2026 Heroes of Tomorrow: UN SDG Action Awards

Application Fields for the Creativity & Resilience Award Categories

This document is provided for reference only and outlines the 2026 Creativity and Resilience application fields. Applications must be submitted via the official application portal available on the UN SDG Action Awards website: https://sdgactionawards.org/

Section 1: Eligibility

Creativity Award

The **Creativity Award** honours initiatives that inspire hope and action through visual expression, art, innovation and more.

Successful initiatives demonstrate how creativity drives measurable impact by inspiring action, shifting behaviours or public perceptions, and/or influencing policy.

Inspiring examples:

Smartel (2025 Winner), an innovative social enterprise that is transforming agriculture with climate-smart solutions in Nigeria and beyond.

A White Dress Doesn't Cover the Rape (2019 Winner), a courageous grassroots initiative for policy change on gender-based violence in Lebanon.

Resilience Award

The **Resilience Award** honours initiatives building resilience in the face of conflicts, inequalities, or climate change.

Successful initiatives demonstrate adaptability, perseverance, and tangible results in overcoming environmental, economic, political, or social challenges to build more sustainable, inclusive, and equitable societies.

Inspiring examples:

Gjenge Makers (2024 Winner), a transformative social enterprise that turns waste into sustainable building materials and creates green jobs in Kenya.

Women for Peace and Democracy Nepal (2025 Finalist), a pioneering organization that empowers women to lead peace-building and economic recovery.

To be eligible, applicants must demonstrate proven, measurable results achieved within the past three years in alignment with either the Creativity or Resilience category.

Initiatives that are still in the planning or concept stages are not eligible, nor are Finalists or Winners from previous editions of the Awards.

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Initiatives led by the United Nations are only eligible for an Honourable Mention.

☐	I confirm that this initiative meets the eligibility criteria.

Section 2: Contact Information of Application Focal Point

The information you provide in this section will not be visible to the public.

Surname(s):	

Given Name(s):	

Email:	

Telephone Number (including country code): (optional)	

Section 3: General Information

Name of the initiative (10 words max):	

Name of the organization which leads the initiative (10 words max)**:**	

Countries/territories where the initiative is implemented:	

Cities where the initiative is implemented:	

What type of organization is leading the initiative?	
☐	Academia
☐	Activist
☐	Civil Society Organization
☐	Creative Industry
☐	Entrepreneur / Start-up
☐	Faith-Based Organization
☐	International Organization
☐	Local/Regional Government
☐	Media
☐	National Government
☐	Private Sector
☐	United Nations
☐	Youth
☐	Other

If "other" was specified as the answer to the previous question, please explain: (if applicable)

Links to the initiative's or organization's social media profiles: (if applicable)	
Facebook:	
Instagram:	
LinkedIn:	
TikTok:	
X (formerly Twitter):	
YouTube:	

Link to the initiative's or organization's website: (in URL format)	

How did you hear about the Heroes of Tomorrow: UN SDG Action Awards?	
☐	Newsletter from a network you are a part of
☐	Recommendation from a colleague/partner
☐	Social media
☐	UN SDG Action Campaign newsletter
☐	UN SDG Action Campaign website
☐	Other

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If you answered "recommendation from a colleague/partner" or "other" to the previous question, please share the source (of the recommendation) with us: (if applicable)

CATEGORY TO WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING	
☐	CREATIVITY AWARD
☐	RESILIENCE AWARD

Which of the SDGs does your initiative focus on? (multi-select)	
☐	All SDGs
☐	SDG 1: No Poverty
☐	SDG 2: Zero Hunger
☐	SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being
☐	SDG 4: Quality Education
☐	SDG 5: Gender Equality
☐	SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
☐	SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
☐	SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
☐	SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
☐	SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
☐	SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
☐	SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
☐	SDG 13: Climate Action
☐	SDG 14: Life Below Water
☐	SDG 15: Life on Land
☐	SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
☐	SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Has the initiative already received awards and/or other recognitions?
☐ Yes ☐ No

If you answered 'yes' to the question above, please list all awards and/or recognitions received: (if applicable)

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Section 4: Initiative Overview

In one sentence, explain what your initiative is. (30 words max)

Provide a brief overview of the initiative. **Please include:** • The problem or challenge it addresses • The key solutions (100 words max)

Section 5: Review Criteria

Describe why the initiative is a strong fit for the selected category of application (Creativity or Resilience)? Provide one concrete activity that illustrates creativity or resilience in practice. (200 words max)

Impact: Describe the measurable impact and concrete change the initiative has achieved so far. Please include the following in your response: • The outcomes of the initiative. • At least one quantitative result (e.g., number of people mobilized or supported, number of policies adopted, funds raised, improvements in social, economic, or environmental conditions). (200 words max)

Scalability and Replicability: Is there a plan to scale up or replicate the initiative?

- Yes
- No

If yes, describe any current or future plans to expand or replicate the initiative.

Please include the approach and timeline.

(200 words max)

Novelty and Innovation:

Describe what makes this initiative innovative.

Explain the specific idea, method, or approach that distinguishes it from existing efforts.

(200 words max)

Describe why the initiative deserves to receive a Heroes of Tomorrow: UN SDG Action Award.

(200 words max)

Section 6: High-Resolution Photo and Video Upload

To illustrate the work described in your application, please upload **5–10 high-resolution photos and/or videos** that show the initiative in action and demonstrate its impact.

If selected as a Finalist, submitted materials may be used to create a short video compilation (approximately 1 minute) for communications and promotional purposes related to the Heroes of Tomorrow: UN SDG Action Awards.

Please select content that helps tell the story of your initiative and bring your work to life. Submissions should illustrate the context, activities, and impact of the initiative, capturing people, communities, and meaningful moments from implementation.

Footage Format:

Photos: HD quality, with a resolution of 1920 x 1080, .jpg/.png format
Videos: HD quality, with a resolution of 1920 x 1080, mp4 format, maximum duration of 10:00 minutes.

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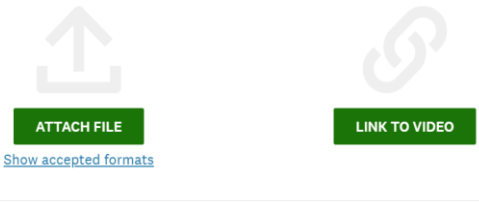
Requirements:

Photos and videos must NOT include any branding.

Files should be uploaded to an open file-sharing platform, such as Google Drive, with a viewable link that does not expire.

When sharing links, please provide the full URL.

By submitting your photo and video footage, you confirm that the organization or initiative named in this application holds all applicable legal rights and permissions for all photo and video content uploaded as part of this application.



Section 7: High-Resolution Photo and Video Description

Please provide a description for each photo and video uploaded in the previous section. Descriptions should explain what is happening in the footage and how it relates to the initiative's work and impact. (200 words max)

Photo and Video Copyright Disclaimer:
☐ I confirm that the organization or initiative named in this application holds all applicable legal rights and permissions for all photo and video content uploaded as part of this application.

Section 8: Supporting Documentation and References

Supporting Documentation: Please share links or upload articles, social media feeds, and other public documentation that highlights the scope and the results of the initiative.
Links:
File upload:

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Recommendation Letter: Please provide us with one recommendation letter from a partner who can confirm the scope and results of the initiative. **The letter should:** • Be no longer than one page • Be written on official letterhead • Include the name, position, signature, and contact information of the referee **The referee is to address some or all of the following points in their letter:** • In what capacity do you know the applicant, and for how long? • What impact has the initiative had in advancing the SDGs? • What makes the approach innovative, and has the initiative already been scaled or replicated? • Why do you recommend this initiative**?**
Upload a file:

Section 9: Information on the Designated Representative (if selected as a finalist)

Information on the Designated Representative

Provide us with the details of your initiative's one representative who would be available to participate in the Finalist Induction Programme and attend the Heroes of Tomorrow: UN SDG Action Awards Ceremony in Rome, Italy on 28 and 29 October 2026, should the initiative be selected as a Finalist*.

Please note that travel and accommodation costs for one representative will be covered by the UN SDG Action Campaign.

*Disclaimer:

As part of the evaluation process, the UN SDG Action Campaign may contact your representative for an informal interview about your initiative and application.

Additionally, to ensure geographic and gender balance among the finalists, the UN SDG Action Campaign may request that your initiative designate an alternative representative.

Surname(s):	

Given Name(s):	

Nationality/ Nationalities:	

City/Place of Residence:	

Email:	

LinkedIn: (optional)	

Bio: Please provide a short professional bio of the selected representative: (200 words max)

Headshot: Please upload a high-resolution headshot of the selected representative. (minimum 1000px x 1000px)
Upload a file:

Section 10: Terms and Conditions

I consent to my personal data being stored and processed for the purpose of the Heroes of Tomorrow: UN SDG Action Awards programme. The contents submitted in this form may be used for public promotion; however, personal data will be protected. I also consent to my data being used by the UN SDG Action Campaign for establishing contact. I will be given the option to unsubscribe from future mailings unrelated to the Heroes of Tomorrow: UN SDG Action Awards. My data will not be used for commercial purposes. I may withdraw my consent to the use of my personal data at any time by contacting hello@sdgactioncampaign.org .	
☐	By submitting this form, I agree to the above-stated Terms and Conditions.