailto:chairperson@unyouth.org.nz) by the deadline. All materials must be included in order for an Expression of Interest to be considered. Late applications will not be considered.

Any questions can be directed to the Chairperson of the Board, Jonathan Gee at [chairperson@unyouth.org.nz](mailto:chairperson@unyouth.org.nz).