



21st YMCA World Council

19-25 July 2026

A presentation for YMCA Local Associations worldwide
October 2025

World Council – what?

Held every four years, World Council is the premier event in the YMCA global calendar.



- **1855, Paris** (Williams, Dunant)
- **1937, Mysore** (1st outside Europe & US)
- **1973, Kampala** (Kampala Principles)
- **1988, Frechen** (Challenge 21)
- **2014, Estes Park** ('a youth empowerment organisation')
- **2022, Aarhus** (YMCA Vision 2030)



World Council – who?

We will bring together 1000 YMCA people from all over the world.

- **All YMCA national and local staff at every level**
- **YMCA young people and volunteers**
- **National and local YMCA Board members**
- **National General Secretaries and Local Association leaders**
- **YMCA Area Alliance staff**
- **Global partners within the YMCA Movement (Y's Men, World Urban Network, etc.)**
- **Global partners beyond the YMCA Movement**



World Council – why?

○ **Connection & Partnerships**

We foster alliances and build bonds, both internal and external

○ **Sharing: impact & story-telling**

We celebrate the best of what we have done worldwide, across the four Pillars of Vision 2030

○ **Learning & skills-building**

We build the knowledge and capacity of delegates

Strategy

○ We review, we adopt, we adapt: a staging post for Vision 2030

○ **Context & foresight**

We put our work in a global context and chart our future

○ **Governance**

We elect new leaders, pass Resolutions, receive Reports



Core elements of World Council 2026

○ **Governance**
Two days

○ **Excursions**
One day

○ **Information, Inspiration,
Innovation: 'Solution Studios'**
Three days

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
SATURDAY 18	Arrivals: Voting delegates, NGS, ExCo	Arrivals: Voting delegates, NGS, ExCo	Arrivals: Voting delegates, NGS, ExCo
SUNDAY 19	Governance Opening & Business Agenda for voting delegates, NGS, ExCo Arrivals - all delegates	Arrivals - all delegates Governance training / NGS Meeting Meet the candidates for election	World Cup Final watch party
MONDAY 20	Welcome Ceremony Keynote address Governance reports	Business agenda & motions Get to know election candidates	Banquet dinner Canada House
TUESDAY 21	Elections Departure for Excursions	Excursions	Evening Programme Canada House
WEDNESDAY 22	Welcome partner organizations Keynote address & plenary Introducing Solutions Studios	Solutions Studios Workshops / Panels / Working Groups Exhibition Hall	Dinner in the city Canada House
THURSDAY 23	Solution Studios Workshops / Panels / Working Groups	Wonderlab: Tomorrow Party Exhibition Hall	Awards ceremony & Change Agent graduation Dinner and Canada House
FRIDAY 24	Solution Studios Workshops / Panels / Working Groups	Solutions Studios Plenary Session - Final Business session Exhibition Hall	Closing Ceremony Final dinner hosted by YMCA Canada
SATURDAY 25	Departure Day	Departure Day	*Daily devotions each day

Solutions Studios

(Programme Days 3, 4, 5)

The 5 Solutions Studios will showcase bold, youth-led, partner-supported responses to global challenges.

Purpose:

Elevate scalable, inclusive, and practical solutions that drive real impact.

Key features:

- Grounded in Vision 2030 and community needs
- Co-created with young leaders & stakeholders
- Structured for transformation: Challenge → Solution → Action
- Designed for replication & scaling



The path of the 5 'Solutions Studios'



Making sense of disruption

Framing the disruptions that shape our world to reveal root causes and inform YMCA's advocacy and action.

Advancing Vision 2030 together

Exploring our collective progress towards Vision 2030: where we've been, and where we must focus next

Imagining a bold future

Inviting participants into a creative, future-facing space to explore how today's choices shape the YMCA's long-term role in society

Scaling what works

Identifying, amplifying, and committing to scalable solutions that strengthen YMCA capacity and community transformation.

'Powered by people': Impact for communities

Equipping participants to lead change.
Investing in people drives resilient communities and real impact.

Solutions Studios will involve: **main stage moments, interactive workshops, high-level panels, master classes, experiential exhibits.**

Other key elements

World Council 2026

- YMCA Awards
- Partners & sponsors
- Devotions & the YMCA 21st Century
Christian identity 'Conversation'
- Side-meetings
- Sustainability
- Food, fun, entertainment ('Canada House' and a full day of Excursions in
Toronto) ... and a World Cup Final



World Council price packages

Packages cover meals & accommodation (Toronto Sheraton, Toronto Marriott) 19-24 July, airport transfer, Excursions (21 July) ... and access to the full event programme.

Payment by instalment is possible, with a 25% deposit now.

Early Bird price package	Early Bird Special price package	Standard price package
28 July to 19 December 2025	28 July to 19 December 2025	1 January to 17 June 2026
CAD 4130 	CAD 3150 	CAD 4480
 Special pricing is available to YMCA attendees under 30, any YMCA people from countries listed in groups 2 and 3 of the official World YMCA travel policy, and to YMCA voting delegates and retirees in special need. 		

Key issues

Visas:

- Begin the process now!
See the dedicated webpage

Communications:

- Follow and relay from www.worldcouncil.ymca.int,
World Council News #1,2,3, and Social media
- Convey your own enthusiasm: we are assembling
a body of (30s) video testimonies

Take action now!

We call on YMCA Local Associations to:

- Ensure that they are informed and mobilised: assemble your teams
- Make your bookings now – with each booking, an invitation letter is issued
- Apply for visas now

Meanwhile, collectively we will mobilise:

- YMCA National Movements and Areas Alliances,
- YMCA young people and Change Agents,
- YMCA internal partners (World Urban Network, Y's Men, YMCA Retirees, etc.)

A word from Carlos Sanvee (02:33)



THANK YOU

Transform

**There are 12 weeks left to register and receive
up to a 30% discount on the full registration price.**

Register now, well before the 19 December 'Early Bird' deadline.

See you in Toronto!

worldcouncil@ymca.int, www.worldcouncil.ymca.int

***If you need and want to share
extra information, see also:***

**4 contextual slides on the journey
from World Council 2022 to World Council 2026**

**2 videos: the launch video; a message from Carlos
Sanvee**

**From the 20th YMCA
World Council in
Aarhus in 2022 ...**

**YMCA Vision
2030 is adopted**



... via 4 years of
external upheaval

2022-2025/6

- The disruption of ...
- Nationalism
- Migration
- Conflict
- AI
- Climate



...and 4 years of *internal* YMCA alignment & impact

2022-2025/6

○ Vision 2030

The four Pillars, the four
Movement Support Functions

○ Global partnerships

○ Vision 2030 gives us:

Collective shape and focus,
and external profile



VISION
2030



Community
Wellbeing



Meaningful
Work



Sustainable
Planet



Just
World



GENERATION
UNLIMITED

Our Time.
Our Turn.
Our Future.



accenture



Deloitte.

... to the 21st YMCA World Council in Toronto in 2026

The world is transforming before our
eyes, and so must we:

Transform



World Council 2026 launch video (04:17)

