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اللجنة الاقتصادية والاجتماعية
لغرب-آسي-ا Economic and Social Commission
For Western Asia

Youth and Development: A Perspective from the Arab Region

Ms. Rima Khalaf
Executive Secretary - UNESCWA



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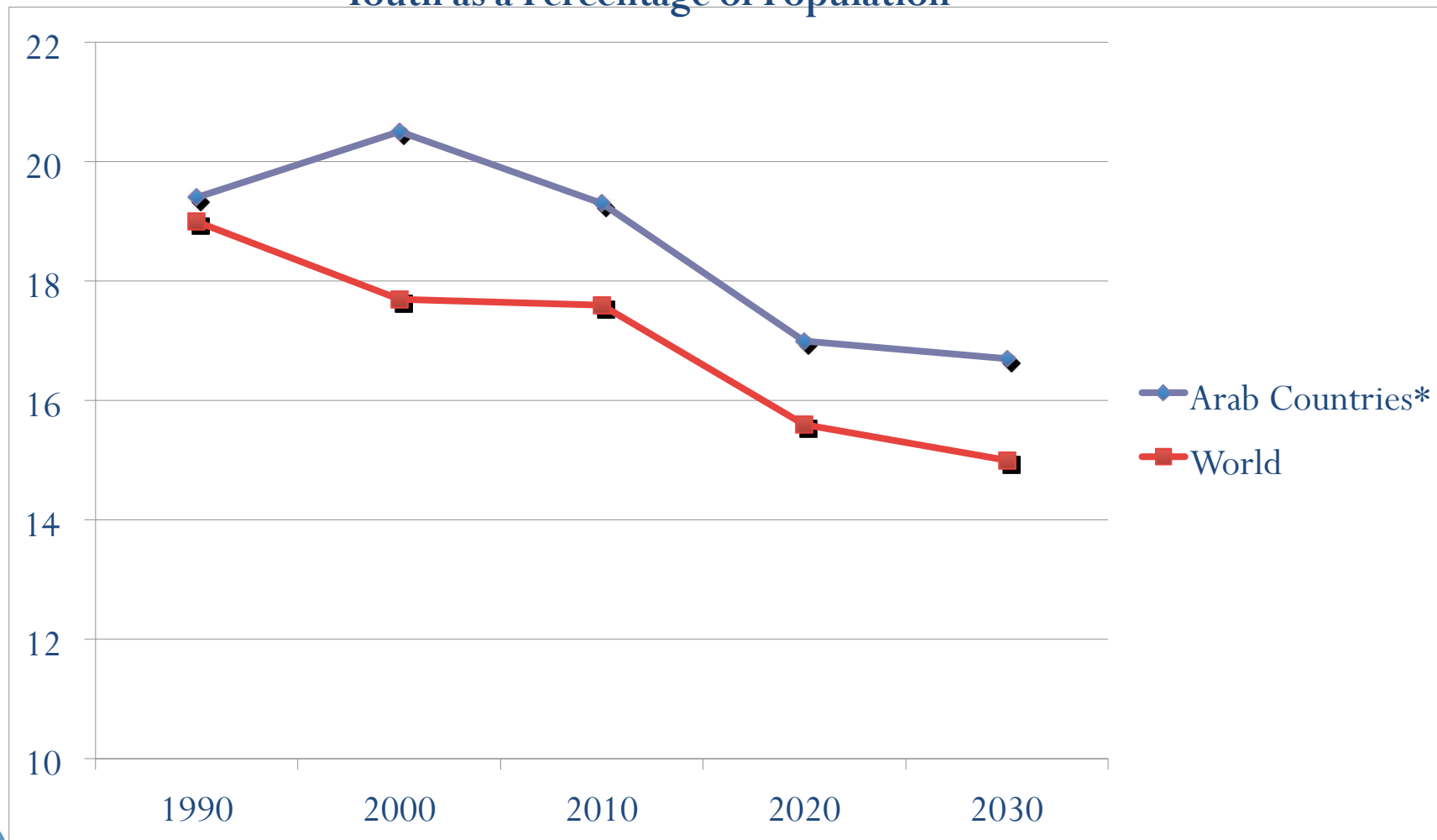
Outline

- ✘ Youth Bulge: A Challenge or a Window of Opportunity?
- ✘ Needs and Priorities of Youth
- ✘ A region in Transition
- ✘ Looking into the future: Harnessing the Potential of Youth.



The Youth Bulge: Challenge or Opportunity

Youth as a Percentage of Population





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Multiple Exclusions

Addressing the Development Needs of Youth

Education

Work

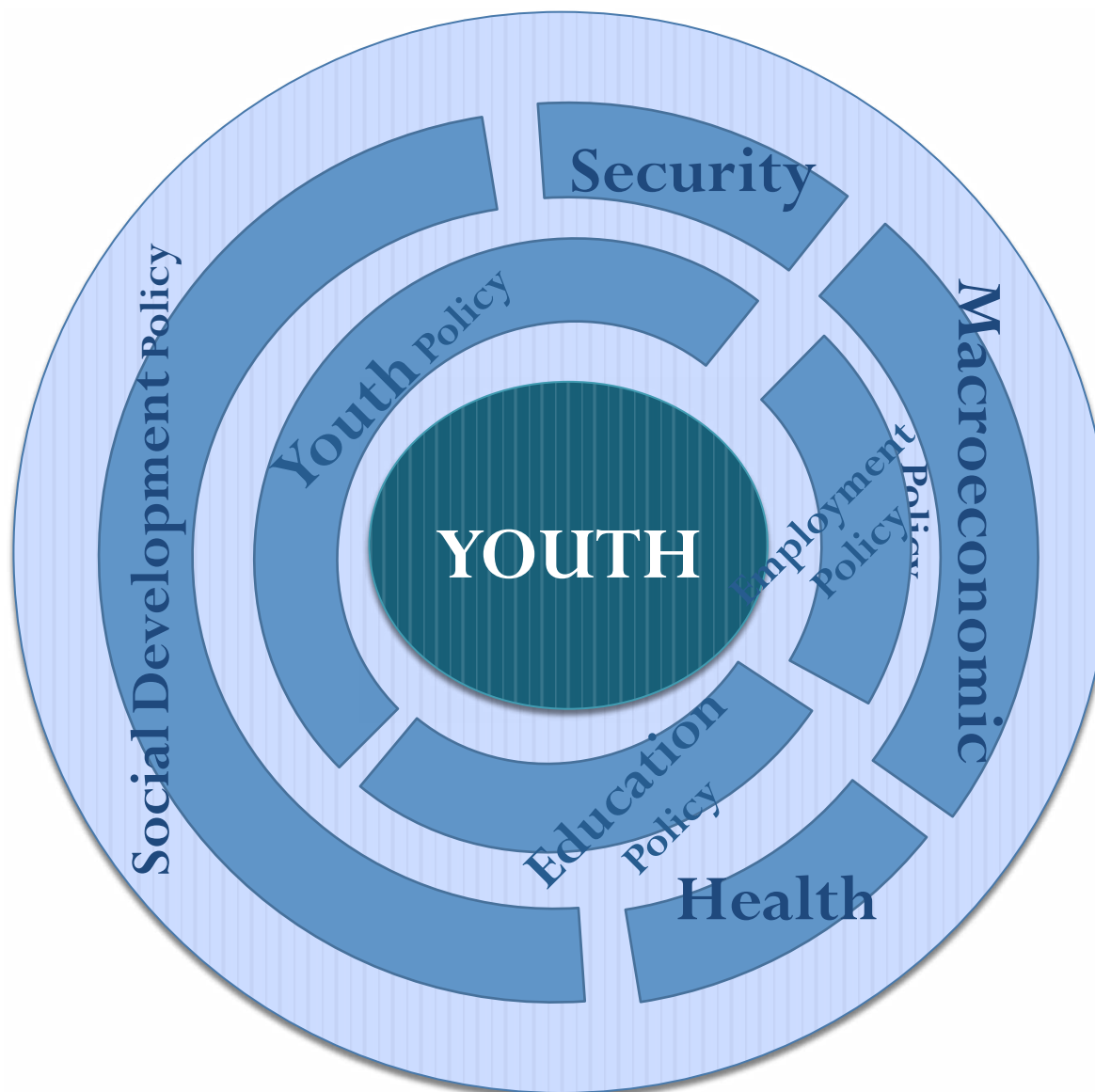
**Health /
Social
Wellbeing**

**Participation
in Public Life**



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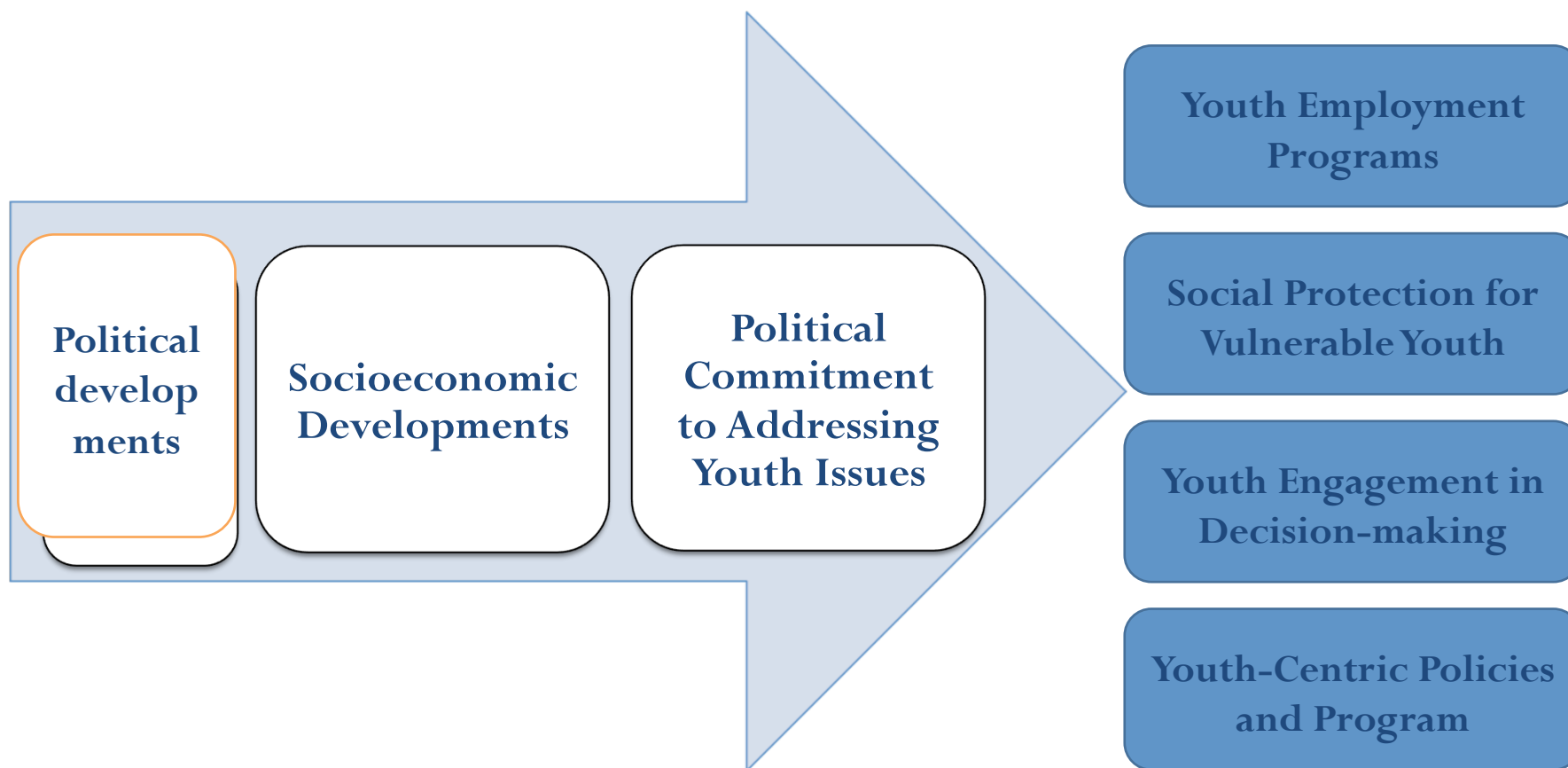
Mainstreaming or Youth Centric Policies?





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Multiple Responses from the Region





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A National Experience (Palestine)

- Youth in Palestine in the context of Israeli occupation and lack of opportunities.
- Main challenges: violence and displacement; property confiscation; restrictions on mobility and economic activity; lack of economic opportunities
- Holistic policy response: increased participation in state building, empowerment, capacity development, investing in youth



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What the Youth Want



Concerted Efforts

- To address the multiple layers of exclusion
- Harness their potential in shaping their own futures



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UN Support to Youth



Let their voices be heard

- Organized a series of discussion forums and dialogues with the youth of the revolution
- Outcomes of forums to feed into a flagship publication on the **Arab Region 2025: Prospects for the future** written by the youth of the region



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**They have shown
that they truly can**





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Thank you.