

## Generation Connect Arab Youth Envoys Biographies

**Ahmad Alkhalidi** is an advocate for youth empowerment and digital inclusion in the telecommunications field, interested in the potential of technology and utilizing it to promote sustainable development through practical solutions.

He is a computer engineer with a solid foundation in programming, software development, and data analysis and a keen passion for the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI). During his university years, he participated in an exchange program in Italy where he was introduced to advanced AI algorithms and their applications.

Ahmad is fascinated by the ability of AI to mimic human intelligence and enable machines to learn, reason, and make informed decisions. He is eager to collaborate with fellow envoys and work closely with the ITU to enhance digital opportunities, promote inclusivity, and foster sustainable development through telecommunications to have a positive impact on society.

**Ali AlToblani** is an emerging leader and youth ambassador, passionate about creating a more inclusive and equitable future for all. He is committed to bridging the gap between the youth and digital economies of the future, while advocating for the importance of innovation, creativity, and a growth mindset. His focus is on fighting mediocrity and empowering young people to be agents of positive change in their communities and beyond.

Ali is always seeking new challenges and opportunities to learn and grow. Whether working with local organizations or global stakeholders, he strives to make a meaningful impact through his work. He believes that by harnessing the power of technology and innovation, we can create a better world for generations to come. Let's connect and collaborate to make a difference!

**Batool Alsleiby** is a Computer Engineering Graduate from Birzeit University with excellence, now working as a quality assurance engineer. She is a team leader, with excellent interpersonal and communication skills, experienced in directing activities of workgroups, handling technological tools, providing training, setting goals, and obtaining team feedback. She is a teaching assistant alongside Stanford university instructors at Code for Palestine program, she supports instructors with test administration, curriculum development, slack communications, and paperwork for classroom activities.

Batool has a big picture focus with excellence in communicating goals and vision to succeed. She always encourages her friends and colleagues to experience new things and keep going. She is a true problem solver, networker, and consensus builder.

**Karmel Shehadeh** is a Palestinian tech enthusiast who graduated with a bachelor's in computer system engineering. Besides pursuing her master's in informatics from Palestine Polytechnic University (PPU), she worked as a research and teaching assistant for three years and is currently working as a part-time instructor at PPU, teaching different computer courses. During her studies, Karmel implemented many projects in the field of artificial intelligence, especially in the field of robotics; her ambition is to become innovative in this field. She has also worked on many research papers in the field of natural language processing, especially the Arabic language.

**Mahasen Mudallali** is a student at the American University of Sharjah majoring in International Studies with double minors in Environmental Policy and Journalism. She is a youth leader in the UAE and serves as the President of a youth organization called AIESEC. Her work includes engaging with youth from the age of 17-30 to activate their potential and direct their attention towards the SDGs.

Mahasen is an active leader and gained experience from working with the United Nations and covering issues related to food security, arms control, human rights, and climate change. Additionally, she is the Vice President of the International Studies Students Association at her university and is currently working as a Congressional Intern at the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington.

Mahasen always seeks benefiting from new opportunities to gain new skills and is passionate about youth development, legal proceedings, space, food security, and education.

**Majd Maree** is a Palestinian young man who is studying Computer Engineering in Birzeit University, and who took part in a semester exchange program at the University of Potsdam in Germany. Since he is from a low-tech village and country, Majd aspires to use his technical knowledge and experience to become a tech change-maker in his community. He is always looking for new opportunities and experiences that move him toward his goal.

Majd is the Vice-Chair of IEEE at his home university and was the technical team lead of the Google Developers Students Community GDSC, which aims to help students gain professional and soft skills. He has been teaching community teens coding and design thinking in more than four programs.

He has participated in many local and international tech competitions, in which he received high ranks, in addition to international conferences, and global hackathons that always aimed to solve community problems. In his free time, he enjoys playing video games, tennis, football, card games and spending time with his family and hanging out with his friends.

**Melissa El Feghali** is a youth advocate and enthusiastic change-maker, constantly looking to learn and grow, and help others do the same in the process. Her activism is focused on the intersection between quality education, gender equality, and peace and justice; she likes to empower young women in STEM fields and in leadership positions.

She has graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Bioinformatics and a Minor in Computer Science from the Lebanese American University. Melissa is currently an ITU Generation Connect Youth intern at the Arab Regional Office, a Youth Representative, and the Co-Lead of the Gender Patrol at the World Organization of the Scout Movement. She is also a Generation Connect Arab Youth Envoy and Gender Champion at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and among the first cohort of certified NewGen Peacebuilders and Facilitators in the MENA.

Melissa worked as Chief Data Officer and Assistant Tech Project Manager for the Ark Network and as a coding trainer in courses related to AI, ICT skills, game, app, and web development with Geek Express; she handled the Girls Innovate program in collaboration with Africell Gambia, that empowered 120 young girls in Gambia in coding and tech skills. She was also a Data and Artificial Intelligence Trainee at Information and Communication Technology W.L.L. where she

obtained the Microsoft AZ-900 and AI-900 certifications and completed learning paths in Microsoft AI-102, DP-900, and DP-203.

Melissa has participated in and/or helped organize several Youth-led programs, initiatives, and forums such as the 67<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women Youth Forum, Youth at ITU's 2<sup>2nd</sup> Plenipotentiary in Bucharest Romania, the first Generation Connect Global Youth Summit held in Kigali, Rwanda, the 7<sup>th</sup> Youth Leadership Program by UNDP in Lebanon, the 8<sup>th</sup> Youth Leadership Summit on Global Citizenship Education (GCED) by the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU), the ECOSOC Youth Forum, the 24<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree, a one-week advocacy training on peace education and human rights at the Kandersteg Scout Center in Switzerland done in collaboration with UN OHCHR, and more.

**Mohamad Ali Bouhedja** is a dual citizen of Tunisia and Algeria, currently living in Tabarka, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in Embedded Systems.

Aside from being a tech enthusiast, Mohamad has a passion for sports, especially football, and chess. He is excited about the diverse range of interests and skills he has developed and is eager to explore new opportunities and embrace new challenges.

**Mohamad Amine Berriche** is an ambitious IT professional, passionate about IT infrastructure, IoT, and AI, constantly seeking opportunities to learn and grow. He is currently designing and establishing secure enterprise networks with cutting-edge technologies like MPLS, SD-WAN, and FSSO, as an intern at Network Associates.

As a Project Manager at Enactus, Mohamad lead a startup using LoraWan technology to improve the safety and well-being of people with Alzheimer's by tracking their location in real-time while optimizing battery usage. He also worked on an innovative project at the Higher Institute of Technological Studies in Communications of Tunis, implementing an integrated forest fire system using wireless sensor networks, AI, and LoRaWAN technology. The system's use of IOT sensors and drones to detect and prevent forest fires showed great promise in terms of reliability and accuracy while being an innovative and performant alternative to existing solutions.

Active in various organizations, Mohamad engaged with global youth leaders in digital policy discussions and document development on digital development challenges and opportunities in the Arab region for ITU Generation Connect. He served as the campus director for the Hult Prize and participated in the Youth SG on the Global Digital Compact with internet society.

His volunteer work and leadership skills have positively impacted his community, and he is eager to apply his knowledge to contribute to driving positive change globally.

**Nora Altwaijri** is a true believer in mutualism. She is committed to giving back as much as she gets from “the universe, the world, and to people”. As someone who feels true responsibility toward the environment, she has always been dedicated to constructing paths of service for herself, and now she is being intentional about making sure to build these paths wide enough so that other people can make their way down them as well. Promoting sustainability might feel amorphous and laborious to some, but for Altwaijri, the task feels both attainable and exciting. She hopes to spread hope to young people, so they too, can feel like change is within reach.

**Omar Eid** is a Software Engineer graduate with multiple AWS award winning projects. He has interned at the ITU during the summer of 2022 and fall of 2023, alongside a 1 year internship in Amazon Web Services Bahrain where he has worked with a team from the University of Bahrain and created the first in the world 3D Alexa integrated Hologram and a smart security storage system for the national Museum of Bahrain. Omar has participated in local events and competitions revolving around the Tech industry including Model United Nations and Hackathons and has been awarded the 2nd place in the IT Senior Project Exhibition.

**Omar Ramzi** is an aspiring to be Syrian Pioneer in Biotechnology who contributes fruitfully to humanity; he is a believer in the empowerment of youth through technology and opportunity.

**Raneem Zaitoun** is the Jordanian representative for ITU's Arab Youth Envoy. She is a 4th-year University of British Columbia student studying Business Administration and Economics. Raneem has executively worked for several fast-growing startups, founded her own company, run a charity organization, and currently works for Microsoft. Academically, she serves on the university senate, acts as the faculty representative, holds leadership positions in on-campus organizations, and has impacted national research on blockchain technology alongside renowned scholars. Outside of work, Raneem enjoys traveling, delving into newfound technology, and meeting people.

**Seifallah Youssef** is a graduate from Esprit School of Business with a bachelor's degree in business computing specializing in Information systems. He is pursuing his master's in computer science at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, and currently working as a data analyst in the web 3.0 field. He comes from a solid technical background with a strong interest in data, a passion for ICT and web 3.0 that has led him to join the ITU Generation Connect program. He has participated in the Global Youth Summit in Kigali, Rwanda, got selected as one of the 6 young content creators to cover the ITU's 22<sup>nd</sup> Plenipotentiary Conference in Bucharest, Romania, and was also selected as an ITU delegate in Riyadh. Seifallah is the co-founder and president of the first blockchain university club, having more than 150 members working together to embrace this field. His goal is to empower communities to integrate technology to overcome the climate crisis.

**Tayma Abdelhadi** is a technologist who studied international relations and computer science at Birzeit University in Ramallah, Palestine. She has been working on solving many problems related to accessibility and safety, especially people who were vulnerable due to their disability or their gender.

At the age of 17 she developed a pioneering and award-winning image processing mechanism that helps prevent the stealing of the pictures of women and girls online. Recently she worked as a digital security advisor for a digital rights organization where she worked to build a comprehensive digital security program. This work ranged from audits to training to developing policy frameworks based on careful inspection and research on the relation between the tech environment and the employees. She has also participated in research on the accessibility of e-public services in Estonia, as a part of a seminar on building digital governments with University

of Tartu, where she met multiple key players in the previous and current Estonian government working on the e-public services on both a general and municipal level.

Tayma is a generation connect youth envoy that participated and gave presentations in high level events including the ITU's 22<sup>nd</sup> plenipotentiary where she facilitated a workshop with government officials on youth engagement, the GC Youth Summit where she discussed digital accessibility in a dedicated session, and the UN DESA Expert Group on Youth digital engagement and their challenges.

**Wassila Chtioui** is a Cybersecurity student at ISET'Com that spends her time exploring new innovations and learning new technologies. She enjoys taking part in hacking and pen-testing competitions: CTF (Capture the Flag contests) as well as sharing Writeups on my blog. She is motivated, skilled, and experienced in information security and various programming languages.

**Yara Gouth** is the founder and CEO of Naseej Market. She is an architect turned entrepreneur and is passionate about empowering & enabling local artists, designers and makers through her tech startup, Naseej Market.

Saudi's first holistic ecosystem targeting local creatives for sustainable and social development, by providing them an incubator to develop their skills, an online marketplace to sell and access to resources and partnerships to fuel their growth. Using emerging technology such as AI, she has been able to empower over 300 local artisans and forecast a 10x reach within the next year. She is on a mission to digitalize the creative, arts, and crafts industry.

Yara is also a member of the Global Shapers, WEF, community in Jeddah. Her goal is to work on projects that are sustainable, socially aware, and community-driven, and that encourage the social and economic growth of her country. She was a Saudi delegate to the first ITU Generation Connect Global Youth Summit in Rwanda 2022. Her call to action is to ensure sustainable consumption and production by fostering local micro businesses and supporting their growth. She believes in a new kind of commerce, not B2B or B2C, but H2H, human to human.

**Zied Baccouch** is a Tunisian who, from a young age, had a profound fascination for computers and a natural talent for problem-solving. His thirst for knowledge and innovation led him to pursue a degree in Information Technologies at a prestigious university, where he continued to excel academically and receive recognition for his achievements.

With a clear vision for the future, Zied aims to make a transformative impact on the world of technology; he envisions a future where technology seamlessly integrates into our lives, enriching our experiences and solving complex problems. Through his innovative thinking and problem-solving prowess, he aspires to contribute to the creation of cutting-edge solutions that shape the future of technology.