Model United Nations (MUN) simulations are popular exercises for those interested in learning more about the United Nations (UN). It is estimated that more than 400,000 students worldwide participate every year in MUN at all educational levels – from primary school to university. Many of today’s leaders in law, government, business and the arts participated in MUN as students.

While MUN has always involved researching and debating important global issues, the UN’s Department of Global Communications would like to see it become an actual agent of change in communities across the globe. It supports the evolution of MUN into a community that could take real action to support the UN and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As a first step, the Department’s Education Outreach Section, in collaboration with MUN Impact, will hold the inaugural United Nations Model UN Youth Summit on 12 April 2019 in New York. This one-day event will feature workshops and plenaries led by inspiring student leaders and UN experts who will share their experiences and ideas on how to transform MUN into a force for positive change. Whether currently active in Model UN or interested in becoming involved, participants will leave with a toolkit of ideas, a network of support and a new action-oriented vision for their MUN clubs or conferences.

Following a substantive discussion on how the UN is working to implement the SDGs around the world, workshop sessions may include, among others:

- UN in Action: Discover how UN bodies are supporting the Global Goals
- Standing up for the SDGs: Inspiring stories from MUN participants who have taken real action to advance the SDGs
- Planning for Impact: Concrete ways to bring action and service to your MUN conference
- UN Connect: Learning how to tap into current UN campaigns and initiatives to connect your MUN program to the UN
- Spreading the Word: Learn how to develop a successful social media campaign that will inspire students to take meaningful action in support of the SDGs

This event will be open to students between the ages of 15 and 24. Selected participants will deliver presentations, detailing specific actions that they have taken to advance the SDGs – to inspire youth to engage with the UN and take concrete steps to help achieve the Global Goals. A press team led by students will manage social media outreach throughout the day, helping to raise awareness of the SDGs and motivate students to join this worldwide effort.

More info: education-outreach@un.org