
YGL Nomination Criteria

The Forum of Young Global Leaders has established a comprehensive selection process for identifying and selecting the most exceptional leaders 40 years of age or younger.

Every year, thousands of candidates from around the world are proposed and assessed according to rigorous selection criteria. Only the very best candidates are selected, with all efforts extended to create a truly diverse and representative body. First, shortlisted candidates are evaluated by Heidrick & Struggles, recognized as one of the world's leading executive search firms. As a final step in the selection process, the candidates are screened by a Selection Committee.

Reflecting the diversity of stakeholders who influence society, Young Global Leaders are leaders from business, politics, civil society, academia, media, and arts and culture, as well as social entrepreneurs. They come from seven geographic regions. Together, they form a unique community that aims to shape a better future by identifying innovative responses to address global and regional challenges.

Candidates for Young Global Leaders are eligible for nomination based on the following criteria:

- He/she is 40 years of age or younger at the time of nomination (to be eligible for the nomination and selection process for the Class of 2015, the candidate must have been born on or after 1 January 1975).
- He/she has a recognized record of extraordinary achievement and a proven track record of substantial leadership experience. Typically, this means 5 to 15 years of outstanding professional work experience and a clear indication of playing a substantial leadership role for the rest of his or her career.
- He/she has demonstrated a commitment to serve society at large through exceptional contributions that go beyond professional commitments and have evidence of a global perspective.
- He/she must have an impeccable record in the public eye and good standing in his/her community, as well as show great self-awareness and a desire for learning.
- Candidates from the business sector must be responsible for the full operation of a qualifying corporation or division and must hold one of the following titles: President, Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, Managing Director, Managing Partner or Publisher, or equivalent of any of the above. If the company is a Member or Partner of the World Economic Forum, the candidate requires the approval of the Chief Executive Officer or Chairman of the Board of the respective company.
- Companies, organizations and entities can only nominate one candidate from the qualifying company every two years.
- Candidates should be nominated by someone other than a family member. Self-nominations are not accepted.