



[ITU](#) , the [Kofi Annan Foundation](#) and [One Young World](#) are working together on a new series of youth-oriented online discussions designed to stimulate debate among young people around the world on challenges central to their lives and prospects, such as unemployment and democratic governance.

Former UN Secretary-General Annan will launch the Kofi Annan Dialogues: LIVE series on Wednesday, 15 May, with the first online discussion to take place over the Google Hangout platform from 11:00 - 12:30 CET.

With the topic of ‘Young People and Leadership’, this first session gives six aspiring young leaders the opportunity to share their views with Mr Annan, watched by a global audience who will be able join the conversation and pose their questions via social media.

The outreach to young audiences will form a key element of a direct youth engagement process

building up to ITU's [BEYOND 2015 Youth Summit](#) in Costa Rica and the One Young World Summit in South Africa, to be held in September and October respectively.

ITU will host the first Dialogue from its Geneva studios on the occasion of the [WSIS Forum 13](#) event taking place this week (13-17 May) at the Geneva International Conference Centre. The world's largest annual gathering of the 'ICT for development' community, WSIS Forum is focused on defining strategies to help countries and organizations more effectively harness the power of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, now less than two years away.

"I congratulate Kofi Annan on an excellent and much-needed initiative to reach out to youth. These online Dialogues are an excellent example of using the power of ICTs to connect people to influence change," said ITU Secretary-General Dr Hamadoun I. Touré. "Our young new generation of 'digital natives' feel completely at home communicating online – and harnessing today's social media channels allows us to create a truly global platform that cuts across geographical boundaries and brings in voices from right around the world."

Participate in the first live Dialogue:

When: 15 May, 11h00 - 12h30 CET

Where: <http://dialogueslive.kofiannanfoundation.org/>

How: Send your questions via Twitter

#kofiannanlive | #BYND15 | #OYW | #WSIS

Follow the Kofi Annan Dialogues: LIVE on Twitter and Facebook at: <https://twitter.com/KofiAnn>
[an](#) #kofiannanlive

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/pages/Kofi-Annan/228449696042>

Learn more about ITU's forthcoming BEYOND 2015 Youth Summit [here](#) .

Source: [ITU News](#)