

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal
Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information

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MESSAGE TO MUNA, IFUNA AND IIMUN

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Hello! I am Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information. It is my great pleasure to send greetings to all of you from United Nations Headquarters in New York.

I have many fond memories of visiting Pune from my time spent living and working in India. I am sure that you will be able to tap into the city's dynamism and energy to make this Model UN event an enormous success.

You are part of the largest generation of youth the world has ever known. This offers an unprecedented opportunity. For innovation and development. For new forms of leadership. For bridging divides between peoples and cultures.

Yet, too many young people, including those who are highly educated, have no immediate prospects and are disenfranchised from the political, social and development processes in their communities.

The United Nations Secretary-General has recognized the importance of youth issues. In his second term in office he has made working with and for young people a priority.

The Secretary-General is focusing in particular on jobs, entrepreneurship, political inclusion, citizenship, protection of human rights, and education. Soon, he will appoint an Envoy on Youth to be his lead advocate on these issues.

The United Nations has never been more relevant or more in demand to help resolve the challenges facing the world. But it cannot do this alone.

You in this audience have a crucial role to play. Taking part in a Model UN event will help you strengthen your negotiating skills. It will offer insights into what it takes to achieve progress and build consensus. The experience will help you develop your capacity as future leaders.

The world needs you to organize... to mobilize... to raise awareness and to make your voices heard. And not just on social media! I encourage you to use all the platforms to help build a better world for all.

I would like to congratulate the organizers of the event - the Maharashtra United Nations Association, Indian Federation of United Nations Associations and the India International Model United Nations for putting together such an interesting programme. I wish you great success.

