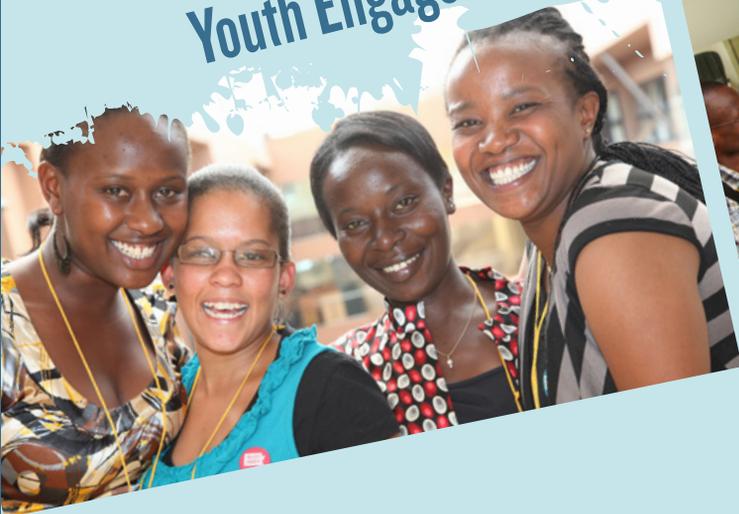




Youth21

Building an Architecture for Youth Engagement in the UN System





Youth21

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Youth Engagement in the UN System

Acknowledgements

02

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Table of contents

Acknowledgements	2	ANNEX 1: Key Milestones for Youth in the UN System	29
Abbreviations	4	Concluding remarks	27
About the Report	5	Celebration of the International Year of Youth	29
PART 1: Younger than Ever!	7	ANNEX 2: Joint Statement by Heads of UN Entities of the Inter-agency Network on Youth Development on the occasion of the UN High-Level Meeting on Youth, 2011	33
Challenges to Youth Livelihoods	8	ANNEX 3: Secretary-General's Remarks to General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Youth	34
PART 2: The UN System's commitment to Youth Engagement	10	ANNEX 4: Evolution and the growth of the World Youth Forum Idea: 1936-2011 and its linkages with the League of Nation and the United nation System	37
The Emergence of an United Nations Youth Development Agenda	10	ANNEX 5: Mapping of UN Agencies work on Youth	38
The UN System's Work with Youth	12	ANNEX 6: Braga Youth Action Plan	62
Initiation of the International Youth Day	13	ANNEX 7: Evolution and the growth of the World Youth forum Idea: 1936-1998 and its linkages with the league of nation and the United nation System	70
Celebrations of International Youth Day	13	ANNEX 8: The Genesis of global Youth Politics at the United Nations	72
The UN World Youth Reports	13	ANNEX 9: Special Representatives for the Secretary-General	80
UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD)	14	ANNEX 10: Draft Terms Of Reference For Discussion, United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development	83
Other Key UN Inter-Agency Collaborations on Youth	16	ANNEX 11: Strategy for enhanced youth engagement	85
UNAIDS Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT) on HIV and Young People	16	ANNEX 12: HSP/GC/RES/19/13: Enhancing the engagement of youth in the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme	96
Youth Employment Network	16	ANNEX 13: HSP/GC/RES/20/1: Youth and human settlements	98
Inter-Agency Cooperation on Climate Change and Sustainable Development	16	ANNEX 14: HSP/GC/RES/21/6: Urban youth development	101
Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies	17	ANNEX 15: HSP/GC/RES/22/4: Strengthening the development of urban young people	103
United Nations Adolescent Girls Task Force	17	ANNEX 16: HSP/GC/23/CRP.8/Rev.1: Urban youth development; the next step	105
Benefits of Inter-Agency Collaboration	17		
Secretary-General's Recommendations on Improving Collaboration within the United Nations system on youth-related matters	19		
Summary	19		
PART 3: Are We Moving Ahead on Youth engagement in the UN?	21		
The Way Forward	23		
SCENARIO 1: Scale up the UN Youth Program to an Institutional level	23		
SCENARIO 2: Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Youth	24		
SCENARIO 3: UN Permanent Forum on Youth, Youth Platform Assembly, and Special Representative on Youth On Indigenous Issues	25		
	27		

Abbreviations

COP	Conference of the Parties
ECOSOC	Economic & Social Council
FAO	Food & Agricultural Organization
GA	United Nations General Assembly
GC	UN-Habitat's Governing Council
IANYD	United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IYY	International Year of Youth
MENA	Middle East North Africa
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SG	Secretary-General
SRSO	Special Representative of Secretary-General
UNCED	UN Conference on Environmental Development
UNCSD	UN Commission on Sustainable Development
UNDESA	UN Dept. Of Economic & Social Affairs
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	UN Population Fund's
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNPFII	UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
YEN	Youth Employment Network

About the Report



UN-Habitat Executive Director Dr. Joan Clos addressing the Youth 21 Conference © UN-Habitat

Youth (15-24¹ years of age) are one of the largest demographic groups. They are not only demanding to be heard but are also taking positive action to advance their communities and societies. There is an urgent need, therefore, to put mechanisms in place to give youth a role in shaping the policy and work of international agencies such as the UN. There is an opportunity for the UN to engage the youth globally in a positive way and to make the UN relevant for youth.

UN-Habitat has historically engaged young people at all levels, from mainstreaming in its operations through its Youth Advisory Board to supporting urban youth through capacity build-

ing, training, and the Urban Youth Fund. With the adoption of the resolution HSP/GC/23/7,² UN-Habitat was tasked by its Governing Council in April 2011 to explore, in co-operation with sister agencies and member states, the enhancement and engagement of youth in the UN system. The goal of this report is to describe the potential power of urban youth in particular and youth in general to effect positive and sustainable change in communities globally through developing ways for youth to engage in global governance and decision-making in the UN system.

In 1995, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) to guide the creation of national

¹ UN defines youth from 15-24 and UNICEF and WHO define adolescent from 11-19. The UN-Habitat Urban Youth Fund defines youth as 15-32.

² http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/9775_1_593698.pdf



LOOKING BACK AT THE AMBITIONS IN BRAGA 1998

“Youth issues should be given higher priority in United Nations System. We recommend the strengthening of the United Nations Youth Unit and its counterparts in other funds, programmes and specialised agencies and the provision to them of greater resources and more staff – notably young people.”

<http://www.un.org/events/youth98/lyforum98/bragayap.htm>

and international environments in which young people can flourish. Since then, opportunities for young people to benefit from development have expanded within the UN system and globally. Nonetheless, WPAY and other policies and frameworks still do not have accompanying mechanisms that allow youth full and meaningful participation in decision-making—too often, they are viewed as clients rather than partners and stakeholders.

Following the aforementioned UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution and the recently concluded International Year of the Youth³, UN-Habitat, a member of the UN Interagency Network on Youth Development⁴, partnered with other governments and UN agencies to find ways to better engage youth in the UN system. It is within this context, and in response to paragraph 26 in the recently adopted Outcome Document of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on **Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding**⁵, that UN-Habitat prepared this report.

The report is structured as follows; this report will start with the context of young people in the global context. Then, a broad background to how the UN system historically has engaged young people will be provided. The report will conclude with an elaboration on three possible models of engagement, and a tentative conclusion on the best way forward for the UN system and the member states.

3 <http://social.un.org/youthyear/>

4 <http://social.un.org/youthyear/uniany.html>

5 <http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=AI/RES/65/312>

Part 1

Younger than Ever!

Currently, 18% of the global population—about 1.2 billion people—are young citizens.⁶ Youth widely vary in their socio-economic, demographic, and geographical situations vary widely both within and among regions,

yet the vast majority of the world's youth—some 87%—live in developing countries and face challenges such as limited access to resources, education, training, employment, and economic development opportunities.

FIGURE 1: Total population (both sexes) by five-year age group, major area, region and country, 1990 and 2010 (thousands)

Major area, region, country or area	1990	2010
	15 - 24	15 - 24
	1990	2010
ASIA	646 878	754 015
AFRICA	122 399	205 336
EUROPE	1047 941	93 820
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	87 377	106 186
NORTHERN AMERICA	41 470	47936
OCEANIA	4670	5666
Total Youth Population	1 007 735	1 212 960
	1996	2010
Less developed regions, excluding least developed countries	739 578	886 307
More developed regions	168 444	158 132
Least developed countries	99 713	168 521
Less developed regions, excluding China	584 736	825 272
Less developed regions	839 292	1 054 828
World (total population not only youth)	5 362 591	7 001 141
Total Youth population	1007 735	1 212 960

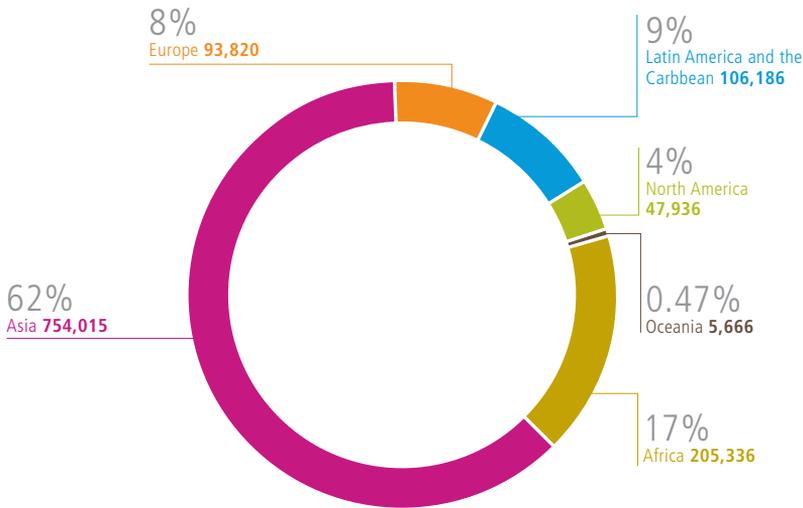
*Total population (both sexes combined) by five-year age group, major area, region and country, 1990 and 2010 (thousands)

*All numbers are based on estimates

*<http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Excel-data/population.htm>

⁶ The United Nations uses the following definitions: "adolescents" is those between 10-19 years of age. Youth is those between 15-24 years of age. "Young people" are defined as including both adolescents and youth (For more in-depth details, see UN General Assembly Resolution 36/215 and 36/28 of 1981)

FIGURE 2: The World's Youth Population (15-24 years) in 2010, by region



At present, 62% of the world's youth live in Asia and 17% (the next largest proportion) live in Africa, equalling approximately 960 million young men and women in these two regions alone.

Challenges to Youth Livelihoods

A substantial number of young people resides in areas in which poverty is a major challenge. Approximately 64% of youth in Africa and 84% in Asia live in countries where at least one third of the population subsists on less than US\$ 2 per day. A growing number of youth live in urban areas with limited access to basic social services; the cities of the developing world account for over 90% of the world's expected urban growth and youth account for a large percentage of those inhabitants. It is estimated that as many as 60% of all urban dwellers will be under the age of 18 by 2030.⁷

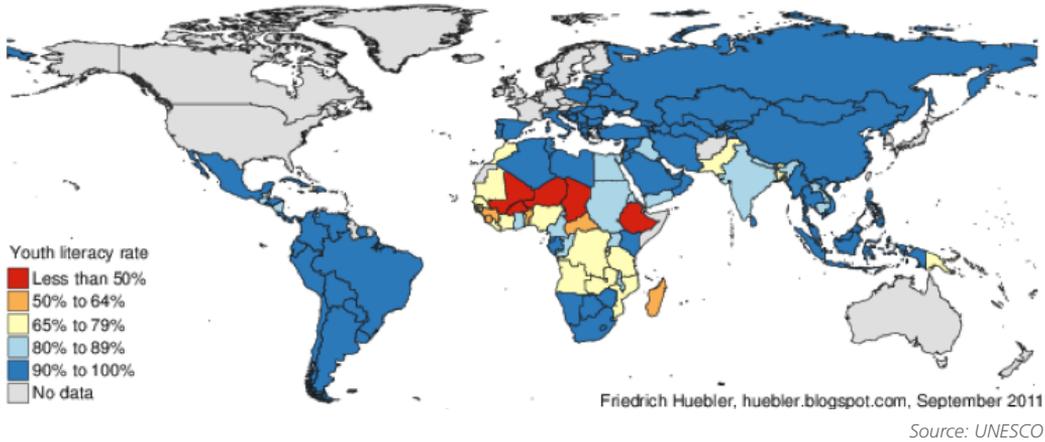
Employment is an integral part of the transition to adulthood and plays a central role in the social integration of young people. It provides

youth with economic security and facilitates their participation in society. Access to employment translates into access to income and resources, both of which are pivotal to shaping adaptive capacity. Yet youth continue to be overrepresented among the world's unemployed. In 2007, youth comprised only 25% of the working-age population but accounted for more than 40% of the unemployed. The global youth unemployment rate in 2007 was 12%, three times the adult rate. In South-East Asia and the Pacific, youth unemployment rates are as high as six times those of adults. This is a massive waste of the society's resources. More importantly, young urban people with poor access to resources are less inclined to see civic authorities as working for and representing them. In effect, the low presence of youth in employment also effectively blocks the creation of positive commitment for efficient urban governance.

Still, youth unemployment in developing countries is only part of the story. For young people in these areas, informal, non-secure, and low-wage employment is the norm, with youth labour

⁷ *Cities of Youth: Cities of Prosperity report, UN-Habitat*

FIGURE 3: Youth Literacy rate (2011)



activity concentrated in agriculture and related industries and in the burgeoning informal sector. More than 79% of the world's youth live in Africa, Asia, and Oceania, where employment in agriculture comprises at least 35% of total employment.

Education is another essential element in the transition to adulthood. For a substantial number of young people in developing countries, access to quality education is difficult. Although the global youth literacy rate increased from 84% between 1985 and 1994 to 89% between 2000 and 2006, progress has been uneven, with youth literacy rates below 80% recorded in sub-Saharan Africa and in southern and western Asia. Secondary enrolment levels are as low as 25% in some Pacific countries and 16% in parts of Asia, but the lowest rates are found among youth in Africa. Large disparities in educational quality and access also exist within countries due to differences in income, location, gender, and ethnicity. Another aspect of the educational

quality young people are faced with is the disparity between the educational sector's output and the requirements of employment both in the private and public sector. In several countries, this mismatch between education and skills needed creates a large body of skilled yet unemployed people. Highly educated youth are without jobs and many youth are poorly educated.

The State of the Urban Youth 2010-2011 report recommended "Levelling the Playing Field" for youth in danger of being caught in a vicious cycle of poverty. This report, the first of its kind, focused on youth exclusion from opportunities in urban areas in order to raise international attention and action towards this critical issue. Inequality (in earning and assets) defines youth exclusion from urban life and is related to the unequal opportunities that occur in successive life stages. Education and gender were identified in this report as key determinants of equal opportunity.

Part 2

The UN System's commitment to Youth Engagement

The Emergence of an United Nations Youth Development Agenda⁸

The Member States of the United Nations first acknowledged the importance of youth in 1965 when they endorsed the *Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples*. Two decades later, the United Nations General Assembly observed 1985 as International Year of Youth, with the theme “*Participation, Development and Peace*.” The first International Youth Year drew international attention to the important role that young people play in the world, and in particular to their potential contribution to the goals of the United Nations Charter. Looking back, the first International Year of Youth was instrumental in putting youth on the international agenda, but in practice, governments were reluctant to let young people into the centre stage of UN politics as stakeholders with a voice.

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, also known as the Rio Conference, was a major breakthrough for youth participation. At this conference, *Agenda 21* was adopted, in which chapter 25 calls for the involvement of youth in decision-making. The governments present in Brazil in 1992 agreed that

LOOKING BACK AT THE

“...The United Nations is doing a considerable amount to invest in youth.

We are acquiring knowledge and best practices about the issues affecting young people today.

And we are making greater efforts to engage youth in our negotiating and decision-making processes.

Still, I do not think we have gone nearly far enough...”

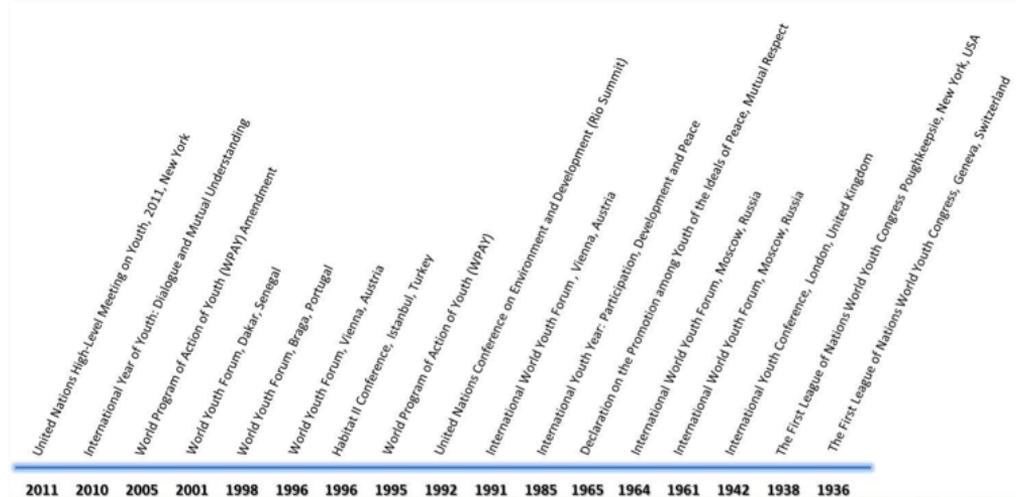
Secretary-General's Remarks to General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Youth, 2011

“each country and the United Nations should support the promotion and creation of mechanisms to involve youth representation in all United Nations processes in order to influence those processes” (Agenda 21, 25/7).

A significant step in enhancing youth participation and involvement was taken at the Habitat II conference in Istanbul, Turkey in 1996, where the Habitat Agenda was adopted. In this watershed conference, women and youth were recognized as two major actors in international development, and seen as equal partners in decision-making processes that affect human settlements. Since then, the UN has recognized these groups as important stakeholders in local and national urban development.

⁸ Part of this section is based on the publication *Growing Together: Youth and the Work of the United Nations* <http://social.un.org/index/Youth/YouthintheUN.aspx>

FIGURE 4: Evolution and the growth of the World Youth Forum Idea: 1936-2011 and its linkages with the League of Nation and the United nation System



International debate and discussions reached a high point in 1995 when, on the tenth anniversary of International Year of Youth, the UN adopted the *World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond*. While the adoption of the Programme of Action—which provides a framework to guide public, private, and international action on youth development—demonstrated the international commitment to young people, few real changes in the UN system in terms of real youth engagement in policy development and discussion surfaced after the adoption.

In May 2003, the UN-Habitat Governing Council adopted a resolution on youth engagement (HSP/GC/RES/19/13). This resolution was followed up by the Governing Council in 2005 with the adoption of a *Strategy for enhanced engagement* (HSP/GC/20/2/Add.5) that aimed to provide an integrated approach to urban youth development and mainstream a focus on youth in all normative and operational work of UN-Habitat.

In December 2009, the General Assembly adopted its resolution 64/134⁹ proclaiming the *International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding*¹⁰, to commence on August 12, 2010. At the end of the High Level Meeting, marking the end of the IYY, Member States adopted the Outcome Document submitted by the President of the General Assembly, A/RES/65/312.¹¹

The International Year of Youth was celebrated widely among different agencies and organizations but young people are yet to see real change in how the UN engages youth. Youth continue to play the role of client—not key stakeholder at the decision-making table. UN agencies and governments alike seem hesitant to give young people a real voice when it comes to shaping politics and projects concerning their future.

9 <http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/RES/64/134>

10 <http://social.un.org/youthyear/high-level-meeting.html>

11 <http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/RES/65/312>

In sum, the youth agenda has been long in the making (Figure 4). There have been both high and low points of youth focus within the UN system, a repeated pattern spread over eight decades. Significantly, the UN has not had a pivotal global meeting on youth in the same scale as the breakthrough meetings that so advanced relevant concerns relating to women, elderly, and indigenous peoples in the past.

The UN System's Work with Youth

The UN has long recognized the importance of investing in youth. The following section takes stock of different initiatives where the inter-agency collaboration and youth engagement have materialized.

With activities ranging from data collection and analysis to direct country support to governments, civil society, and other stakeholders, the United Nations is well positioned to provide comprehensive and specialized assistance in support of global youth development. Particular attention is given to areas such as health, education, and employment, and the special circumstances of girls and young women—persistent challenges to youth development in many parts of the world.¹²

Parallel to the youth-related work of UN agencies and programs, the General Assembly and its subordinate organs are also involved in youth development. Currently, the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and the Commission for Social Development are the main intergovernmental bodies that monitor the progress, constraints, and emerging topics related to youth issues within the UN.



“...The international community must continue to work together to expand the horizons of opportunity for these young women and men and answer their legitimate demands for dignity, development and decent work. Failing to invest in our youth is a false economy. Investments in young people will pay great dividends in a better future for all.

This Day marks the end of the International Year of Youth, a milestone in global advocacy by and for the world's young people. My hope is that this experience will now provide a foundation to go even further in harnessing the talents and energies of young people. To them I say: you have the opportunity to change our world. Seize it.

Ban Ki-moon,
UN Secretary General,
International Youth Day 2011

The Third Committee of the General Assembly considers youth issues once every two years under its resolution, “Policies and programmes involving youth.” Similarly, the Commission for Social Development contemplates youth issues once every two years under its resolution, “Policies and programmes involving youth.”¹³

The adoption of the World Programme of Action for Youth in 2000 was a major achievement in youth empowerment within the UN and created momentum in youth-focused development work. The WPAY identified the following 10 priority areas to guide policy and action in the area of youth development:

1. Education
2. Employment
3. Hunger and poverty
4. Health
5. Environment
6. Drug abuse
7. Juvenile delinquency
8. Leisure-time activities

¹² Please see annex for details on key UN agencies selected work to advance youth issues.

¹³ List of resolutions: <http://social.un.org/index/Youth/Resoursesandtools/Youthresolutions.aspx>

9. Girls and young women
10. Youth participation in society and in decision-making

In 2005, in order to recognize the major changes in national and international development environments at the end of the twentieth century and to align the Programme of Action better to new challenges in the twenty-first century, the General Assembly added five additional priority areas. These five areas—Globalization, Information and Communication Technology, HIV/ AIDS, Armed Conflict, and Intergenerational issues—were elaborated on in a supplement to the WPAY, which was adopted at the sixty-second session of the General Assembly in 2007.

The following section is a short analysis of the newly created Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD) and its role in facilitating the process leading up to and during the second International Year of Youth as an example of how UN agencies are currently working on youth engagement. This section concludes with an analysis of other institutionalized multi-stakeholder or inter-agencies mechanisms at the UN level to advance youth issues.

Initiation of the International Youth Day¹⁴

In 1999, in its resolution 54/120, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon, 8-12 August 1998) that August 12 be declared International Youth Day. The Assembly recommended that public information activities be organized to support the day as a way to promote better awareness of the World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted by the General Assembly in 1995 (resolution 50/81).

¹⁴ <http://social.un.org/index/Youth/InternationalYouthDay.aspx>

Celebrations of International Youth Day

- IYD 2011 - Change Your World
- IYD 2010 - Dialogue and Mutual Understanding
- IYD 2009 - Sustainability: Our Challenge. Our Future.
- IYD 2008 - Youth and Climate Change: Time for Action
- IYD 2007 - Be seen, Be heard: Youth participation for development
- IYD 2006 - Tackling Poverty Together
- IYD 2005 - WPAY+10: Making Commitments Matter
- IYD 2004 - Youth in an Intergenerational Society
- IYD 2003 - Finding decent and productive work for young people everywhere
- IYD 2002 - Now and for the Future: Youth Action for Sustainable Development
- IYD 2001 - Addressing Health and Unemployment
- First Observance of International Youth Day 2000

The UN World Youth Reports

In addition to the International Youth Day, the UN World Youth Reports have been instrumental in highlighting the youth agenda. Four key World Youth Reports especially created much attention and were influential in pushing important youth issues inside and outside the UN system:

- **The World Youth Report 2003** provided an overview of the global situation of young people. The first 10 chapters focused on the priority areas identified by the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY), adopted by the General Assembly in 1995. The remaining five chapters addressed issues that were later identified as additional

priorities for youth and were adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2003.

- **In the World Youth Report 2005**, it was argued that too often, youth policy is driven by negative stereotypes of young people, including delinquency, drug abuse, and violence.
- **In the World Youth Report 2007**, challenges and opportunities for the roughly 1.2 billion young people between the ages of 15 and 24 in the world were described. The report provided a regional overview and summarized major youth development trends in the 15 priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth. The report explored major concerns regarding youth development, including employment, education, health, poverty, and violence, and highlighted youth as a positive force for development. The report provided recommendations for supporting their essential contributions.
- **The World Youth Report 2010** focused on youth and climate change, and highlighted the important role young people play in addressing climate change. It offered suggestions on how young people might be more effectively integrated as individuals and collective agents of change within the realm of climate change adaptation and mitigation. The report aimed to assist youth and youth organizations in educating themselves and to become more actively involved in combating the threat of climate change.

In the report, the status of young people as key stakeholders in the fight against climate change was affirmed. The publication came at a time when efforts to address climate change received a great deal of attention, thus offering youth a unique opportunity for their voice to be heard in the debate.

UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD)

The United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD)¹⁵, established in 2010, is a network consisting of UN entities at the headquarters level whose work is relevant to youth. The Network is co-chaired by the United Nations Programme on Youth and a rotating member selected on an annual basis; currently ILO is the co-chair together with UNDESA.

The overall aim of the IANYD is to increase the effectiveness of UN work in youth development by strengthening collaboration and exchange among UN entities. The Network contributes to increased understanding and visibility of the UN's work on youth development. The IANYD also serves as a platform for updates on youth-related work and dialogue on collaboration.

A main focus of the IANYD is the coordination of the International Year of the Youth.¹⁶ In 2009, the General Assembly (A/RES/64/130) called upon the United Nations Programme on Youth and the IAYND to continue to act as the focal points within the UN, and recommended that the Programme receive continued support in facilitating the participation of youth in the UN. Following up on this, in the spring of 2010, the Network developed the *UN Framework Approach for the International Year of Youth* in

¹⁵ <http://social.un.org/youthyear/unianyid.html>

¹⁶ <http://social.un.org/index/Youth/YouthintheUN/Inter-AgencyNetworkonYouthDevelopment.aspx>

order to provide a concrete framework for collective efforts during the IYY. Three key objectives were decided upon: *creating awareness through increasing the commitment and investment in youth*; mobilizing and engaging youth through increase participation and partnerships; and connecting and building bridges through increased intercultural understanding amongst youth.

In addition to its facilitation role, the IANYD plays an advocacy role in engaging youth through issuing joint statements and pledging to increase the effectiveness of the UN in advocating for and supporting national efforts in supporting youth. Still, one often cited criticism and the main challenge for UNDESA and the IANYD rests with the limited mandate they can operate within as part of the secretariat. In the end, these entities cannot move beyond the will of the member states.

While the IANYD played a positive role in the engagement of youth in the IYY, this role did not stray from the continued norm of youth being treated as clients, with no meaningful engagement within the governance of the IANYD. Youth engagement was highlighted throughout the preparatory process of the High Level Meeting on youth including a special briefing session for member state on meaningful youth participation was held in April 2011.

At the conclusion of the IYY, a joint statement was endorsed by the Heads of UN entities of the inter-agency network on Youth Development, who pledged to increase efforts to implement international agreements and development goals as they relate to youth:

We join Member States and youth-led organizations in building on synergies to promote the ideals of peace, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, gender equality, solidarity, progress and development as guided by the proclamation of the International Year of Youth by the General Assembly.

In the joint statement, four specific goals were identified:

1. The promotion of comprehensive policies with a focus on development and poverty reduction that include young people's issues and voices;
2. The advancement of the human rights and development needs of adolescents and youth, including marginalized adolescent girls;
3. The implementation of coordinated youth policies and programmes;
4. Support for full and effective youth participation in decision-making in both rural and urban settings, including young people with disabilities, young people living with HIV, indigenous young people, young people from minorities, young migrants, young people who are stateless, internally displaced, young refugees or those affected by humanitarian situations or armed conflict.

We reaffirm our pledge to make young people a priority in our work and commit to incorporate their perspectives within our organizations and in the United Nations system. We call on governments, civil society, the private sector, donors, media, communities, youth-led organizations, voluntary associations and other stakeholders to join us in making this a world fit for young people.

Other Key UN Inter-Agency Collaborations on Youth

The IANYD is only one example on inter-agency collaboration on youth issues. Whereas the IANYD is a joint initiative of all agencies involved in youth development in the UN, other cooperation involves only some. A key difference between the IANYD and other collaboration initiatives (presented below) is the nature of cooperation. The IANYD brings together youth issues in the UN while other collaborative efforts generally have a specific focus, for example HIV and Young People, or Youth and Employment. These specialized task teams focus on one theme while the IANYD can address all issues relevant to youth.

UNAIDS Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT) on HIV and Young People

The inter-agency task team on HIV and young people¹⁷ was created in 2001 to increase young people's utilization of HIV services. Membership includes the UNAIDS Secretariat and co-sponsors, along with youth networks/associations, donors, civil society, and research institutions. It is convened by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) as a lead agency on HIV and young people, as agreed in the UNAIDS technical division of labour. In order to reduce the number of young people infected by HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS aims to increase young people's comprehensive knowledge of HIV and counselling services. Within the overall collaborative framework of UNAIDS, a number of inter-agency task teams, such as the task team on HIV and young people and the task team on education, promote inter-agency collaboration related to youth.

Youth Employment Network

The Youth Employment Network (YEN)¹⁸ is a partnership between the UN, the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the World Bank. It was established in the wake of the Millennium Summit of the UN with the aim to find new and durable solutions to youth unemployment. The Network is a global platform that aims to prioritize youth employment on the development agenda and to exchange knowledge on effective policies and programs to improve employment opportunities for youth. YEN focuses on policy advice, innovative pilot projects, knowledge-sharing and brokering partnerships. YEN is managed by a permanent secretariat hosted by ILO offices in Geneva, Dakar, and Dar es Salaam.

Inter-Agency Cooperation on Climate Change and Sustainable Development

The United Nations Joint Framework Initiative on Children, Youth, and Climate Change¹⁹ was created in October 2008 under the auspices of the secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The aim of the Initiative is to share information between United Nations agencies on engaging children and youth in climate change issues at the national, regional, and global levels. The Initiative also allows participating agencies to share plans for events on child and youth issues that are to be organized at meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention and to facilitate a coordinated UN effort to that effect. In this context, the Joint Framework Initiative implemented a series of activities at recent sessions of the Conference of the Parties (COP).

¹⁷ <http://www.unfpa.org/public/iattyp>

¹⁸ <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/yen/>

¹⁹ http://unfccc.int/cc_inet/files/cc_inet/information_pool/application/pdf/growingtogether.pdf

Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies

The Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies²⁰ aims to improve inter-agency communication and collaboration regarding education opportunities and services in emergency and post-crisis contexts. This network brings together stakeholders from both within and outside the UN system. The current steering group is composed of UNESCO, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNICEF, and the World Bank in equal partnership with the civil society organizations CARE International, ChildFund International, the International Rescue Committee, International Save the Children Alliance, Open Society Institute, and Refugee Education Trust. This set-up makes the UN system more responsive to the outside stakeholders, and gives, to a limited degree, youth the possibility to participate in the discussions.

United Nations Adolescent Girls Task Force²¹

In November 2007, the United Nations Adolescent Girls Task Force convened in response to the need for a clear inter-agency programming framework specifically addressing marginalized and disadvantaged adolescent girls. The objective of the Task Force is to raise awareness of the situation of the most marginalized and disadvantaged adolescent girls and recommend action to ease their plight. Co-chaired by UNFPA and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Task Force includes UNESCO, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UNWOMEN), the World Health Organization (WHO), and ILO.

The task force supports collaboration at the national level with Government ministries, civil society organizations, and women's and girls' networks.

In 2010, at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Adolescent Girls Task Force launched the United Nations Joint Statement on Adolescent Girls²², in which the heads of all six participating agencies pledged to intensify their efforts to fulfil the human rights of adolescent girls with a particular emphasis on those hardest to reach. The Joint Statement identifies five strategic areas: education, health, prevention of violence, leadership development, and research. A joint programming framework to roll out the work in these five areas is currently under development.

Benefits of Inter-Agency Collaboration

Inter-agency collaboration such as the IANYD on youth at global, national, and regional levels has a number of important benefits.²³ The coordinating mechanisms and working groups that have been established at various levels provide a forum to share information and knowledge, avoid duplication of initiatives, and identify complementary expertise and potentials for synergies in delivering relevant outcomes.

The sharing of contacts and pooling of networks and expertise has proven to be especially helpful. In particular, organizations with only a global or regional headquarter benefit from national networks of partner agencies. At the same time, the agencies themselves have benefited

²² http://www.unicef.org/adolescence/index_girls.html

²³ GA A/66/61-E/2011/3 - Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action on Youth: United Nations system coordination and collaboration related to youth; <http://www.un.org/en/ga/third/66/documents/list.shtml>

²⁰ www.ineesite.org

²¹ http://www.unicef.org/adolescence/index_girls.html



Kenyan gospel artiste Eko Dydda performing during the Youth 21 Conference © UN-Habitat

from improved access to intergovernmental processes that take place at the global or regional level. Since the challenges facing young people are multifaceted, sectorial approaches are insufficient to improve the well-being of young people in a holistic manner. By combining efforts, United Nations entities are able to draw on their specific expertise, mandates, and resources to ensure that youth issues are addressed in a comprehensive manner.

Yet, despite these positive outcomes, one of the key challenges for the IANYD and other inter-agency collaborations is the meaningful engagement of young people in governance structures and policy planning. The IANYD is mandated to only involve representatives from the different UN agencies working with youth. In regards to the engagement of youth, the IANYD only encourages and supports youth's engagement at the local, national, and international levels. External to their own work, the IANYD is pri-

marily concerned with promoting collaboration between members of the UN that have different and at times incompatible mandates and missions. The other aforementioned agencies do excellent work in bringing youth issues into the UN, but have not created mechanisms to engage youth in decision-making. The UN as a whole has not created any structures that institutionalize youth engagement. Though strong advocacy for youth by UN agencies is laudable and should continue to be supported, there is no strong example of any mechanism within the UN system that meaningfully engages youth in decision-making. The way in which the UN system is dealing with youth issues is for the most part ad hoc.

Research suggests that youth engagement in governance improves outcomes not only for the youth engaged, but also for the adults and community as a whole. Most studies suggest that real youth engagement in governance brings about increased concern for issues external to

the youth, followed by increased commitment, and subsequent impact on the projects themselves. Engaging youth in governance leads to increased involvement of society and better outcomes for youth and for society.

The mechanisms proposed here are not meant to replace ones such as the WPAY, IANYD, and other types of inter-agencies collaborations and policy frameworks, but to complement them, keeping in focus the goal of the better representation of youth within the UN, and the greater support and recognition of youth issues and activities outside the UN.

A cornerstone of a real democracy is voice: the right to say 'no' and be heard. The key question this report addresses is how to provide youth a voice in UN structures of planning and governance. It is time to act and invite the leaders of tomorrow and the pioneers of today, young people, to the table where their future is being planned.

Secretary-General's Recommendations on Improving Collaboration within the United Nations system on youth-related matters²⁴

Collaboration within the United Nations system on youth-related matters has expanded significantly in recent years. This increased collaboration has resulted in the adoption of strategic approaches to promoting youth development and, increasingly, joint programme delivery by the United Nations. Yet, to fully reap the benefits of inter-agency coordination, more remains to be done.

In view of the foregoing, the General Assembly may wish to consider the following recommendations:

- *To call upon the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to further increase coordination and collaboration in their work related to youth;*

- *To call upon the regional coordination mechanisms of the United Nations to adopt and/or implement regional inter-agency action plans in support of Member States' efforts to develop holistic and integrated youth policies based on the World Programme of Action;*
- *To call upon relevant organizations of the United Nations system to further develop inclusive and accessible mechanisms for youth participation in inter-agency initiatives on youth development.*

Summary

There has been much inter-agency collaboration over the last decade on youth-related issues, but a structure or a mechanism that engages youth meaningfully within the UN collaborative structure has yet to be established. It is hard to determine what the impact of existing collaborations on the advancement the youth issues worldwide has been; both internally in the policy development process and on the ground. What is clear is that there currently is no mechanism that provides for the highest levels (heads of agencies) of the UN to improve the meaningful participation of youth in the UN system together with youth. Further, there are no mechanisms with the UN system that allow youth to meet and work on policy questions and other key decisions that affect their future. How can youth, in the same manner as other specific groups, be given a seat at the table and be listened to?

²⁴ GA A/66/61-E/2011/3 Implementation of the World Food Programme of Action for Youth

Today's youth have taken the lead in toppling dictators and fighting for democracy, justice, and equity—often under the harshest economic and social conditions. The UN must create mechanisms that respect youth's capacities and commitment in order to not become obsolete. This report raises more questions than answers regarding youth engagement and underlines the truth of the statement of the Secretary General: *"Still, I do not think we have gone nearly far enough"*.

Part 3

Are We Moving Ahead on Youth engagement in the UN?



The opening session of the Youth 21 Conference
© UN-Habitat

While the UN has repeatedly stated its intention to meaningfully engage youth and address their issues, numerous youth meetings and conferences have demanded greater accountability of the UN to deliver on youth issues—without producing any real results.

The success and sustainability of youth involvement in the UN will probably, and as in the past, depend as much on concerted youth and NGO efforts as on the member states' political commitments and actions. To be meaningfully engaged, youth need inclusive and accessible mechanisms in the form of partnerships with stakeholders on all levels.

Many youth organization have been lobbying the UN system for a key role in decision-making processes that affect them. Some UN entities such as the UNFPA, UNESCO, and UN-Habitat have set up youth advisory bodies; but these are exceptions, not the rule. It is not clear what impact these advisory boards have had on the daily program activities of the agencies and their long term strategic planning.

The need for a Special Rapporteur on Youth was proposed in 1998, and was discussed by the General Assembly, yet there has been no movement on such an initiative. The lack of sustained momentum on behalf of the United Nations in meaningfully engaging youth in its governance structures and policy discussions is evident.

It has been pointed out in the preceding parts that the world attention on youth issues since 1936 has been ad hoc. There has been a tendency to seek new initiatives rather than build on older, proposed but untried, initiatives. These scattered dots need to be connected and a comprehensive response sought and acted upon. There is indeed much room for improvement. As one speaker aptly put it at the High Level Meeting in July 2011: "A nation that does not take care of its youth, does not have a future—and does not deserve one."

"A nation that does not take care of its youth, does not have a future – and does not deserve one"

"Failing to Invest in our Youth is a False Economy,"

*UN Secretary- General
Ban Ki-Moon*

1998 BRAGA YOUTH ACTION PLAN²⁵

YOUTH RIGHTS CHARTER AND A SPECIAL RAPORTEUR ON YOUTH RIGHTS:

Instead of a so called "Youth Rights Charter", the United Nations Youth Unit produce and assist youth NGOs disseminate at international, regional, national and local levels a compendium on existing youth rights which consists of the compilation of the existing rights regarding young people already included in reports adopted by the General Assembly and United Nations Human Rights instruments, including United Nations international conferences such as the conferences in Cairo, Copenhagen, Vienna and Beijing.

The compendium should be made into a youth friendly publication available and accessible to all youth around the world, was not adopted.

The UN Special Rapporteur on Youth rights should be appointed by United Nations Secretary General before the end of 1999 basing on nominations through regional consultations of NGOs to be made by August 1999. He or she should be mandated for three years (renewal possible only for two terms). He or she should be a young independent expert (no older than 35 years of age at the time of appointment and renewal), experienced with human rights issues, recently and directly involved with youth organisations. Effort must ensure the elimination of discrimination with every appointment to ensure fair and equal opportunity in the position over time. He or she must submit an annual report to the UN General Assembly and other relevant bodies, including recommendations for better implementation of youth rights. He or she should be actively supported by all UN structures.

We urge the Secretary General of the United Nations to take the initiative, with the help of specialised agencies, relevant regional organizations and youth NGOs, for the organisation of an ad hoc event on Youth Rights, in order to bring together representatives of states and all interested national, regional and international youth NGOs. This World event (either a special session of UN General Assembly or a UN World Conference on Youth Rights) should be prepared at the national and regional levels through campaigning to promote the largest possible involvement of young people. The ad hoc event on Youth Rights should address the questions of how to improve the Human Rights situation of youth under sanctions, embargoes and occupation.

²⁵ <http://www.un.org/events/youth98/yforum98/bragayap.htm>

The Way Forward

Paragraph 26 in the *Outcome Document of the High Level Meeting (General Assembly, A/RES/65/312 - 2011)*, and parallel UN agency resolutions such as UN-Habitat's Governing Council resolution 23/7, provide key opportunities to build on, and consolidate greater accountability within the UN to respond to youth globally. The UN needs to work in partnership with young women and men to ensure that they are meaningfully engaged and that their human rights are respected, fulfilled, and protected.

The following scenarios have been developed based on the historical demand for a stronger UN and Member State's respond to the growing youth agenda. The scenarios reaffirm the need to firm the global youth agenda and give it its due attention at the UN.

The scenarios are evaluated on their strengths and weaknesses in regards to the engagement level of the mechanism and the achievability of the process, with reference to the time it would take to implement, resources, and UN system and country support needed.

Scenario 1: Scale up the UN Youth Program to an Institutional level

In scenario 1, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Youth Unit's mandate is expanded beyond solely engaging representatives from different UN agencies working with youth. The mandate is expanded to include youth engagement and youth agencies at all levels. The Youth Unit could be scaled up and better resourced to be able to respond to the increase

in demand on them from all parts of the society, including youth, youth organizations, member states, the UN, NGOs, media, academia, and the private sector. This could mean establishing national and regional coordinating structures as well. A parallel can be drawn to the establishment on UNAIDS as described below.

Strengths: An enhanced Youth Unit in UN-DESA will be able to successfully build on and effectively coordinate existing youth initiatives of various UN entities at the national, regional, and global level while securing meaningful youth engagement in the UN. This is an easy scenario to implement as it would be dealing with a current structure within the UN, implemented through the Youth Unit, which has, through its work in coordinating the IANYD and the IYY, shown its competence in regards to championing youth issues both within and outside the UN.

Challenges: The main challenge is that youth are still in a "client" role within the unit, only engaged in an advisory capacity in this scenario. Youth involvement in decision-making and program planning would be at the ability and best of the staff of the Youth Unit. The ability for youth to advocate on issues through the Youth Unit could be limited as it is an internal body. Herein lays also another challenge; as part of the Secretariat, the Youth Unit's ability to really engage with youth groups in policy planning could be challenged by Member states. The transformation from being a coordinator and facilitator to being an advocate for youth perspective could prove to be challenging.

An Example in the UN System: Establishment of the UNAIDS

The need for a joint UN programme on AIDS was confirmed by a resolution of WHO's World Health Assembly in 1993 and later endorsed by the governing bodies of the other prospective cosponsors and by the Economic and Social Council of the UN. By early 1996, the six cosponsoring organizations had signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together against AIDS and support UNAIDS. UNAIDS is thus United Nations reform in action. It takes a unique, collaborative approach to a health and development challenge. Through UNAIDS, countries can draw on the broad expertise of the co-sponsors and other UN organizations in areas such as programme development and management, women and child health, education, legal networking, demand reduction for drug use, community care initiatives, rural development, and resource mobilization. The goal is an expanded response to HIV/AIDS.

UNAIDS has taken over the baton from WHO's Global Programme on AIDS, which led the fight against AIDS starting in 1986. Alongside WHO, other UN agencies and bodies have been active against the epidemic, each in its own sphere of action.

Scenario 2: Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Youth

In scenario 2, a Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Youth is appointed. The request for a Special Representative on Youth (SRSGY) was tabled back in 1998 in the Braga Youth Action Plan: *"the UN Special Rapporteur on Youth rights should be appointed by United Nations Secretary General before the end of 1999 basing on nominations through regional consultations of NGOs to be made by August 1999".*²⁶

The role of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General has evolved considerably, especially since the end of the Cold War, when the UN's reactions to peace and security threats became more complex.²⁷ Special Representatives are considered to be working for the Secretary-General (SG), though they are as well responsible to the Security Council, and the General Assembly.

A Special Representative on Youth could be mandated to work with the SG and provide guidance to the member states on global youth issues. Furthermore, the Special Representative will ensure that the member states are given guidance and support to handle a range of youth issues given the heterogeneity of youth issues. The Special Representative could work closely with existing youth programs in the various UN entities, regional mechanisms, and further advocate other regions to develop similar mechanism. The Special Representative could also help collate a Compilation on Human Rights for Youth as recommended in Braga in 1998.

Strengths: The strength of Scenario 2 is that this has already been proposed in the GA resolution (Braga, 1998) and hence it can be built upon that resolution. The appointment of a Special Representative on Youth would give youth representation at the highest level within the UN system. The Special Representative needs to be constituted by the SG's on his discretion, in response to multiple past resolutions requesting the SG's to have a Special Representative to youth issues worldwide. This will require a cohort of member states who would support a resolution to appoint a Special Representative on Youth and help in establishing a secretariat. The office will need to work closely with UNDESA Youth Unit, the IANYD, and the various Youth programs in UN entities.

²⁶ <http://www.un.org/events/youth98/lyforum98/bragayap.htm>

²⁷ <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/bueros/usa/04703.pdf>

Challenges: One main challenge with this scenario is that the Special Representative on Youth would be responsible directly to the Secretary-General and not to a youth body. This would mean that youth would still be relegated to client status, and similar to the enhancing the Youth Unit, advocacy on controversial issues could be compromised. The Special Representative would further need to depend on cooperation of multiple UN entities to forward her/his mandate and may end up drowning in coordination than working to advance the youth mandate worldwide. Last, one may pose the question whether or not this scenario would truly mean a youth engagement in the UN system.

Scenario 3: UN Permanent Forum on Youth, Youth Platform Assembly, and Special Representative on Youth

Scenario 3 brings together three mechanisms to engage youth democratically in the UN system, while as well allowing youth a platform for advocacy. A UN Permanent Forum on Youth can be established based on a model of the existing UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. This Forum would have to be a member-led process, and require member states together with lead UN agencies and the SG to explore and support the establishment of the process.

The Forum would have as representatives youth drawn from a Youth Platform Assembly. The Youth Platform Assembly would be a self-selected body of representatives of youth agencies that would meet biennially to discuss and debate youth issues, develop policy, and elect the representatives to sit in the UN Permanent Forum on Youth for the next two-year period. The Permanent Forum on Youth would be co-chaired by the Special Representative on Youth appointed by the Secretary-General and an elected co-chair

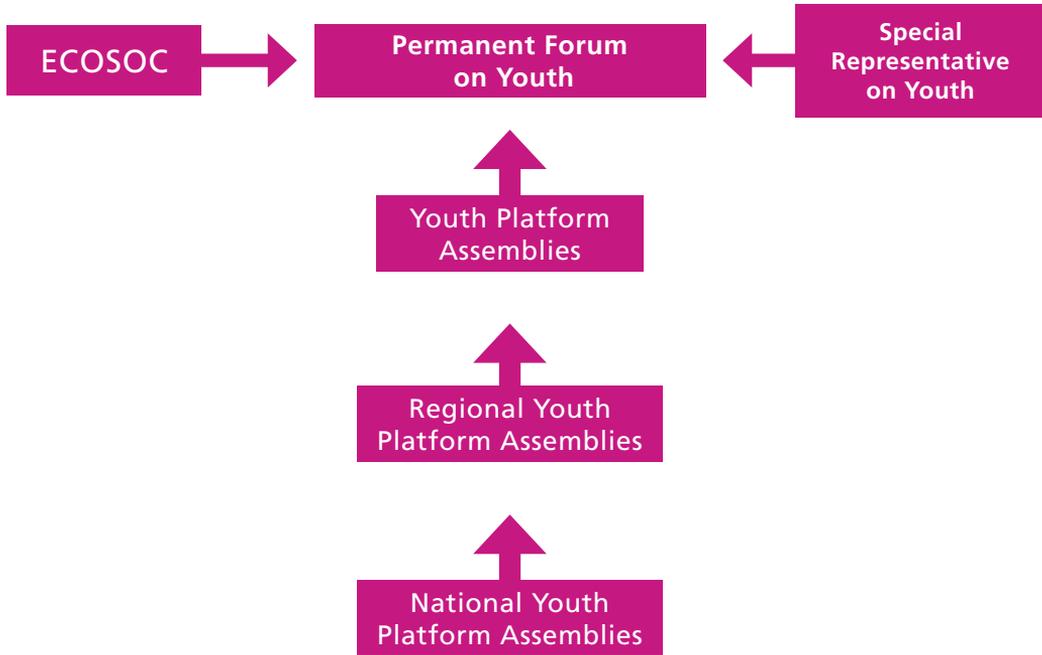
from the Forum. Similar to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, eight of the members would be nominated by governments and eight directly from the Youth Platform Assembly. The Special Representative would be a non-voting Chair of the Permanent Forum on Youth with the office of the Special Representative on Youth acting as the secretariat.

Strengths: Scenario 3 would best represent youth globally, giving youth a forum for discussing youth issues, formulating policy, and electing members. This scenario also gives youth a Special Representative to advocate within the UN system and globally for decided upon priorities and policies. This scenario is the only scenario that allows for comprehensive youth engagement in the UN. This scenario has potential for an incremental and iterative process as it is composed of reinforcing mechanisms, which can be implemented at different times.

Challenges: Scenarios 3 poses the most challenges. A number of countries need to support the proposal and a resolution needs to be passed within the General Assembly to establish the Permanent Forum on Youth. This may be a long process that will need a lot of lobbying and support from the member states, youth groups, and youth focused NGOs.

One key aspect with this scenario, however, is that it can be realized incrementally. Not all components of this scenario need to be established simultaneously. The Special Representative could be the first step (similar to scenario 2), while the process for the establishment of a Youth Platform Assembly could be the second step before the establishment of the Permanent Forum on Youth would be established.

FIGURE 5: Proposed design of Scenario 3



Also, the UN system already has similar assemblies that could work as test case for this Youth Platform Assembly. UN-Habitat, UNESCO, ILO, and UNFPA already have youth assemblies. One possibility is to re-brand the current biannual World Urban Youth Assembly into the Youth Platform Assembly. Further, as part of the preparation for the World Urban Youth Assemblies, regional and national Youth Assemblies could be held in order to engage both the regional differ-

ences in the topics discussed and to select people to go to the Youth Platform Assembly, as described in figure 5 below. The Regional Platform assemblies could be different assemblies already organized by different UN agencies and Youth Agencies such as YMCA, the Scout and Guide movement, Peace Child International, and the International Coordination Meeting on Youth Organizations.

On Indigenous Issues

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues²⁸ was established by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 2000/22²⁹ on 28 July 2000. In this resolution the UNPFII was given a mandate to “discuss indigenous issues within the mandate of the Council relating to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights. To substantiate this work, the Permanent Forum was called upon to provide expert advice and recommendations on indigenous issues to the UN system through the Council; raise awareness and promote the integration and coordination of relevant activities within the UN system; and prepare and disseminate information on indigenous issues. The Permanent Forum is comprised of sixteen independent experts, functioning in their personal capacity, who serve for a term of three years as Members and may be re-elected or re-appointed for one additional term.

Eight of the Members are nominated by governments and eight are nominated directly by indigenous organizations in their regions. The Members nominated by governments are elected by ECOSOC based on the five regional groupings of States normally used at the United Nations (Africa; Asia; Eastern Europe; Latin America and the Caribbean; and Western Europe and Other States). The Members nominated by indigenous organizations are appointed by the President of ECOSOC and represent the seven socio-cultural regions determined to give broad representation to the world's indigenous peoples.



Arvinn Eikeland Gadgil, Junior Minister of Foreign Affairs Norway addresses the Youth 21 forum in Nairobi, Kenya
© UN-Habitat

Concluding remarks

For over 75 years, the international community has discussed how youth can be better engaged at the international level. While these efforts are commendable, they have not brought youth and youth perspectives into international policy discourse and decision making processes.

The adoption of the World Programme of Action for Youth in 2000 marked a milestone in youth development in the UN, yet youth are still looked upon as clients rather than equal stakeholders. Recent developments in the MENA region demonstrate how negatively youth without access to decision-making processes or other key policy processes can react.

28 <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/structure.html>

29 http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/resolution_2000_22.html

The UN is in a situation where it can choose to be relevant for the future generation, but then some changes in its attitude towards youth have to be changed.

In Part 3, three different scenarios were presented, each demonstrating ways in which the UN can be more responsive to youth and youth engagement. Scenario 1 enhances UNDESA's Youth Unit. This scenario would have a positive impact on youth engagement, yet youth would still be in a client role. Scenario 2 gives youth visibility and potentially access to the Secretary-General and top level decision-making in UN, yet still youth will be in a client, not partner, role. Further, a potential challenge with this scenario is that the Special Representative would not have any clear mechanism for youth to access policy discussions and decision-making processes.

In scenario 3, true and meaningful youth engagement in the UN system is established. The combined and interdependent proposal of a Special Representative, a Permanent Youth Forum, and Youth Platforms will give youth globally a seat at the table. A key strength of this scenario is its interdependence yet reinforcing mechanism. All the proposed mechanisms don't have to be established simultaneously, but one can foresee an incremental process. The appointment of a Special Representative can be the first



Sitawa Namwalia from Kenya recites a poem during Youth 21 forum in Nairobi, Kenya © UN-Habitat

step, and subsequently this person can work towards the establishment of a Permanent Forum.

It is the opinion of the authors of this report that Scenario 3 is the most comprehensive and most advantageous model because it truly gives youth access to decision-making processes and policy discussions at the UN level. The report requests the Secretary-General to commission a report that outlines a process towards implementing Scenario 3.

ANNEX 1

Key Milestones for Youth in the UN System

This annex takes the reader through the key milestones for youth in the UN system over that last two decades.

Celebration of the International Year of Youth

The International Year of Youth was first celebrated by the United Nations in 1985³⁰. A decade later, in resolution 50/81, the General Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, which established a policy framework and guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people. While this programme is still active, in recent years there has been an even greater recognition that young people are central to the global development agenda. At key international forums such as the General Assembly, the Commission on Social Development, the African Union³¹ and the Ibero-American³² Conferences of Heads of State and Government Member States have reaffirmed that support for the development of youth is an important means for realizing internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Prior to the declaration of the International Year of Youth, Member States had already promoted several regional and national agendas devoted to young

people, for example, the Year of African Youth³³ and the Ibero-American Youth Year (both held in 2008), the Year of Youth in the Russian Federation (2009)³⁴, and the Decade on African Youth Development (2009-2018) declared by the African Union³⁵.

Building on this momentum, in December 2009, the General Assembly adopted its resolution 64/134³⁶ proclaiming the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding, to commence on 12 August 2010. The proclamation of the year, at the initiative of Tunisia, represented the renewed commitment of Member States to ensuring that young men and women are at the core of the development agenda.

Within this context, the theme of the year, "Dialogue and Mutual Understanding",³⁷ promoted communication across generations, cultures, religions and civilizations and championed the ideals of peace, respect for human rights and solidarity. Member States, youth organizations, civil society groups and young people were encouraged to celebrate the year by holding activities to showcase the contributions of youth to development, promote mutual understanding and underscore the benefits of their participation in all aspects of society.

30 <http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/66/129>

31 See http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/Documents/Treaties/Text/African_Youth_Charter.pdf

32 <http://www.crin.org/resources/infodetail.asp?ID=16822>

33 <http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/Conferences/2010/November/youthday/YY%20Programme.pdf>

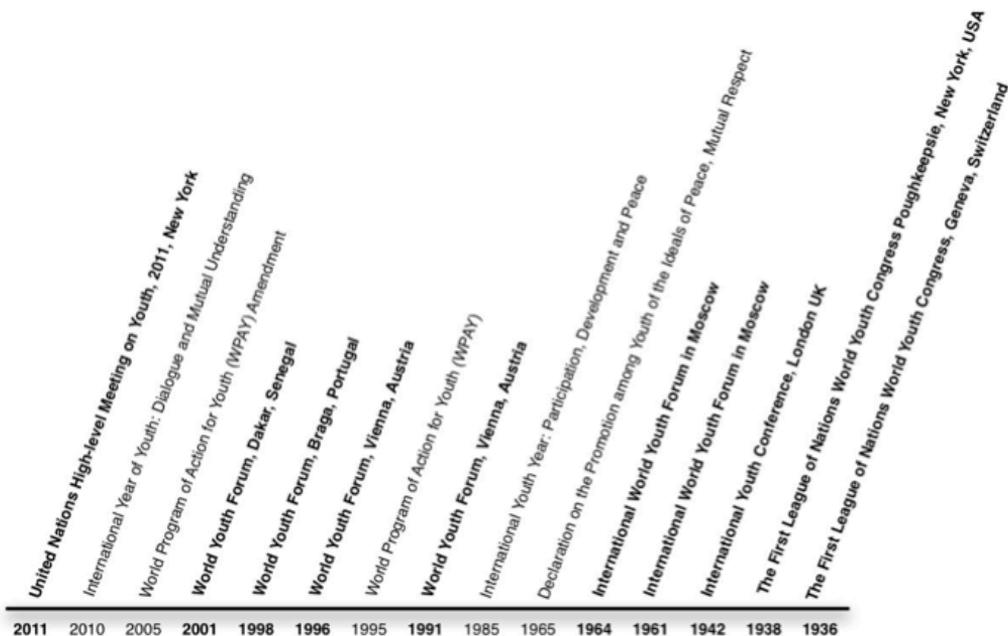
34 http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009_2014/documents/d-ru/dv/d-ru_20110502_07_id-ru_20110502_07_en.pdf

35 <http://www.au.int/en/summit/sites/default/files/Final%20African%20Youth%20Decade%202009-2018.pdf>

36 <http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/RES/64/134>

37 <http://social.un.org/youthyear/high-level-meeting.html>

BOX A: Evolution and the growth of the World Youth Forum Idea: 1936-2011 and its linkages with the League of Nation and the United nation System



Box A, demonstrates the progression of significant youth events from 1936 to the present, the most recent by the International Year of the Youth (2010) and the High Level Meeting on Youth (2011).

It is clear from box A that the youth agenda has been long in the making. When we glance through the box we see that there has been both high and low points in which youth have been focused on within the UN system, this has been a repeated patterns spread over 8 decades. Yet, unfortunately, the UN system has not had one global meeting on youth at the scale of breakthrough meetings to advance issues such as women, elderly, etc.

1. The World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond: a Guide for Action on Youth Development

The World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) initially identified 10 priority areas to guide policy and action in the area of youth development (see the table). Recognizing the major changes that were occurring in national and international development environments at the end of the twentieth century and to align the Programme of Action better to new challenges in the twenty-first century, the General Assembly added five additional priority areas in 2005. These five areas (Globalization, Information and Communication Technology, HIV/ AIDS, Armed Conflict and Intergenerational issues) were elaborated in a supplement to the WPAY, which was adopted at the sixty-second session of the Gen-

PRIORITY AREAS OF THE WORLD PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR YOUTH

- Education
- Employment
- Hunger and poverty
- Health
- Environment
- Drug abuse
- Juvenile delinquency
- Leisure-time activities
- Girls and young women
- Youth participation in society and in decision-making
- Globalization
- Information and communications technology
- HIV/AIDS
- Armed conflict
- Intergenerational issues

eral Assembly in 2007.

2. Initiation of the International Youth Day³⁸

In 1999, in its resolution 54/120, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon, 8-12 August 1998) that 12 August be declared International Youth Day. The Assembly recommended that public information activities be organized to support the Day as a way to promote better awareness of the World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted by the General Assembly in 1995 (resolution 50/81).

3. The UN World Youth Reports:

There have been the following key UN World Youth Reports

- **The World Youth Report 2003** provides an overview of the global situation of young

people. The first 10 chapters focus on the priority areas identified by the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY), adopted by the General Assembly in 1995. The remaining five chapters address some of the newer issues that were later identified as additional priorities for youth and were adopted by the United Nations Economic and So-

LIST OF PREVIOUS CELEBRATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY INCLUDE:

- IYD 2011 - Change Your World
- IYD 2010 - Dialogue and Mutual Understanding
- IYD 2009 - Sustainability: Our Challenge. Our Future.
- IYD 2008 - Youth and Climate Change: Time for Action
- IYD 2007 - Be seen, Be heard: Youth participation for development
- IYD 2006 - Tackling Poverty Together
- IYD 2005 - WPAY+10: Making Commitments Matter
- IYD 2004 - Youth in an Intergenerational Society
- IYD 2003 - Finding decent and productive work for young people everywhere
- IYD 2002 - Now and for the Future: Youth Action for Sustainable Development
- IYD 2001 - Addressing Health and Unemployment
- First Observance of International Youth Day 2000

cial Council (ECOSOC) in 2003. <http://social.un.org/index/WorldYouthReport/2003>

- **In the World Youth Report 2005**, it is argued that too often, youth policy is driven by negative stereotypes of young people, including delinquency, drug abuse and violence. What seems to be forgotten is that young people are a positive force for devel-

³⁸ <http://social.un.org/index/Youth/InternationalYouthDay.aspx>

opment, peace, and democracy. <http://social.un.org/index/WorldYouthReport/2005>

- **The World Youth Report 2007** examines the challenges and opportunities existing for the roughly 1.2 billion young people between the ages of 15 and 24 in the world. Distinct from the 2003 and 2005 editions, it provides a regional overview summarizing the major youth development trends in the fifteen priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth. The report explores major issues of concern to youth development, including employment, education, health, poverty and violence. At the same time, it highlights youth as a positive force for development and provides recommendations for supporting their essential contributions. <http://social.un.org/index/WorldYouthReport/2007>
- **The World Youth Report 2010** focus on youth and climate change, and is intended to highlight the important role young people play in addressing climate change, and to offer suggestions on how young people might be more effectively integrated as individuals and collective agents of change within the realm of climate change adaptation and mitigation. The Report is designated to assist youth and youth organizations in educating themselves and to become more actively involved in combating the threat of climate change. It is also meant to affirm the status of young people as key stakeholders in the fight against climate change. The publication comes at a time when efforts to address climate change are receiving unparalleled attention on the international arena, offering youth a unique opportunity for their voice to be heard in the debate. <http://social.un.org/>

[index/WorldYouthReport](http://social.un.org/index/WorldYouthReport)

4. Youth Resolutions and Secretary-General's Reports

The Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and the Commission for Social Development are the main intergovernmental bodies which monitor the progress, constraints, and emerging topics related to youth issues. The Third Committee of the General Assembly considers youth issues once every two years under its resolution, "Policies and programmes involving youth." Similarly, the Commission for Social Development takes youth issues once every two years under its resolution, "Policies and programmes involving youth."

The resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission for Social Development can ask for a Report of the Secretary-General on specific issue of interest, which are prepared by the Programme on Youth of the Division for Social Policy and Development at the UN Secretariat. These reports provide comprehensive information on the topic of interest, along with recommendations, which can be included in the resolutions adopted by the GA or the Commission for Social Development.

List of resolutions:

<http://social.un.org/index/Youth/Resourcesandtools/Youthresolutions.aspx>

List of Secretary-General's Reports:

<http://social.un.org/index/Youth/Resourcesandtools/SGreports.aspx>

ANNEX 2

Joint Statement by Heads of UN Entities³⁹ of the Inter-agency Network on Youth Development on the occasion of the UN High-Level Meeting on Youth, 2011⁴⁰

On the occasion of the United Nations High-Level Meeting on Youth, we pledge to increase the effectiveness of the United Nations in advocating for and supporting national efforts to accelerate the implementation of international agreements and development goals as they relate to adolescents and youth.

We join Member States and youth-led organizations in building on synergies to promote the ideals of peace, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, gender equality, solidarity, progress and development as guided by the proclamation of the International Year of Youth by the General Assembly.

The Year has provided an opportunity to work together to enhance dialogue and mutual understanding among young people worldwide, to promote the participation of young women and men at all levels and to increase commitments and investments to promote adolescent and youth development. With strengthened resolve, we stand ready to work as one within the United Nations to support young people in achieving their aspirations.

In the coming years, we will intensify efforts within our respective mandates at the global, regional and national levels, including through strengthening mechanisms such as the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, in order to promote and support:

COMPREHENSIVE POLICIES that include young people's issues and voices, and enhance the use of data on young people to promote development and poverty reduction;

- 1. MULTISECTORAL PROGRAMMES** that promote the human rights and fulfil the development needs of adolescents and youth, including marginalized adolescent girls;
- 2. STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES** of national institutions and youth-led organizations to implement coordinated youth policies and programmes;
- 3. FULL AND EFFECTIVE YOUTH PARTICIPATION** in society and decision-making, in both rural and urban settings, striving to include young people with disabilities, young people living with HIV, indigenous young people, young people from minorities, young migrants, young people who are stateless, internally displaced, young refugees or those affected by humanitarian situations or armed conflict.

We reaffirm our pledge to make young people a priority in our work and commit to incorporate their perspectives within our organizations and in the United Nations system. We call on governments, civil society, the private sector, donors, media, communities, youth-led organizations, voluntary associations and other stakeholders to join us in making this a world fit for young people.

39 24 UN Entities signed this joint statement

40 <http://social.un.org/youthyear/docs/JointStatementInteragency.pdf>

ANNEX 3

Secretary-General's Remarks to General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Youth

Mr. President of the General Assembly, Distinguished Heads of State and Government, Distinguished Ministers, Ms. Alek Wek, Mr. Romulo Dantas,

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first share my shock about the terror attack in Norway on Friday.

I condemn this violence in the strongest possible terms. I am particularly saddened that this murderer singled out young people keen to engage meaningfully in the future of their country. This atrocity stands in stark opposition to the theme of this meeting, which is dialogue and mutual understanding. I called Prime Minister Stoltenberg on Saturday and I told him I was moved by his consoling yet principled message to his fellow citizens that underlined Norway's values of tolerance, respect and commitment to international cooperation. My condolences go out to the families of the bereaved and to the Government of Norway.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me now turn to today's event. I am pleased to be with you today as we conclude the International Year of Youth. I am grateful to the many distinguished Heads of State and Government and Ministers who have joined us. And I particularly welcome the large contingent of young people here today. Your energy always gives me lift. So does your sense of style! Ms. Wek, you are, of course, an icon of style. But more impor-

tantly, you are an example of an inspiring ending to what could have been one more of many, many tragic stories.

Earlier this month, I had the enormous pleasure of attending the independence ceremonies of the country of your birth – South Sudan, the newest member of the community of nations. You and I, both, will work in our own ways to help our 193rd Member State of the United Nations achieve the peace and prosperity it seeks. South Sudan will need the full support of the international community. And the country's young people can and must play a central role.

Mr. Dantas, I visited your country twice in the past two years – though regrettably not your home city of Sao Paolo. I met with young people in Rio's Babilonia favela, and talked with them and young people from other favelas. Not all have had your fortune to escape violence and drugs, receive an education and find work. Meeting them made me think of the more than one billion young people in today's world. The vast majority live in developing countries. Some receive a good education and can look forward to decent jobs and rewarding lives. But, too often, young people lack the education, freedom and opportunities they deserve. Unemployment rates for young people are three to six times the rate for adults, and informal, low-wage and insecure work is the norm. This is especially true for young women, the disabled and indigenous youth. Increasingly, young people are saying to their el-

ders and to their governments: “This is not the world we want.” That clear conviction is part of what has made the past year a momentous year for youth.

In Tunisia, which initiated the General Assembly resolution for this International Year of Youth, young people have been at the centre of a movement for change that is sweeping North Africa and the Middle East. You all know the story of Mohamed Bouazizi, the Tunisian street vendor who set himself on fire last December. He was a young man – 27 years old, tired and frustrated by the privations and indignities of life. He saw so little future for himself and his countrymen and women that he sacrificed himself. His death was tragic, but the fires he lit led to the downfall of two autocrats – first in Tunisia, then in Egypt. The fires have travelled far since then.

The Facebook generation is showing a growing resolve to change our world – and a capacity to make things happen. They are bringing their energy and courage to some of the most difficult issues we face. Young people are standing up for the rights of those who suffer discrimination based on gender, race and sexual orientation. They are confronting sensitive issues – talking to their peers and working to stop the spread of HIV and AIDS. And they are leading the charge to adopt a green model for development.

Young people often understand better than older generations that we can and must transcend our religious and cultural differences in order to reach our shared goals. Our job, distinguished representatives of the General Assembly, is to work for them – and with them – to make sure they can inherit the world they want? the world promised by the United Nations Charter, a world built on dialogue and mutual understanding. The international community must work to expand the horizons of opportunity for young

women and men and answer their legitimate demands for dignity and decent work. The global economic crisis and austerity measures in many countries are constraining these opportunities. When youth lack opportunity they are more easily led to crime and violence, to drugs and risky sex, and the slippery slope to the bottom of the social scale.

Failing to invest in our youth is a false economy. Conversely, investing in young people will pay great dividends for all. The United Nations is doing a considerable amount to invest in youth. We are acquiring knowledge and best practices about the issues affecting young people today. And we are making greater efforts to engage youth in our negotiating and decision-making processes. Still, I do not think we have gone nearly far enough.

Esteemed members of the General Assembly, allow me to go over your heads and ask the youth delegates one or two questions:

Are we doing enough for you?

Please answer me.

Are we doing enough?

Can we do more?

Thank you very much. Thank you.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I think we can do, and we must do more, for our young people. They are the leaders of tomorrow. You may be, and I may be, leader of today. But it will be they who will stand here, who will lead this world tomorrow. Next June, the United Nations will gather in Rio for one of the most important meetings in UN history. The Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development will help to determine our collective future. That is why it is such a priority for me. And I hope and expect it will be a top priority for Heads of State and Government of all Members States. I have called climate change the defin-

ing issue of our time. Indeed we must go even further. We must make sustainable development for all the defining issue of our time –because it is only in that broader framework that we can address climate change and the needs of our citizens. Young people can and must play a central role in bringing dynamic new ideas, fresh thinking and energy to the Rio+20 process. We should all work to engage them and ensure that their voices are heard. One way we may consider doing this is through the United Nation’s Youth Delegates Programme. I welcome the programme delegates who are here today.

By including young people in national delegations to United Nations meetings, Governments not only help youth to gain a better understanding of the complexities of negotiations, they gain an insight into the needs and views of youth. The role and responsibility of leaders is to listen and respond to the legitimate aspirations of their people – including the youth. The Youth Delegates Programme is an important opportunity for young people to represent themselves meaningfully on the international stage. I therefore recommend all Member States of the United Nations to review their participation in this impor-

tant programme, and for all parties – youth, UN entities and government – to evaluate how their programmes related to youth can link with it.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The International Year of Youth may be coming to a close, but our obligations to young people remain. That means promoting a culture of dialogue and mutual understanding. And it means tackling the pressing issues of our times: climate change, nuclear disarmament, women’s and children’s health, strengthening democracy, achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and ensuring sustainable development that benefits all people while protecting the planet. It means strengthening global solidarity. The famine in parts of Somalia is only the latest test.

We live in a changing and volatile world. Only by working together in common cause can we meet our challenges. To do so, we need youth on our side – indeed in the vanguard. Young people are willing and able to take ownership of their own future and the common ideals we cherish. Let us embrace this energy, this creativity, this idealism for the benefit of all, particularly for young people.

I thank you very much.

ANNEX 4

Evolution and the growth of the World Youth Forum Idea: 1936-2011 and its linkages with the League of Nation and the United nation System

1. The First League of Nations World Youth Congress, Geneva, Switzerland, 1936
http://books.google.com/books?id=3kT3fTMoggIC&pg=PA103&dq=World+Youth+Congress:+Geneva+1936&hl=en&ei=Kl-UToTIOuXY0QHZsfG8Bw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=2&ved=0CDsQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=World%20Youth%20Congress%3A%20Geneva%201936&f=false
2. The First League of Nations World Youth Congress Poughkeepsie, New York, USA, 1938
http://books.google.com/books?id=3kT3fTMoggIC&pg=PA111&lpg=PA111&dq=world+youth+congress:+poughkeepsie&source=bl&ots=qITa-5Urvj&sig=KZGFsbiLa1WZkgNAf4GNyVoNWes&hl=en&ei=PF6UTqrCPMPe0QH5oJCKCA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CCsQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=world%20youth%20congress%3A%20poughkeepsie&f=false
3. International Youth Conference, London UK, 1942
http://books.google.com/books?id=3kT3fTMoggIC&pg=PA123&dq=World+Youth+Conference+London+1942&hl=en&ei=9I6UTrbTLqbW0QGSh-inBw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CDQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=World%20Youth%20Conference%20London%201942&f=false
4. International World Youth Forum in Moscow, 1961
[http://books.google.com/books?id=D3L_vhJoOPIC&pg=PA4&dq=World+Youth+Forum,+Moscow,+1961&hl=en&ei=W2CUTpyoM6Lb0QGt4MjOBw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=3&ved=0CEAQ6AEwAg#v=onepage&q=](http://books.google.com/books?id=D3L_vhJoOPIC&pg=PA4&dq=World+Youth+Forum,+Moscow,+1961&hl=en&ei=W2CUTpyoM6Lb0QGt4MjOBw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=3&ved=0CEAQ6AEwAg#v=onepage&q=World%20Youth%20Forum%2C%20Moscow%2C%201961&f=false)
5. International World Youth Forum in Moscow, 1964
http://books.google.com/books?id=OIT7AAAMA AJ&q=World+Youth+Forum,+Moscow,+1964&dq=World+Youth+Forum,+Moscow,+1964&hl=en&ei=rGCUToWSOonY0QH_o7XFBw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=7&ved=0CE8Q6AEwBg
6. World Youth Forum, Vienna, Austria, 1991
http://books.google.com/books?id=pnvJC_8-KGQC&pg=PA661&lpg=PA661&dq=World+Youth+Forum.+Vienna,+Austria,+1991.&source=bl&ots=h8754wwDgc&sig=Qb-Bti0rwMHj-_SbNEK6vqOEwlo&hl=en&ei=i2WUTsrlHOTq0gG1yK3VBw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=3&ved=0CCsQ6AEwAjgU#v=onepage&q=World%20Youth%20Forum.%20Vienna%2C%20Austria%2C%201991.&f=false
7. World Youth Forum, Vienna, Austria, 1996
<http://www.youthforhab.org.tr/events/source/wyf2.pdf>
8. World Youth Forum, Braga, Portugal, 1998
<http://www.un.org/events/youth98/backinfoforum.htm>
9. World Youth Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 2001
<http://www.unis.unvienna.org/unis/pressrels/2001/pi1367.html>
10. United Nations High-level Meeting on Youth, 2011, New York
<http://social.un.org/youthyear/high-level-meeting.html>

ANNEX 5

Mapping of UN Agencies work on Youth

The United Nations has long recognized the importance of investing in youth. With activities ranging from data collection and analysis to direct country support to Governments, civil society and other stakeholders, the United Nations system is well-positioned to provide comprehensive, specialized assistance in support of global youth development. Particular attention is being given by many UN system offices to areas such as health, education and employment, and the special circumstances of girls and young women—areas which present persistent challenges to youth development in many parts of the world.

This annex covers an updated overview of UN response to youth development.

Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

United Nations Programme on Youth (UNPY)⁴¹

The UNPY is part of the Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) of DESA. The Programme on Youth is, in particular, responsible for monitoring progress and constraints in addressing the objectives of the World Programme of Action for Youth. The Programme is also charged with playing a lead role in inter-agency consultations on youth development. The compilation and production of this brochure by the UN Programme on Youth is intended to support and

foster the interagency dialogue.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Reporting on Youth Development:** The Programme conducts research and analysis on youth and provides information to Governments, youth, civil society and other parts of the United Nations system on issues and activities relating to youth development.
- **International Youth Day (12 August):** The Programme on Youth selects a theme for the day in consultation with youth organizations, the Department of Public Information and other UN system offices and agencies. The Programme encourages youth around the world to organize activities to raise awareness about the situation of youth in their country.
- **Partnerships and Collaboration with Civil Society and Youth Organizations:** UNPY works with civil society, especially youth-led organizations that are working with young people, particularly at the grassroots level, to address various areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY).
- **Technical Cooperation:** The Programme collaborates closely with the Technical Cooperation Unit of the Division for Social Policy and Development. The Unit works directly with Governments and other stakeholders to translate international agreements—such as the WPAY—into practical strategies and projects at the regional and national levels.

⁴¹ <http://social.un.org/index/Youth.aspx>

- **Ensuring Youth Participation:** An important dimension of the Programme on Youth's work relates to strengthening the participation of youth in decision-making processes at all levels in order to increase their contribution to national and international development.
- **Coordination of the UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development**

Division for Sustainable Development (DSD)

The Division's focus on youth⁴² is based on chapter 25 of Agenda 21, which was adopted at the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Agenda 21 identified Children and Youth as one of the nine major groups of civil society whose participation in implementing the Agenda is a prerequisite for sustainable development. In particular, Chapter 25 states that the involvement of youth in environment and development decision-making and in the implementation of programmes related to the environment is critical to the long-term success of Agenda 21. The chapter notes also that it is imperative that youth from all parts of the world participate actively in all relevant levels of decision-making processes because these affect their lives today and have implications for their futures. In addition to their intellectual contribution and their ability to mobilize support, youth bring unique perspectives that need to be taken into account. The Major Groups Programme within the Division for Sustainable Development works actively to ensure the involvement of youth in protecting the environment and promoting economic and social development.

42 See www.un.org/esa/sustdev/mgroups/mgroups.htm

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Collaboration with youth for sustainable development in the work of the CSD and its intercessional processes.
- **Youth in the Commission on Sustainable Development** Youth and other major groups participate in interactive dialogues, develop coordinated statements through thematic caucus groups, and lobby for particular initiatives that they feel should be supported. They also contribute significantly to the registered Partnerships for Sustainable Development in the context of the CSD.
- **The CSD Youth Caucus**⁴³: The Youth Caucus is a group of representatives of youth-led NGOs who work together to influence decision-making at the CSD. The DSD collaborates closely with the CSD Youth Caucus to facilitate the engagement of youth during CSD meetings.
- **Support for Youth from developing countries**⁴⁴ and countries with economies in transition at CSD.

United Nations Population Division⁴⁵

Globally, there are nearly 1.2 billion people aged 15 to 24. The number of young people has never been higher and is expected to remain near its current level until 2050. Demographically, young people are the focus of special attention because they have clearly differentiated demographic behaviours. In most societies, entry into marriage or cohabitation starts when people are young, and fertility is highest among women aged 20 to 24. Migration rates also tend to peak, for both men and women, over the age range of 15 to 24. In societies unaffected by endemic vio-

43 <http://www.youthcaucus.net/>

44 <http://rioplustwenty.org/>

45 www.unpopulation.org

lence, mortality over the age range 15-24 tends to be the lowest over the life course, but young people, particularly men, are at greater risk of dying because of external causes (accidents, suicide and violence) than people at older ages. In high-fertility countries, an early start of child-bearing exposes young women to higher risks of maternal death over their lifetime, though risks of maternal death are generally lower among women aged 18-24 years than among those in other age groups. Because the onset of sexual activity usually occurs when people are young, and when they lack the knowledge and means to protect themselves, the risk of contracting a sexually transmitted disease is often higher among young people than among older adults.

The Population Division also studies the implications of demographic trends for development. In this regard, the role of young people in the labour force and their access to education and training is particularly relevant. Recent analysis of the age and sex structure of the urban and rural population for all regions of the world has confirmed that young adults, particularly men, tend to be more urbanized than the rest of the population, indicating that the young are more willing and able to take advantage of the opportunities that cities offer.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Estimates and Projections by Age and Sex:** The United Nations Population Division produces and publishes the World Population Prospects every two years. Population data classified by age group and sex permits the analysis of trends in the young population for every country in the world.

- **Adolescent Fertility:** The Population Division produces the estimates of adolescent birth rate, a target under Goal 5 focusing on the reduction of maternal mortality, as established by the Millennium Development Goals. Adolescent birth rates have been published in the wall chart entitled World Fertility Patterns 2007.
- **Mortality:** The Population Division prepares and publishes data on the levels and trends of mortality between 1950 and 2005 in the World Mortality Report, the latest of which is 2007. The report includes estimates of life expectancy at birth and at age 15.
- **Migration:** The Population Division compiles and analyses data on international migrant stocks and flows. The Division has developed a database containing data on the number of foreign-born persons or foreigners enumerated in the population censuses carried out since 1960 or obtained from population registers. The estimates will permit a global assessment of the participation of youth in international migration.

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)⁴⁶

Age is an inherent attribute of individuals and represents one of the most basic types of demographic information collected about individuals in censuses and surveys, as well as through administrative record systems (such as vital registration). Through its various activities, UNSD promotes the collection, compilation and dissemination of basic socio-economic and demographic data cross-classified by five-year age groups and by sex, thereby permitting the calculation of statistics and indicators relevant to

⁴⁶ <http://unstats.un.org>

the age-group 15-24 years. The Division also sets principles and methods for population and housing censuses, provides technical assistance, and collects, compiles and disseminates census data worldwide.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Data Collection and Dissemination:** UNSD directly collects, collates and disseminates national population data and vital statistics. Information on marital status, in particular, is classified by five-year age groups including 15-19 and 20-24 years. With respect to education characteristics, all data are available by age.
- **2010 World Census Programme on Population and Housing:** The United Nations Statistics Division plays a pivotal role in coordinating the World Census Programme on Population and Housing.
- **Development and Dissemination of Appropriate Methodologies:** The Division has continued to play an important role in publishing technical handbooks and manuals on various census-related topics, where in most cases, age is a critical cross-classifying variable.
- **Monitoring The Millennium Development Goals:** Most of the data collected through censuses and national sample surveys are used to produce the relevant MDG indicators that facilitate the study and monitoring of the situation of youth.

Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID)⁴⁷

While the areas of education, entrepreneurship, health and governance are the four focus areas of GAID's work on ICT and development,

youth and gender are seen as cross-cutting issues and therefore feature prominently in the work of the Global Alliance.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Global Forum on Youth And ICT:** GAID's work on youth has been catalysed through a Global Forum on Youth and ICT, which the Alliance organized in September 2007 on the theme "Youth as agents of change". The Forum provided a platform to showcase youth-led initiatives and created a space to foster youth-adult cooperation to encourage an intergenerational transfer of skills and resources.
- **Engaging Youth— The Global Youth Coalition⁴⁸:** As a follow-up to the Forum, GAID established a Global Youth Coalition to support the agenda of the United Nations on harnessing information and communication technologies for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)⁴⁹

The Commission's work on youth must be seen in the context of the size of the youth population in the region: young people aged between 15 and 24 years alone account for about 20% of the population. Africa's youth often face considerable hurdles to participating in economic, social and political spheres of life. Inadequate access to education and training, poor health and vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, lack of decent jobs, frequent armed conflicts and few opportunities to contribute to decision-making processes are among the major obstacles to youth development in the region.

47 www.un-gaid.org

48 <http://www.un-gaid.org/Network/StakeholderNetworks/YouthLeaders/tabid/960/Default.aspx>

49 www.uneca.org/leca_programmes/lacgd

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Research and Analysis:** Conducting research and analysis on trends and policies in WPAY priority areas, notably in the areas of education, employment, health and HIV/AIDS, girls and young women, and the participation of youth in society and decision-making.
- **Promoting Dialogue and Decision-Making on Youth:** The Fifth African Development Forum (ADF-V) on “Youth and leadership in the 21st century” was organized in 2006. It highlighted key actions to be taken by Governments and partners to strengthen youth participation and empowerment. The Forum also launched the African Youth Charter, an initiative of the African Union Commission, to promote youth development in the region.
- **The Post-ADF-V Steering Committee:** ECA serves as the Secretariat of the Post-ADF-V Steering Committee, which follows up on the implementation of the ADF-V recommendations. The Committee consists of the African Union and United Nations agencies working in the area of youth, including UNICEF, UNFPA, ILO, UNDP and the International Organization for Migration.
- **Youth and ICT:** Young people are often the leading innovators in the use and spread of ICT. ECA’s activities in this area are guided by the African Information Society Initiative (AISI), a regional framework adopted by African countries in 1996 aimed at harnessing the potentials of ICT for socio-economic development.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)⁵⁰

The ECE recognizes that young people represent an asset upon which the future of any society depends. The ECE region is home to about 179 million youth, representing approximately 15% of the total population. In many countries of the ECE region, young people are facing an erosion of their opportunities to gain education, employable skills, and a decent job and income. It is estimated that 18 million young people in the countries in transition and emerging market economies are neither at school nor in employment. Concerned with this situation, ECE launched a youth entrepreneurship programme in the early 2000s which led to two Regional Youth Forums in 2002 and 2003. Currently, ECE’s key engagement on youth is in the area of road safety initiatives, in recognition of the fact that road accidents are the leading cause of death for youth. In addition, ECE focuses on improving knowledge for policymaking on issues that directly affect youth.

Key highlights

- **Generations And Gender Programme (GGP):** The GGP is a system of national Generations and Gender Surveys (GGS) and contextual databases, which aims at improving the knowledge base for policymaking in UNECE countries. The surveys conducted in this programme cover the age range from 18 to 79 years.

- **Policy Discussion:** ECE organized the conference “How generations and gender shape demographic change” in May 2008. One panel session of the conference was specifically devoted to the better integration of young people in society and addressed various facets of transition to adulthood.
- **Road Safety:** The First United Nations Global Road Safety Week in April 2007 was organized at the Palais des Nations in Geneva jointly by ECE, WHO and the four other United Nations regional commissions. Targeted at young people, including young drivers, the Week commenced with a World Youth Assembly, which was attended by over 400 young people from more than 100 countries. The Assembly culminated in the adoption of a Youth Declaration for Road Safety
- **Regional Youth Forums:** The First Regional Forum on Youth, initiated and organized in Geneva in 2002 by ECE with the theme “Security, opportunity and prosperity”, included a focus on HIV/AIDS, trafficking/sexual exploitation, youth empowerment and prevention of violence.

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)⁵¹

Latin America is home to about 100 million youth who represent 18.5% of the region's population. ECLAC recognizes that the prospects for these young people differ significantly depending on their socio-economic background and whether they come from rural or urban areas.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Monitoring And Research:** ECLAC is the focal agency for the production of information and documents regarding youth in Latin

America and the Caribbean. It collects data on the situation of young people and on the opportunities available to them in several priority areas of the WPAY, such as education, employment, poverty, health, ICT and participation in society and decision-making (social cohesion). It includes data on indigenous and non-indigenous youth.

- **Technical Cooperation:** The ECLAC assists Governments to develop social protection policies for youth and advocates for the promotion of young people's rights. ECLAC assists Governments with educational reforms and provides evidence-based policy analysis on a variety of youth-related issues, such as youth and crime and gender aspects.
- **Partnerships:** In collaboration with the Iberoamerican Youth Organization, an inter-governmental organization that coordinates all official Government youth institutions within the region, ECLAC has published the most detailed analysis of the situation of youth in Latin America in the last decade: *La Juventud en Iberoamérica: tendencias y urgencias*.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)⁵²

ESCAP's work on youth mainly focuses on the health-related challenges faced by youth in the region, in particular HIV/AIDS and substance use. ESCAP's focus on HIV/AIDS and substance use is based on the recognition that young people, especially those living under socially and economically disadvantaged conditions and those who are out of school, are often poorly equipped to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS, drug abuse and other risks. Furthermore, those who are in-

⁵¹ www.cepal.org/ddsl
www.eclac.cl/portofspain/

⁵² www.unescap.org/lesid

ected with HIV and/or experiencing problematic substance use often do not have effective and youth-friendly treatment and rehabilitation facilities to turn to. ESCAP thus advocates for policy change in these areas and has developed a number of related projects.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Projects:** ESCAP has supported projects targeting disadvantaged youth at risk of HIV/AIDS and substance abuse in Cambodia, China, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. Through community participation and training networks that promote life skills, these projects aim to promote positive health behaviour among youth.
- **Engaging Youth:** Youth are engaged in these projects in a variety of ways. They come to project workshops and meetings to participate in deliberations and express the concerns of the group they represent. Young people are also used as peer educators and counsellors as well as trainers of trainers with regard to HIV/AIDS and substance use prevention and treatment. The feedback of young people participating in projects is used in developing resource materials and policy recommendations.
- **Post-Tsunami Project:** ESCAP has a post-tsunami project in Aceh, Indonesia, which seeks to create a more supportive policy environment and build capacity to support orphans and separated youth in family and community settings by promoting the

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)⁵³

The ESCWA monitors the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth in the Arab region. ESCWA's work on youth is based on the recognition that the future development of the region will hinge greatly on the ability of countries to take advantage of a demographic "window of opportunity" that can potentially promote higher rates of economic growth. This window is created by a sharp decline in fertility and infant mortality over the past two decades, which is leading to an increase in the proportion of the working age population (15 to 60 years) relative to the dependent population in the younger and older age groups over the next few decades. The ability of countries in the region to take advantage of this opportunity depends on whether young people entering the workforce are healthy, educated, and skilled and whether adequate investments are made to expand productive capacity and create jobs.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Research And Analysis:** ESCWA undertakes situation analyses and baseline studies to assess and understand the setting, the problems, the goals and the perceptions of youth in the countries and subregions that comprise the Arab region. Special attention is paid to the situation of girls and young women.

⁵³ www.escwa.un.org
www.escwa.org.lb/popin/

- **Social Policy Briefs:** The aim of the briefs is to raise awareness of the significance of age-structural transitions, and of the “youth bulge” in particular, for development in Arab countries and to bring information on this emerging issue into the policymaking process in Arab countries.
- **Arab Youth Directory:** ESCWA has established the Arab Youth Directory, a website on and for Arab youth.

International Fund for Agricultural Development⁵⁴

IFAD-supported programmes are based on the recognition that in many of the poorest developing countries young people represent a large proportion of the rural population. IFAD’s commitment to enable poor rural people to overcome poverty is therefore highly dependent on finding ways for young women and men in rural areas to use their productive capacity and energy.

Key highlights

- **Projects:** IFAD supports projects in many countries to promote rural youth employment and address rural food security and poverty. These include skills training and vocational training for young women and men in deprived rural areas.
- **Emphasis on Young Women:** Activities for young women, in particular income-generating activities and skills training, are a major component of IFAD’s gender programme. IFAD-supported programmes and projects in countries in transition in Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States are addressing the trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation.

- **Youth And IFAD’S Farmers’ FORUM:** Rural youth organizations and farmers’ organizations, which also include young people, participate in IFAD’s Farmers’ Forum. The Farmers’ Forum is a bottom-up process of consultation and dialogue among small farmers and rural producers’ organizations, IFAD and Governments, which focuses on rural development and poverty reduction.

International Labour Organization (ILO)⁵⁵

The ILO is actively engaged in promoting decent employment opportunities for youth. Youth represent 44% of the total unemployed, although they only make up 25% of the working-age population. Many young people cannot afford to be unemployed and must take any employment they can find. The result is an estimated 125 million young working poor. Youth employment therefore features prominently on the international development agenda and is a major focus of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Both developing and developed economies are confronted with the challenge of creating decent and sustainable jobs for the large cohort of young women and men entering the labour market every year.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Defining The Youth Employment Agenda:** The ILO’s constituents (Governments, workers and employers’ organizations) adopted a resolution on youth employment in June 2005, which spelled out an “ILO plan of action to promote pathways to decent work” which now guides most of the ILO’s work in the domain of youth employment.

54 www.ifad.org

55 www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/yett/

- **The Youth Employment Programme (YEP):** It is an intra-departmental “umbrella” programme that coordinates ILO action on youth employment. Its activities include advocacy and awareness-raising for youth employment issues (with the specific goal of promoting employability, employment creation and workers rights), broadening the knowledge base on youth employment, providing services for the ILO’s constituents, drafting and implementing strategies to promote youth employment, and coordinating the technical assistance work carried out by the ILO field offices and headquarters.
- **Employment Initiatives For Ex-Combatants:** The ILO provides policy advice and training programmes tailored to this specific group.
- **HIV/AIDS and the workplace:** To the extent that youth are among the people bearing the direct or indirect consequences of AIDS, they are beneficiaries and participants of specific ILO initiatives and programmes aimed at HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support in the workplace.
- **Engaging Youth:** The ILO has a variety of initiatives to strengthen young people’s participation in the democratic life of societies, often through direct collaboration with its constituents. For example, the ILO encourages young people’s direct participation in trade unions and employers organizations. Moreover, when developing National Action Plans on youth employment—or youth employment-related policies in general—the ILO explicitly advises countries to involve youth groups.

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/ AIDS (UNAIDS)⁵⁶

Young people are at the centre of the global HIV epidemic. It is estimated that 5.4 million youth are living with HIV, 58.5% of them female. More than one third of the estimated 6,800 new infections each day are among youth. Despite the high numbers of young people living with HIV, youth-friendly services, such as access to HIV information to prevent future transmission of HIV among this group, and adequate health and social support services, are insufficient. There is still a need to mobilize policy makers, parents, media and faith-based organizations to influence public opinions and policies on HIV and young people.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Advocacy And Campaigning:** The UNAIDS Secretariat facilitates increased participation of young people in international AIDS conferences; it has a large programme on youth campaigning and outreach; it advocates for adequate access for adolescents to confidential sexual and reproductive health services, including prevention of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.
- **Strategic Information And Policies:** UNAIDS provides strategic information and policies to leaders, policymakers and planners worldwide to guide the AIDS response with actions that must be taken to stop the spread of HIV infections.
- **Tracking, Monitoring And Evaluation:** UNAIDS tracks, monitors and evaluates the AIDS epidemic among young people. The UNAIDS Secretariat has prepared guidelines and supported countries to report on the progress made on the implementation of

the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS) through a set of indicators on young people.

- **Establishing Partnerships:** The UNAIDS Secretariat works very closely with, and provides technical support to, the Alliance of Youth Chief Executive Officers.
- **Engaging Youth:** The senior management team of the UNAIDS Secretariat has made a commitment to include young people at all the major meetings, consultations and events on HIV in order to provide a platform for a meaningful dialogue between young people and adult leaders on HIV. Networks of young people are also members of the Global UNAIDS Interagency Task Team on young people and HIV.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)⁵⁷

When they are appreciated as sources of energy, imagination and passion, young people flourish and so do their communities. UNICEF recognizes that young people are speaking out and taking active leadership roles throughout society. These young leaders are making a difference in their communities, campaigning in their schools and are key activists for child rights. They are representing the concerns and views of their peers in forums from youth parliaments to international meetings, and engaging in inter-generational dialogues with adults in key decision-making positions. UNICEF works with and for adolescents to promote their rights to meaningful participation and positive development.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Voices Of Youth (VOY)⁵⁸:** Since 1995, VOY website has focused on exploring the educational and community-building potential of the Internet, and facilitating the active and substantive participation of young people in discussions on child rights and development-related issues.
- **Focus On HIV/AIDS:** In close collaboration with partners, UNICEF provides support to scale up efforts to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV, to promote paediatric HIV diagnosis and treatment, the protection, care and support for children affected by AIDS, and the prevention of HIV transmission in adolescents in over 100 countries.
- **Coverage Of Other Areas Of THE WPAY:** UNICEF's activities span most areas of the WPAY. Examples include:
- **Education:** UNICEF is the lead agency of the United Nations Girls Education Initiative
- **Environment:** UNICEF works on the impact of climate change on the health and economic opportunities for young people. The Child Friendly Cities Initiative in partnership with UN-Habitat aims to create safe spaces and opportunities for participation for children and adolescents in the world's most rapidly urbanizing environments.
- **Substance use:** UNICEF promotes the prevention of substance abuse and works with adolescents who engage in injecting drug use, particularly in situations with high HIV/AIDS infection rates.

57 <http://www.unicef.org/adolescence/index.html>

58 <http://www.voicesofyouth.org/>

- **Justice for children and adolescents:** UNICEF promotes respect for the rights of children in conflict with the law and the effective application of international protective measures for young people involved with the justice system.
- **Girls and young women:** UNICEF focuses on girls' empowerment through education, life-skills education and participation and through combatting harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation and child marriage.
- **Armed conflict:** UNICEF assists youth in armed conflict through the demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers, by promoting non-formal education, life skills and vocational training, and by making the voices of young people affected by conflict heard.
- **Child and youth participation resource guide**⁵⁹ This presents resources on children's participation in a wide range of programme areas and settings. This section shows that child and youth participation is becoming a mainstream issue
- **Adolescents**⁶⁰ The State of the World's Children 2011 invited adult and adolescent contributors from a variety of stakeholder groups to give their perspectives on the distinct challenges adolescents face today in protection, education, health and participation

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UNWOMEN)⁶¹

UNWOMEN's target population spans the range from young women (adolescents) to older women. UNWOMEN recognizes, however, that due to the double discrimination they suffer based on their gender and age, young women face particular challenges in the areas of poverty, education, employment, migration, health, and participation in decision-making. It is therefore vital that public policies and legislation targeting young people take into account a gender perspective, and, likewise, that public policies and legislation targeting women take into account a youth perspective.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

PROJECTS: For example, the project "Young women as citizens: strengthening young women's leadership and networking in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay", aims at consolidating the political agenda of young women in these countries and at expanding their opportunities to influence decision-making processes. Various strategies are being adopted to achieve the goals of the project such as:

- **Production and dissemination of information and knowledge:** Quantitative and qualitative research is conducted in all programme countries.

59 http://www.unicef.org/adolescence/cyppguide/resource-guide_protection.htm

60 http://www.unicef.org/sowc2011/pdfs/SOWC-2011-Main-Report_EN_02092011.pdf

61 www.unwomen.org

- **Strengthening young women's empowerment and leadership:** Young women participating in the project take part in workshops which question traditional power relations, power structures and political processes. The workshops also provide young women with advocacy tools and strategies.
- **Small grants to young women-led projects:** To strengthen young women's organizations and networks, a Small Grants Fund supports local innovative initiatives on women's rights and citizenship.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR)⁶²

In the context of its conflict prevention and recovery work, UNDP is working extensively for, and with, youth at the country level. Examples of UNDP's youth-related work include the promotion of youth employment and youth volunteerism, programmes aimed at increasing young people's participation and voice, support to the development of youth policies, and the promotion of social cohesion, cross-cultural communication and a culture of non-violence among youth. The Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) has recognized the need for knowledge codification and cross-country learning on this issue, and has embarked on a sustained global effort to develop a better understanding of the youth-violence linkage and its programmatic implications.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **E-Discussion On Youth:** An e-discussion on youth programming in crisis prevention and recovery (30 April–15 May 2007) explored

the rationale, value added and challenges of UNDP in youth programming.

- **Desk Review:** Over 20 UNDP youth-related programmes reviewed.

Human Development Report Office (HDRO)⁶³

Recognizing that the Human Development Report is addressed to policymakers and that its messages may need to be tailored to its young readers, HDRO produces a youth version of the global Human Development Report in cooperation with civil society organizations. These youth versions are short, colourful summaries of the main report. Past brochures have been widely distributed and were successfully received by youth organizations and UN agencies as important advocacy and learning tools.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Engaging Youth:** The entire process of creating the youth version of the Human Development Report is managed by young people. They are in charge of writing, designing and editing the brochure.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)⁶⁴

Youth has always been a major focus in UNESCO's programmes. UNESCO was the first agency of the UN system to define and develop specific programmes for young people. Youth-specific activities are developed by the UNESCO Section for Youth, Sport and Physical Education (in the Sector of Social and Human Sciences), with an emphasis on youth participation and intercultural dialogue. The UNESCO Youth Section stimulates youth participation and lends youth

62 www.undp.org/bcpr

63 <http://hdr.undp.org>

64 www.unesco.org/youth

organizations, movements and associations technical support to implement youth-led initiatives. In addition, through youth focal points in each specialized sector of the organization (education, culture, communication and information, natural sciences), UNESCO's work also focuses on access to and quality of education and explores youth cultures and identities, as well as young people's interaction with the environment, science and culture in general. For the next medium-term strategy 2008-2013, UNESCO is reinforcing its commitment to youth by taking targeted actions for young people in all spheres of its work.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Fostering Youth Participation** (UNESCO YOUTH FORUMS): UNESCO not only encourages youth participation in its programmatic work, but also promotes participation through its biennial Youth Forum. The UNESCO Youth Forums, held since 1999, have been institutionalized as an integral part of all sessions of the UNESCO General Conference, UNESCO's highest decision-making body, and have become an important mechanism for channeling young people's voices into the organization's work.
- **Promoting Youth Policies:** In order to support Member States in the development and implementation of integrated national youth policies and programmes, the UNESCO Youth Section has developed a set of guidelines covering policy formulation, implementation and monitoring and evaluation.
- **Developing Networks and Partnerships with Youth** NGOS: The UNESCO Youth Section works closely with a variety of international, regional and local youth and student organizations to identify, test and implement youth-initiated ideas and innovative approaches.
- **Preventing Youth Violence In Central America:** The UNESCO Youth Section also has an intersectoral programme on youth violence (Maras) prevention in Central America (El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras and Ecuador)
- **Raising Awareness on HIV/AIDS:** UNESCO is one of the co-sponsors of UNAIDS and is the lead organization for HIV prevention among young people in education institutions.
- **Youth-Related Projects in UNESCO'S Sectors:** While the main UNESCO youth programme is run by the Youth Section within the social and human sciences sector, a series of youth-related projects have been developed by youth focal points in UNESCO's various specialized sectors.
 - **Education:** UNESCO promotes quality education at the post-primary levels by assisting policymakers, curriculum developers, trainers and teachers to reform national education systems.
 - **Natural Sciences:** UNESCO's natural sciences sector promotes national and regional science and technology policies and capacity-building in the sciences, engineering and renewable energy. It also implements programmes designed to respond to the international goals and challenges of climate change, gender equality, the eradication of poverty and sustainable development, in particular in small island developing States. In this sense, UNESCO is supporting the Youth Visioning for Island Living process.

- **Culture:** UNESCO's overall goal in the area of culture is to promote cultural diversity and dialogue among peoples. The organization notably contributes to mutual cultural understanding through the Young Digital Creators project that encourages communities to build their own creative learning environments through the use of digital tools and online applications. The Youth PATH (Poverty Alleviation through Tourism and Heritage) project actively involves youth from the Caribbean in both the preservation of the natural and cultural heritage and the economic development of their islands.
- **Communication:** UNESCO's Infoyouth International Information and Data Exchange Network on Youth was initiated in order to meet two main challenges: the necessity to counteract the splintering of various and scattered information sources and networks on youth, and the urgent need to implement appropriate and coherent youth policies from local to global levels.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)⁶⁵

Deteriorating environmental conditions have a profound effect on young people's health as well as on their socio-economic situation. It is therefore important to have the concerns of young people on environmental issues heard, and also to engage them in actions that help to mitigate environmental challenges. UNEP engages young people in environmental activities in order to foster a generation of environmentally conscious citizens, capable of positive action. UNEP recognizes the critical role young people can and must play in addressing environmental issues.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Promoting Young People's Engagement (THE TUNZA STRATEGY):** The Tunza Programme is a six-year strategy aimed at promoting the participation of children and youth in environmental activities. It consolidates all UNEP's activities for young people into a unified global programme implemented through the Children and Youth Unit of UNEP's Division of Communications and Public Information.
- **Capacity-Building:** Since 1985, UNEP has been organizing international conferences to help build young people's capacity to address environmental issues. Conference participants elect members of the Tunza Youth Advisory Council—a group of 12 youth leaders who advise UNEP and represent youth in international environmental forums such as the UNEP Governing Council. UNEP also has an internship programme aimed at capacity-building for young people on environmental issues.
- **Youth In Decision-Making:** The Tunza Global Youth Retreat, which takes place in Nairobi every two years, brings together the Tunza Youth Advisory Council members and other youth leaders to review UNEP Governing Council documents and to develop a youth statement to the Governing Council.
- **Partnerships:** UNEP has signed agreements with various organizations dealing with children and youth such as the World Organization of the Scout Movement. The agreements govern how both organizations will work together to foster environmental actions by young people.

65 www.unep.org/tunza

- **Awareness Creation And Information Exchange:** UNEP utilizes the Tunza magazine, a quarterly publication, to disseminate environmental information to young people. The magazine highlights issues of concern to young people and is produced by young people.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)⁶⁶

UN-Habitat regards young people as a major force for a better world and as active partners in meeting the challenges posed by the world's human settlements crisis. Young people constitute a large proportion of the urban population in rapidly urbanizing developing countries. Often, they have no jobs and no voice. Any effective intervention to improve the living conditions of the urban poor and slum-dwellers must deal with the challenges facing youth. The work of UN-Habitat with respect to youth is guided by the Habitat Agenda, which was adopted by 171 countries at the 1996 City Summit in Istanbul, Turkey. The Agenda recommends a participatory approach to promote employment, training, and crime prevention and stresses the role of young people in the alleviation of poverty and inequality.

UN-Habitat has many programmes that engage with young people. These include the Safer Cities Programme, which aims at building capacities of local authorities and youth to address urban insecurity adequately and thereby contribute to the establishment of a culture of prevention; the Sustainable Cities Programme that focuses on building capacities in urban environmental planning and management using broad-based stakeholder participatory approaches; and the Water and Sanitation Branch programme, which

promotes water conservation in schools and local communities in many developing countries.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Global Partnership Initiative:** The Global Partnership Initiative on Urban Youth Development (GPI), launched at the Second World Urban Forum in 2004, is the lead youth programme within UN-Habitat. The GPI seeks to integrate the Millennium Development Goals with development programmes at the city level focusing on and working with urban youth, local governments, civil society, other relevant United Nations agencies, multilateral institutions and private foundations to provide meaningful solutions to urban youth challenges.
- **Youth Resource Centres:** UN-Habitat and local governments have set up computerized One-Stop Youth Information Resource Centres in several African cities to prepare young people for employment through training in entrepreneurship, computer technologies and apprenticeships. The centres also provide health-related training and information on local governance. The centres are hubs for youth to engage in cultural and physical activities.
- **Urban Youth Fund:** This Fund seeks to strengthen the capacity of youth-led initiatives in improving young people's livelihoods. The Fund helps test new approaches to good governance, adequate shelter and secure tenure, and promotes the sharing of best practices.
- **Engaging Youth—World Urban Youth Forums:** UN-Habitat is committed to increasing the number of youth actively involved in policy and decision-making mechanisms. Since 2006, UNHABITAT has organized the World Urban Youth Forums leading up to the World

⁶⁶ www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=531

Urban Forums. The World Urban Youth Forum provide youth with the opportunity to exchange views on sustainable urbanization and to share opinions in order to make meaningful contributions at the main forum. The youth can also participate in UN-Habitat's work through the Governing Council and through UN-Habitat's online discussion forums, accessible through UNHABITAT's youth website.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)⁶⁷

Although youth-related activities are not at the core of UNIDO's mandate, the organization recognizes that promoting decent employment opportunities for youth is an important component of achieving industrial development. UNIDO has worked towards implementing a variety of programmes and projects specifically aimed at empowering and assisting youth in need. UNIDO is active in entrepreneurship development and education, provides young men and women with technical skills and vocational training and promotes women's entrepreneurship programmes in a number of countries.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **A Multi-Stakeholder Partnership For Productive And Decent Work In The Mano River Union (MRU) AND CÔTE D'IVOIRE:** UNIDO has launched a Youth Employment Initiative in the MRU countries (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) and Cote D'Ivoire joining forces with the ILO, UNDP and the Youth Employment Network to support youth-led employment initiatives and to complement existing national efforts on youth employment. The programme will also set up a subregional information system on supply

67 www.unido.org

and demand in labour markets and provide a forum for outreach and an ICT network for youth, while at the same time monitoring experiences and lessons learned. Youth have participated in all meetings that led to the formulation of the multi-stakeholder programme.

United Nations Millennium Campaign⁶⁸

The Millennium Campaign recognizes that youth are significantly affected by poor socio-economic conditions. Estimates suggest that over 462 million youth live on less than \$2 per day, 133 million are illiterate and every day thousands of young people are infected with HIV/AIDS. Yet, young people are unable to gain the political leverage to make any significant contribution to the advancement of society. Although they constitute almost 20% of the world's population and have a particularly intense resolve to affect change, young people are often left voiceless in the political process. The Millennium Campaign seeks to address this situation by focusing on youth as a primary constituency to partner with and mobilize as part of the Campaign. It encourages youth to play a role in holding their Governments accountable and to create awareness on poverty.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Global Partnerships:** The Campaign has established a number of key strategic partnerships at the global level to increase young people's awareness on the MDGs, and to bolster the formation of national level linkages between youth groups and the national Millennium Campaigns. Key partners included the World Organization of the Scout Movement, Taking IT Global, the Global Youth

68 www.endpoverty2015.org/youth

Action Network, the International Young Catholic Students and the World Alliance of YMCAs.

- **National Campaigns:** At a national level, youth have now been included as a key constituency in each national Millennium Campaign. Several national Youth Consultations were held in 2006 including in Canada, Bangladesh and India.
- **Using Social Networking Sites To Mobilize Youth:** To mobilize young people online, the Millennium Campaign set up portals on popular social networking sites including Facebook, MySpace and MSN Spaces.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)⁶⁹

UNODC recognizes that young people use illicit drugs much more than adults. In a country with a medium level of drug abuse, 1-5% of the general population will have used illicit drugs in the past year, while 10-20% of its young people will have used drugs in their lifetime. The use of illicit drugs has a range of serious negative physical and psychological effects, such as physical and psychological dependence, mental illnesses (such as depression or paranoia), HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C. These in turn can exact a high toll on families and communities. The use of psychoactive substances, whether legal or illegal, by young people is particularly problematic as it affects their healthy development. The younger people start using substances, the higher the probability of developing substance dependence later in life. For the past decade, UNODC has had a programme focusing on the prevention of substance abuse and has worked on the treatment and rehabilitation of drug dependence, including the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other social and

health consequences. UNODC also assists Governments in reforming juvenile justice systems and in preventing crimes by young people in urban areas.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Connecting Youth In Action (The Global Youth Network): The Youth Vision Jeunesse Drug Abuse Prevention Forum, held in 1998 in Canada, provided an opportunity for several youth programmes to share their ideas about how to prevent drug abuse. These ideas and proposals were brought to the attention of Government leaders during the Special Session of the General Assembly on the World Drug Problem in 1998. One of the needs articulated was the creation of a worldwide network that would enable youth to remain in contact and to continue to learn from each other. This was the Genesis of the Global Youth Network, which now connects over 500 member organizations in more than 100 countries. The Global Youth Network seeks to increase the participation of youth in drug abuse prevention by:

- Providing technical and financial support to NGOs working to end substance abuse
- Involving youth in the identification of good practices
- Supporting the creation of regional networks to sustain and adapt its work at the regional level.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)⁷⁰

UNFPA's focus on youth is based on the recognition that young people, particularly those living in poverty, have been virtually ignored in policies and programmes. Yet, of the 1.2 billion young people in the world today, about half survive on less than \$2 a day, while more than 100 million

69 www.unodc.org/youthnet

70 www.unfpa.org/adolescents

adolescents do not attend school. Fifteen million adolescent girls become mothers every year. Almost 40% of the 6,800 new HIV infections each day are among young people, the majority of whom are young girls in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

UNFPA regards investments in young people's human capital development that is in their health, education and employment, as one of the most cost-effective development expenditures in terms of the social returns they generate. The current "youth bulge" in the population structure of many countries offers a one-time window of economic opportunity. For a large group of countries where fertility has declined sharply in the last two decades, the proportion of the working age population will increase relative to younger and older dependent populations over the next few decades. With appropriate investments, policies and governance, countries can take advantage of this low dependency ratio, or "demographic bonus", to launch economic, social, cultural and structural transformations.

At the policy level, UNFPA frames adolescent and youth issues within the larger development context of poverty reduction. At the programme level, it advocates for an essential package of social protection interventions for youth that includes education, sexual and reproductive health services, support for establishing livelihoods and recognition of young people's rights to participation. At both levels, the Fund encourages inter-generational alliances that pair the energy, perspectives and motivation of young people with the experience and know-how of adult coaches and facilitators.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **UNFPA'S Framework For Action On Adolescents And Youth:** The Framework for Action identifies the four key areas of interventions of the Fund in regard to young people: creating a supportive policy environment; expanding access to gender-sensitive, life skills-based sexual and reproductive health (SRH) education in schools and community settings; promoting a core package of sexual and reproductive health services; and encouraging young people's leadership and participation.
- **Supportive Policy Environment:** UNFPA actively engages in policy dialogues on poverty reduction strategies and national MDG-based development plans advocating, based on analyses of population structure and poverty dynamics and the "demographic bonus" argument, for increased investments in education, health (including sexual and reproductive health) and employment.
- **Gender-Sensitive, Life Skills-Based Sexual and Reproductive Health Education:** The Fund proactively pursues policy discussions, dialogue and advocacy on improving the quality of education systems, postponing age at marriage, and retaining girls in schools.
- **Core Package Of Sexual And Reproductive Health Services:** UNFPA works with ministries, NGOs and other partners to allow for efficient and youth-friendly delivery of a holistic health-care package that includes universal access to accurate sexual and reproductive health information, a range of safe and affordable contraceptive methods, sensitive counseling, quality obstetric and antenatal care for all pregnant women and

girls, and the prevention and management of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.

- **Young People's Leadership and Participation:** The Fund pays special attention to working with young people through youth-adult partnerships. It works towards identifying institutional mechanisms for incorporating young people's input into all stages of policy and programming processes.
- **Crisis Situations:** In humanitarian situations, UNFPA works to protect the reproductive health of those affected, with an emphasis on the special needs of women and young people. It also supports various data collection activities necessary for efficient relief efforts.
- **Global Youth Advisory Panel:** UNFPA has a strong track record of partnering with youth networks and organizations at the country, regional and global levels. In 2004, UNFPA established its Global Youth Advisory Panel (YAP) as a mechanism of open dialogue and exchange between the Fund and young people.
- **UNFPA'S Special Youth Programme:** UNFPA has initiated the Special Youth Programme, which recruits outstanding young people aged 20 to 24 from developing countries to join UNFPA for a 9-month paid fellowship.
- **State Of The World Population—Youth Supplement:** Since 2006, UNFPA has been publishing a Youth Supplement as a parallel report to its annual flagship publication State of World Population.

United Nations Volunteers (UNV)⁷¹

Through General Assembly resolution 31/131, UNV has a special mandate to work with youth. UNV believes that young people must be approached as assets for development. Youth volunteerism programmes encourage policymakers, communities and youth themselves to see young people as valuable, underutilized resources for local and national development and the achievement of the MDGs.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Promotion Of Youth Volunteerism:** UNV provides direct technical assistance to countries in establishing volunteer infrastructure, including youth volunteering schemes. It also assists Governments to develop supportive policies and legislation as well as volunteer associations and networks and to measure the economic contributions of volunteerism.
- **Projects:** UNV is engaged in work related to all of the priority areas of the WPAY through specialized UNV volunteer assignments and through community volunteerism partnerships and projects, many of which involve youth themselves in voluntary action. Some of the diverse examples of youth engagement as volunteers include the 'Supporting Youth Livelihood' Project in Sierra Leone; raising awareness of Female Genital Mutilation in Egypt; addressing political participation in Kyrgyzstan; and supporting a technology learning centre in Uganda.

⁷¹ www.unv.org
www.onlinevolunteering.org
www.worldvolunteerweb.org

- **Online Volunteering:** UNV's online volunteering service provides development organizations access to a global pool of knowledge and resources to enhance their capacities, while offering individuals worldwide additional opportunities to volunteer for development and contribute to achieving the MDGs. (www.onlinevolunteering.org)

The World Bank⁷²

The Children and Youth Unit within the World Bank's Human Development Network is charged with managing the Bank's youth agenda and with maintaining a cross-sectoral perspective, to ensure harmonization of investments across sectors and across the life-cycle. The Unit focuses on coordination, rather than direct execution, and relies on strategic partnerships within and outside the Bank. The World Bank has expanded its work on youth in response to increasing demands from country clients, donors and civil society and in recognition that the current global youth bulge provides an unprecedented opportunity to take advantage of the largest pool of children and youth in recorded history. The World Bank recognizes that youth can be a positive force for change, but that unemployed and disenfranchised youth are susceptible to disruptive activities. It believes that growth and poverty reduction are enhanced by strategic investments in human capital, in particular in young children. Investments in youth and early adulthood are far more productive if they build on a strong foundation, rather than attempt to compensate for earlier weaknesses.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Increased Lending:** In fiscal year 2005, the World Bank lent nearly \$1 billion for youth.
- **Investments In All Sectors And Regions:** Non-education lending has grown to roughly 35% of the total during the years 2000-2005, up from 5% in 1995-2000. Latin America and the Caribbean has historically received the bulk of youth-oriented investments. In recent years, Africa and South Asia have seen the fastest growth in lending.
- **Increased Analytical And Advisory Activities:** The World Bank has increased its non-lending activities in response to rapidly growing demand, especially for youth employment, youth at risk, vulnerable children and children and youth in fragile States.
- **Strengthening The Evidence Base:** The evidence base for what works in youth development is weak. The Bank is therefore compiling and disseminating knowledge of what works, providing technical assistance and developing practical tools for the operations and for clients.
- **Facilitating The Economic Empowerment Of Young Women:** In collaboration with bilateral and private-sector donors, the Children and Youth Unit is developing a programme to enhance the skills and labour force success of young women around the world.
- **Understanding Preference Formation And Risky Decision-Making:** The World Bank is launching a work programme to understand decision-making, in particular what determines an individual's sense of the future and why people make choices that put their future at risk.

⁷² www.worldbank.org/childrenandyouth

- **Enhancing Voice, Reducing Violence And Crime:** The Bank is launching a programme to develop interventions to engage young people in post-conflict reconstruction, participation and conflict resolution.
- **Assisting In The School-To-Work Transition:** The Children and Youth Unit is continuing its work with the Bank's regions and with the Social Protection Department to design and facilitate evaluations of school-to-work assistance programmes around the world.
- **Food Force:** Launched in 2005, Food Force was the world's first humanitarian video game. It explores the problem of global hunger and the logistics of humanitarian aid work. (www.food-force.com)
- **Free Rice:** This engaging, hunger-fighting vocabulary game expands adolescents' language skills while donating free rice to the hungry. For every vocabulary challenge answered correctly, sponsors donate 10 grains of rice to WFP. (www.freerice.com)

World Food Programme (WFP)⁷³

WFP seeks to educate youth on the significance of global hunger throughout the world, and also hopes to demonstrate the impact that adolescents can make toward alleviating this worldwide issue. The World Food Programme believes in the potential of today's youth as successful future decision makers, and hopes that by raising awareness about hunger, the young adults who WFP reaches can become well-informed leaders. Furthermore, WFP understands that by supporting youth in vulnerable communities through safety-net programmes, it is ensuring that those children and young people affected by world hunger can maximize their potential for future success.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Promoting Young People's Engagement:** Knowing that today's youth are significantly proficient in media and technology, WFP is continually incorporating programmes through which youth can learn about global hunger using entertainment and media outlets.
- **The Team (Emergency in Ristanga):** This children's novel depicts the story of three humanitarian aid workers who become heroes through their work with WFP. The reader follows Carlos, Rachel and Joe (characters from the Food Force video game) through their mission in the flood-struck Ristanga, an imaginary country reflecting the traits of innumerable WFP operations.
- **School Feeding Programmes:** WFP school meals encourage hungry children to attend school and help them concentrate on their studies. The promise of at least one nutritious meal each day attracts children to school, boosts enrolment, promotes regular attendance and enhances student performance.
- **Reaching Young Communities:** WFP supports groups such as Universities Fighting World Hunger on college campuses, as well as virtual groups on social networks like Facebook that promote WFP's cause.

World Health Organization (WHO)⁷⁴

Although many adolescents are healthy, a significant proportion of them face a range of problems which have implications for their health now and in the future. In line with the Millennium Development Goals 5 and 6, the WHO focuses on health challenges related to HIV and maternal mortality. The organization also addresses other health issues that affect adolescents such as mental health, substance use, nutrition, injuries and violence and endemic diseases. WHO's Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development (CAH) envisions a world in which children and adolescents enjoy the highest attainable standard of health and development, a world that meets their needs, as well as respects their rights, enabling them to live to their full potential. Within the Department, there is a specialized team working exclusively on adolescent health and development, covering the health needs of the population aged 10 to 24 years. While CAH advocates for a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach to adolescent health and development, it focuses its technical assistance on the contribution of the health sector.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Supportive, Evidence-Based Policies:** CAH raises awareness, promotes research and synthesizes information to develop standards and guidelines. It facilitates the adaptation and implementation of these guidelines at national and local levels to sustain the health of adolescents.
- Services And Commodities:** CAH also provides technical assistance to support a systematic approach to scaling up the provision and use of quality health services to adolescents. This includes developing consensus
- among key stakeholders and developing national standards for youth-friendly health services.**
- Strategic Information:** WHO provides guidance to countries on the information that needs to be collected to guide health policies and programmes. It has produced guidance documents on indicators for HIV programmes and for monitoring the MDG goals.
- Strengthening Other Sectors:** WHO helps the education sector to develop health promoting schools and supports many regional networks, such as the European Network of Health Promoting Schools. WHO also supports initiatives to strengthen the health of adolescents by working with parents and sport coaches.
- HIV:** CAH produces technical materials to strengthen national HIV programmes to deal with youth. It has published evidence of effective interventions to prevent HIV among young people. CAH has also developed national-level indicators for HIV and young people to support the collection of strategic information which guides programme management and implementation.
- Sexual And Reproductive Health:** An orientation programme to train health-care providers dealing with the key sexual and reproductive health issues has been adapted for use in more than 30 countries around the world.
- Substance Use:** Substance use is dealt with in CAH's training materials for health workers, in particular in relation to HIV and injecting drug use.

⁷⁴ www.who.int/child_adolescent_health/en/

- **Violence Prevention:** WHO has a Violence and Injury Prevention Unit which addresses various issues like road safety, child and adolescent maltreatment and other injury prevention at the global level.

Engaging Youth: Youth participation is a principle promoted in all WHO supported activities. CAH works to ensure adolescent participation in its research and development work, as well as in its country-level work.

Youth Employment Network (YEN)⁷⁵

The Youth Employment Network (YEN) supports employment-generating activities, programmes and policies for youth. It was established in 2001 as a partnership between the United Nations, the ILO and the World Bank to give effect to the global commitment in the Millennium Declaration of “developing and implementing strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work”.

The YEN secretariat, based at the ILO in Geneva, promotes coherent approaches, which integrate supply-and demand-side strategies, in stimulating youth employment. The YEN combines a political strategy with the technical experience and implementation capacity of its partner organizations to address the ongoing challenges of unemployment and underemployment of young people. The YEN therefore plays an important role in facilitating communication and information sharing, linking important initiatives and stakeholders. It also fills a key international coordinating role in operationalizing peer partnerships among participating countries.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Ensuring Political Buy-In And National Backing For The National Action Plan Process:** United Nations General Assembly resolutions request countries to develop National Action Plans on youth employment (NAPs). The YEN supports the formulation of NAPs in its lead countries—those countries that have committed at the highest political level to creating decent and productive work for young people and to preparing a national review and action plan on youth employment.
- **Promoting Policy Coherence And The Engagement Of The Core Partners: The Yen** works to bring together its three core agencies, both at headquarters level and in the field, thereby demonstrating the combined strength of an inter-agency effort and providing strategic guidance to the YEN lead countries in the development of NAPs.
- **Adopting A Network Approach:** The YEN with its wide network and national mandate provides outreach and network support by generating buy-in from other stakeholders as necessary, allowing for a more holistic and sustainable approach to NAP development.
- **Promoting Youth Participation:** Building on General Assembly resolutions which encourage youth participation in the NAPs, the YEN has built a strong relationship with youth through its Youth Consultative Group on the global level and with national youth groups in the lead countries.

- **Developing Relationships With Supportive Countries:** The YEN secretariat has the ability to leverage a range of resources—political, technical and financial—to support the development of NAPs, complementing resources mobilized by core partner agencies.
- **Facilitating Knowledge Sharing, Production And Dissemination Of Tools And Resources:** The YEN secretariat facilitates the sharing of knowledge on NAP development through its lead country network and beyond. In addition, it develops tools and resources to assist countries in the formulation of their NAPs and promotes the tools of its core partners.
- **Supporting Monitoring, Evaluation And On-going Improvement Of NAPS:** The YEN is developing indicators on youth employment and benchmarks to measure progress.
- **Providing A Platform And Access To The International Arena:** It can assist the partners in bringing policy messages into forums such as the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission for Social Development and the World Bank's Annual Meetings, and open doors for participation in YEN partner activities.
- **The Youth Consultative Group:** In 2004, a YEN Youth Consultative Group was launched, comprising representatives of large international and regional youth organizations to provide advice and guidance to the YEN's work.

ANNEX 6

Braga Youth Action Plan⁷⁶

INTRODUCTION

We, representatives of youth and youth-serving organisations, the United Nations System and other inter-governmental organisations have met from 2 to 7 August 1998 in Braga, Portugal at the third World Youth Forum of the United Nations System.

We have gathered here to promote Youth Participation for Human Development, convinced that the participation of youth is a prerequisite for the development of humankind as a whole.

On the threshold of a new millennium, young people are full of hope and commitment. We are convinced that in partnership between youth and youth-serving organisations, national governments, the United Nations System and other inter-governmental organisations, we can shape our world for the creation of a better future for all.

Young people face the challenges of injustice and exclusion resulting mainly from the enormous inequities in income, wealth and power dominating today's world. Because trade and investment agreements and relations remain unfair there is a growing gap between the rich and the poor.

Young people are burdened by the financial and debt crisis, and as a result of Structural Adjustment Programmes they experience the consequences of on-going cuts in government expenditure in human services. There is a decline of educational systems, young peoples' access to health services is restricted and youth unemployment is growing.

Young people suffer from xenophobia and racism, homophobia, exclusion from democratic participation. Young people lack access to information despite new possibilities to communicate across borders that should promote tolerance in multiethnic societies, increased respect for Human Rights and greater participation.

Real and sustainable solutions to these problems can only be found at the global level through the development of new partnerships between all the parties involved. Such solutions include the promotion of social spending through the cancellation of external debt of the highly indebted poor countries; trade agreements respecting the right to work and decent working conditions; fulfilment of the agreed 0.7% target of GNP for Official Development Assistance; the full payment of UN dues in time without conditions; and further reform of the United Nations System.

⁷⁶ <http://www.un.org/events/youth98/yforum98/bragayap.htm>

Young people can and should be a part of the solution to the problems in the world. Everywhere, young people and youth organisations show that they are not obstacles, but invaluable resources for development. Youth are building democratic leadership, civil society and social capital for the 21st century.

With the Braga Youth Action Plan we want to empower young people to participate in human development. Youth Participation for Human Development requires that:

- the international community, the private sector and especially governments provide young people with adequate financial resources in order to realise their entire potential in becoming full and active partners in the development process;
- young people are recognised not only as future leaders, but as actors of society today, with a direct stake in the development process;
- young women and men should be enabled to participate on equal terms: sexism is an obstacle that must be overcome and the empowerment of women a prerequisite for development;
- ALL young people should be enabled to participate as both creators and beneficiaries of development: unemployment, illiteracy, the discrimination against indigenous young people, against young people with disabilities or discrimination based on religious beliefs, and other forms of social exclusion are threats to development;
- justice between present and future generations is recognised as a fundamental base for sustainable development: young people should participate in the decisions taken today about the resources of tomorrow;

- youth should participate in political decision making on all levels, and young people must be enabled to organise themselves in youth NGOs, students unions, trade unions, political parties, and in the creation of mass media, in order to fully participate in political, economic, social and cultural life; and
- youth issues are not treated in isolation, but mainstreamed into all policy making. The third World Youth Forum is an example of how a cross-sectoral approach can be used successfully.

The Braga Youth Action Plan is a joint commitment to Youth Participation for Human Development made by youth NGOs, the United Nations system and other inter-governmental organisations in partnership.

As participants at the third World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, we pledge our personal and unwavering commitment towards Youth Participation for Human Development.

We now call upon all youth, governments of the world and the international community to work together with us to carry out these commitments and make our vision of Youth Participation for Human Development a reality.

The World Youth Forum Recommends:

YOUTH POLICIES

Integrated Cross-Sectoral Youth Policies

1. the formulation in all states of youth policies, by the year 2005, which are cross sectoral, comprehensive and formulated with long-term vision coupled with Action Plans taking into consideration the guidelines set forth in the ***World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond***. Youth policies should be accorded a legal status and backed by legislative structures and sufficient resources. We encourage all governments to

establish and/or strengthen youth focal point institutions within the governmental structure. Youth policies should be formulated via a thorough consultation process between the government and the national youth NGO platforms as well as other stakeholders as equal partners in that process.

2. the effective implementation of cross sectoral youth policies in accordance with the Action Plans and their time-frames which are formulated together with the youth policies. Action Plans should be utilised as a guideline for monitoring and evaluating the status of the implementation of youth policies by all stakeholders, especially by the youth NGO platforms.
3. that the United Nations, in collaboration with other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, identify the best practices on youth policy formulation and implementation and encourage the adaptation of the principles and experiences among the member states of the United Nations. Greater use could be made of the Youth Theme Group mechanism within the United Nations Resident Co-ordinators System to increase the co-ordination of United Nations entities in the field of youth for the promotion of national youth policies. The Youth Theme Group should give priority to collaboration between youth NGOs and United Nations entities.

Youth NGO Co-operation at the National

Level:

4. the formation and/or strengthening of national youth NGO platforms, which represent the widest range of democratic youth organizations of each state to be established with the initiatives of the youth organizations themselves. The platforms should respect each member organization's independence and operate based on the principles of

solidarity and democracy. The governments should recognize the national youth NGO platforms legally and as partner in policy making, provide them with adequate financial support and guarantee the free development of NGOs.

5. the formulation of informal and formal consultative mechanisms between national youth NGO platforms and governments, which operate based on the principles of mutual respect and equal partnership, so that the concerns of youth are fully reflected in the national policy making.
6. the United Nations System, international organizations, including international and national youth NGO platforms, should strengthen the capacity of youth NGOs at the national, regional and international levels through enhanced co-operation at all levels.

Youth, Poverty Eradication and Development:

7. based on the Braga Initiative on Debt Crisis, governments; the international community, including the IMF, the World Bank and other United Nations agencies, to work in partnership with youth NGOs to organise regional seminars before the year 2000 to assess the impact of the debt crisis on young men and women in countries with such debts. The results of their findings should be used to make informed policy in the international community, particularly in the areas of structural adjustment programmes, capacity building, awareness raising, and advocacy with the aim of eradicating poverty. These regional seminars also should lead to a joint international conference of Youth NGOs and the United Nations system, including the World Bank and the IMF, to be held before the year 2001.

8. We recommend that youth organisations, in co-operation with governments, United Nations agencies and organisations, IGOs, and international financial institutions, establish where they do not exist, and strengthen existing national, sub-regional, and regional youth networks and agencies. Such agencies, autonomous in planning, decision making, and implementation, should carry out effective poverty eradication, participate in development programmes, and act as a monitoring body to evaluate progress. They should give due consideration to the social and cultural background of target groups, and appropriate training and follow-up should involve local community members.
9. While emphasising the fact that Governments and the international community have the primary responsibility for poverty eradication, the World Youth Forum affirms the indispensable contributions made by young people in poverty eradication and development. We recommend that all major actors concerned with poverty and youth promote, support, develop, and fund youth volunteerism. Furthermore, high-profile should be given to youth-led volunteerism during the International Year of Volunteers in 2001.
10. it be recognised that young people with disabilities have greater difficulties participating in society due to lack of equal opportunities. To improve their independent access to the physical environment, information, devices of assistance, equipment, awareness campaigns and fundraising are necessary. This should be promoted and enhanced at all levels through co-operation among NGO's concerned with disability, as well as UN agencies, governments and IGO's.
11. governments, NGOs, IGOs and the UN system promote inter-cultural understanding among different cultures through workshops, seminars, exchange programmes and youth camps, with an adequate evaluation process to ensure that all cultures, and specifically Indigenous young people, are fully recognised, respected and valued in society. We also propose that the UN sponsor a World Indigenous Youth Conference and for any future UN sponsored youth activities, processes be established to ensure specific Indigenous participants are included as delegates in their own right.
12. that NGOs take the initiative, in co-operation with UN specialised agencies, programmes and funds as well as national youth platforms, to establish conferences that enable an exchange of experiences and information about working with young people living in extreme poverty and those requiring protection from violence, in particular young women. Priority should be given to reaching young people living in extreme poverty and working in partnership with them in the design and implementation of youth policies and concrete projects in the areas of health, education, training and employment. We also propose the creation of national monitoring centres to submit an annual report to the United Nations System on young people victimised by violence. The results of the conferences on young people excluded by extreme poverty and the report on young people victimised by violence should be widely disseminated by all forms of media and used as a reference in evaluating the implementation or national youth policies.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Participation of ALL Young People:

10. it be recognised that young people with disabilities have greater difficulties participating in society due to lack of equal opportunities. To improve their independent access to the physical environment, information, devices of assistance, equipment, awareness campaigns and fundraising are necessary. This should be promoted and enhanced at all levels through co-operation among NGO's con-

Youth Organisations and the United Nations System:

13. the United Nations support broad involvement of youth NGOs in the decision making process in a democratic manner throughout the United Nations System. We ask for greater consultation and the full and effective participation of youth NGOs in United Nations System conferences, commissions, specialised agencies, programmes and funds – which should meet in different regions to ensure equitable geographic representation. We encourage Member States to include representatives of youth NGOs in national delegations to the General Assembly, and other United Nations System conferences and commissions. This must allow for a wide, inclusive and gender balanced representation of all youth, including groups such as indigenous people, the youth with disabilities, immigrants, refugees and all minorities.
14. The recognition of the responsibility of youth to take it upon themselves to help implement the Braga Youth Action Plan and other United Nations initiatives - thus we offer to the United Nations System the services of youth at the national, regional and international levels. In order for this to be successful, there must be increased co-ordination of such implementation at the national and regional levels, information should be made easily accessible to all young people (which may be facilitated by United Nations System offices); the question of national funding to broaden the effectiveness of youth NGOs with the aim of using such funds to set up eventual self-reliant organisations should be addressed; and non-associated youth must be involved in order to ensure effective implementation of all programmes.

15. That youth issues should be given higher priority in United Nations System. We recommend the strengthening of the United Nations Youth Unit and its counterparts in other funds, programmes and specialised agencies and the provision to them of greater resources and more staff – notably young people. We recommend the expansion of their mandate to include the dissemination of information and the co-ordination of policies and programmes between youth NGOs and the various specialised agencies, funds and programmes. There should be national liaison offices for young people at the United Nations local offices, and a quota for youth organisations in the national United Nations programmes. We must also ensure the continuation of the World Youth Forum process, including the convening of regional youth fora/consultations both in the preparation and follow-up of the Forum and the strengthening of its links with future high-level, inter-governmental conferences on youth (such as the Ministers' Conference on Youth), through joint preparation, meetings and follow-up. Member States should contribute generously to the United Nations Youth Fund, which should give priority to for South - South project.

Education for the 21st Century:

16. that education shall be free of charge at all levels, and equally accessible to everyone. Access to all education should not be on the basis of economic status. We call on governments to increase resource allocation to education and for UNESCO to be the co-ordinating agency, with the technical and financial contributions of Governments, for the establishment of a World Education Fund to provide grants to facilitate equal access to all levels of education.

17. that it be recognised as a right the empowerment of young people via full and active participation and representation in all types of education, and calls upon governments to do the same. We call on governments to recognise and promote the importance of non-formal education, it being integral to the full development of individuals and societies and as therefore being complementary to formal education. We recommend the establishment of Departments of Non-formal Education within Ministries of Education, which would work in partnership with NGOs responsible for non-formal education policies, through a democratic NGO forum.
18. while recognising that education should be relevant to employment opportunities, we call on the governments to analyse and review their formal education policies to incorporate the teaching of languages, including local and indigenous languages, and global citizenship education, emphasising universal concepts such as peace, human rights, intercultural and inter-religious understanding, environmental protection, sustainable development, and gender equality. The World Youth Forum calls for the development of regional and international teaching materials through United Nations agencies, the adequate training of all educators and the establishment of national co-ordination units.

Youth Employment for Social Development:

19. the recognition that the problem of youth unemployment is serious and complex which requires action both the macro and micro-economic levels by governments, the social partners, NGOs, and the United Nations System. There is a need to promote, improve, and extend the design and implementation

of policies and programmes to promote employment among young people. We recommend that the United Nations System, in close collaboration with youth NGOs, undertake a comparative evaluation of the situation of youth employment programmes in different countries from different regions. This evaluation should emphasise programmes for disadvantaged youth, such as, but not exclusively, women, youth with disabilities, the long term unemployed, indigenous peoples and migrants. The evaluation should look at issues such as the sustainability of jobs created once programmes are completed, the quality of jobs created and the contribution of the project to social development.

20. the recognition that there is a lack of institutional capacity of NGOs in the employment area and communication between NGOs and the United Nations System. NGOs often face difficulties in raising funds to finance projects and lack knowledge about existing projects and programmes to promote youth employment. To overcome this, we propose a new system of information exchange between youth NGOs and the United Nations System and a framework of collaboration to provide technical and financial support to NGOs. The first step is for all NGOs to gain access to relevant communication facilities (with the assistance of the United Nations System). The second step would be to create a web site and mail-out directory with and for NGOs as another means of communication. The Web-ster should contain, among other things, information regarding the NGOs and International Organizations themselves, printed material in electronic format produced by the United Nations System, project updates and experiences and ideas on how to obtain

financial and technical support for activities related to youth employment.

21. that there is a need to empower, mobilise and inform young people about fundamental rights at work. In order to promote social development these rights must be respected by all. Youth NGOs should participate in the ILO's efforts to publicise its Conventions, Recommendations and Resolutions, especially the "Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work" adopted by the International Labour Conference in June 1998. We further recommend that an information dissemination campaign be undertaken by NGOs with the financial support of the United Nations System to educate young people about their rights under the ILO's instruments. The campaign should take the form of conferences, information materials and training, and will emphasise grassroots participation.

Youth, Health and Development:

22. the formulation/review and implementation of an integrated national youth health policy addressing all major health issues including : sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, infectious diseases, substance abuse, nutrition and hygiene, harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, mental health, occupational and environmental health. This requires the active participation of youth, youth related organizations, government bodies, NGOs, international organisations and agencies of the United Nations System.
23. the provision of youth-friendly health services, counselling and especially reproductive health services that are comprehensive, accessible and participatory, to ensure the holistic well-being of all young people.

24. the international community implement reliable research, monitoring and assessment concerning the health needs of young people with the full participation of youth and widespread and interactive exchange of information addressing those needs. The government bodies, NGOs, international organisations, and agencies of the United Nations System, in collaboration with youth organisations should co-ordinate the efficient peer-education training of young people in all spheres of life on life skills, and the training of parents, teachers, religious and traditional leaders and caregivers on support skills. Information centres should be created that would be run by youth and for youth.

The Role of Youth in the Promotion of Human Rights:

25. that human rights education be recognised as a basic human right. This right includes access to, and exchange of, information on universally accepted civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, and their violations. It aims at advocating the implementation of basic human rights. ALL young people must become involved in human rights education as key recipients and providers.
26. Institutions, including governments, the UN system, intergovernmental organizations and educational authorities, responsible for human rights education at the community, national, regional and international level, must ensure an enabling environment for youth involvement in human rights education. This includes the opportunity for active participation of youth organizations in the decision making process, in the implementation, as well as in existing monitoring and reporting procedures linked to human rights education.

27. that youth organizations commit themselves to develop and implement effective strategies on human rights education. We recommend a human rights focal point to be designated in each youth organisation. Partnership between the UN system and such focal points should be established within the framework of the UN Decade on Human Rights Education (1995-2004). Human rights education methodologies shall take into account the need for cultural sensitivity and should include lobbying, networking, exchange of best practices, capacity-building and preparation of material in local languages.

Youth Rights Charter and a Special Rapporteur on Youth Rights:

28. instead of a so called "Youth Rights Charter", the United Nations Youth Unit produce and assist youth NGOs disseminate at international, regional, national and local levels a **compendium on existing youth rights** which consists of the compilation of the existing rights regarding young people already included in reports adopted by the General Assembly and United Nations Human Rights instruments, including United Nations international conferences such as the conferences in Cairo, Copenhagen, Vienna and Beijing. The compendium should be made into a **youth friendly** publication available and accessible to all youth around the world. was not adopted.

29. the **UN Special Rapporteur on Youth rights** should be appointed by United Nations Secretary General before the end of 1999 basing on nominations through regional consultations of NGOs to be made by August 1999. He or she should be mandated for three years (renewal possible only for two terms). He or she should be a young inde-

pendent expert (no older than 35 years of age at the time of appointment and renewal), experienced with human rights issues, recently and directly involved with youth organisations. Effort must ensure the elimination of discrimination with every appointment to ensure fair and equal opportunity in the position over time. He or she must submit an annual report to the UN General Assembly and other relevant bodies, including recommendations for better implementation of youth rights. He or she should be actively supported by all UN structures.

30. we urge the Secretary General of the United Nations to take the initiative, with the help of specialised agencies, relevant regional organizations and youth NGOs, for the organisation of an **ad hoc** event on Youth Rights, in order to bring together representatives of states and all interested national, regional and international youth NGOs. This World event (either a special session of UN General Assembly or a UN World Conference on Youth Rights) should be prepared at the national and regional levels through campaigning to promote the largest possible involvement of young people. The **ad hoc** event on Youth Rights should address the questions of how to improve the Human Rights situation of youth under sanctions, embargoes and occupation.

ANNEX 7

Evolution and the growth of the World Youth forum Idea: 1936-1998 and its linkages with the league of nation and the United nation System

EVOLUTION AND GROWTH OF THE WORLD YOUTH FORUM IDEA: 1936 - 1998 AND ITS LINKAGES WITH THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Name, place and date sponsors	Attendance countries and Youth NGOs	Submission of report to public body	Follow-up Actions
World Youth Congress: Geneva 31 August- 16 Sept. 1936 (League of Nations Federation)	700 Youth delegates from 32 countries & 16 world youth NGOs	Report submitted to League Assembly & relevant committees and youth NGOs	Continuation Committee set up to follow up work and plan 2nd Congress
World Youth Congress: Poughkeepsie New York 16-23 August 1938	640 youth delegates from 54 countries & 13 world NGOs	Report submitted to League Assembly & relevant committees and youth NGOs	Continuation Committee worked further, but World War II disrupted effort
World Youth Conference: London, England 14- 15 November 1942	500 youth delegates from 28 countries & 12 world NGOs	Declaration: "Call to Action" distributed to press and youth NGOs	Establishment of a world Youth Council to follow up action
World Youth Forum: Moscow, USSR 1961 (Committee of Youth Organisations) USSR	Approximately 500 youth delegates from 36 countries & 12 world NGOs	Declaration distributed to press and youth NGOs	International Preparatory Committee for Forum and Festival
World Youth Forum: Moscow, USSR 1964 (Committee of Youth Organisations, USSR	Approximately 500 youth delegates from 30 countries & 12 world NGOs	Declaration distributed to press & youth NGOs	International Preparatory Committee for Forum and Festival
World Youth Assembly: United Nations Headquarters New York, NY, USA 9-17 July 1970 (United Nations 25th Anniversary Committee)	645 youth delegates from 113 member states & 5 non-member states, 12 territories & 28 world NGOs	Report submitted to United Nations General Assembly 25th session United Nations, New York	Plan adopted for biennial UN/ WYA and permanent secretariat: un World Youth Centre not implemented Balance, funds to GIM, UNI, UNIS
World Youth Forum: Helsinki, Finland. May- June 1981 (National Committee of Youth Organizations of Finland, SNT	Approximately 300 youth delegates from 80 countries & more than 15 world NGOs	Declaration distributed to press & youth NGOs	International Consultative Meeting for the Forum carri follow-up
World Youth Forum: Helsinki, Finland. 27-30 May 1990 (National Committee of Youth Organizations of Finland, SNT	300 youth delegates from 85 countries & approximately 50 world, regional and national youth NGOs	Declaration distributed to press & youth NGOs	International Consultative Meeting for the Forum. End of the Cold War brought a new direction to the WYF via UN system support and partnership
World Youth Forum of the United Nations System First session 21-(or 21?) -29 May 1991 United Nations, Vienna, Austria UN Youth Unit in cooperation with youth UNO committees	150 youth delegates from 80 countries & including 50 world, regional and national youth NGOs, UN agencies and IGOs (7 regional youth NGOs, 20 world youth NGOs, 15 UN agencies and 4 IGOs)	Report summarized for SG report to UN General Assembly & distributed to youth NGO, UN agencies and IGOs	Planning committee set up to follow up and plan Second session. The Foropum proposed that it be convened every 2 years. Follow-up project: Youth Partners for Development (YPD)

Name, place and date sponsors	Attendance countries and Youth NGOs	Submission of report to public body	Follow-up Actions
<p>World Youth Forum of the United Nations System Second session 25-29 November 1996 United Nations, Vienna, Austria (un Youth Unit & Austrian Federal Youth Council ÖBJR)</p>	<p>Approximately 400 youth delegates from 150 countries ,UN agencies and IGOs (30 regional youth NGOs, 41 world youth NGOs, 25 UN agencies and 9 IGOs)</p>	<p>Report official UNGA & ECOSOC submitted to GA & ECOSOC by the Ambassador of Austria to the UN. Press & participants sent full report</p>	<p>Planning Committee and Preparatory Team to follow up and plan Third Session, ECOSOC & GA formally recognize the Forum follow-up projects on education, employment, health, drugs, participation & rights, etc</p>
<p>World Youth Forum of the United Nations System Third session 2-6 August 1998 Braga, Portugal UN Youth Unit & Portuguese National Youth Council: CNJ</p>	<p>Approximately 500 youth delegates from more than 150 countries ,UN agencies & IGOs</p>	<p>Report (official UNGA document) to be transmitted by UN Secretary General to GA 1998 & to participants & press</p>	<p>Proposal for the Planning Committee and Preparatory Team to follow -up and plan future work through regional youth forums & projects with UN regional Commissions & UN agencies & plan WYF in the year 2000</p>

ANNEX 8

The Genesis of global Youth Politics at the United Nations⁷⁷

Summary based on the reports of the Secretary General 1999-2007 and UNGA Resolutions

Early Youth Resolutions in the 1960s “Measures designed to promote among youth the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding between people”

1962 UNESCO Report on “Measures designed to promote among youth the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding between peoples” [1842 (XVII)]

- Invites Member States to submit to the Secretary General their views on the proposed declaration, after consultation, where necessary with the most experienced educators and leaders of youth activities

1964 International Conference on Youth by UNESCO (Grenoble)

1965 UNGA Resolution: Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples [2037 (XX)]

- Lays down 6 principles:
- Principle 1-5: bringing up young people, education, awareness of the equality of all men, intercultural activities (exchanges, twinning projects etc.)

and youth organisations shall be promoted in accordance with the ideals of peace, mutual respect and the understanding between peoples

- Principle 6: all promotion is to be seen within the bigger frame of young people becoming more conscious of their responsibilities

1968 UNGA Resolution: Education of youth in the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms [2447 (XXIII)]

- requests for the first time the ECOSOC and the Commission on Human Rights to prepare a report on the Human Rights situation for young people in collaboration with UNESCO
- requests the Secretary General to exchange information on efforts taken by Member States to secure Human Rights for youth

1969 UNGA Resolution: Youth, its education in the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, its problems and needs, and its participation in national development [2497 (XXIV)]

- allocates a special role to education of youth as regards human rights
- explicitly names the elimination of colonialism and apartheid as central areas
- states that regional seminars on youth should be organized as early as possible

77 Falko Mohrs, Board Member, European Youth Forum

- recommends Governments to formulate national youth policies
- recommends Governments to include youth and YO in all stages of policy making at national and international levels

1970 Report on the World Social Situation

1971 UNGA Resolution: Youth, its problems and needs, and its participation on social development [2770 (XXVI)]

- recognizes the important role of youth in social development
- takes note of youth problems (health, education, training, employment, housing and social services) as in the Report on the World Social Situation
- refers to the implementation of the Declaration 2037 (XX)

1973 Seminar on Youth and Human Rights (San Remo, Italy)

1973 UNGA Resolution: Concerted action at the national and international levels to meet the needs and aspirations of youth and to promote their participation in national and international development [3140 (XXXVIII)]

- report of the Secretary General highlights the uneven level at which youth is affected by economic and social development (especially in southern Africa)
- calls upon Member States, UN agencies, youth and youth organisations to make efforts to improve the situation of youth in several youth specific areas
- Urges Governments to ensure to youth: better conditions in education, training, health,

social welfare and employment; youth participation at national and international levels

1971 World Youth Assembly (New York)

19871 UNGA Resolution: Youth and dependence-producing drugs [2859 (XXVI)]

- Refers to problems esp. in developing countries and narcotic drugs
- Endorses activities of the International Narcotics Control Board and the WHO
- Urges Member States to support the UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control
- Urges Governments to inform the particular youth about the dangers of drug abuse
- 1976 UNGA Resolution: Role of Youth
- youth in war; youth has a role to play in establishing a new international and economic order esp. in peace, disarmament, national liberation, struggle against colonialism, racial discrimination, foreign domination and alien occupation
- invites Member States to promote international exchanges between youth

1976 UNGA Resolution: Channels of communication with youth and youth organisations [31/132]

- invites ECOSOC to prepare recommendations of how Youth and YO can be included in the UN system at national, regional, inter-regional and international level

1977 UNGA Resolution: Channels of communication with youth and youth organisations [31/135]

- guidelines of channels of communication between UN and youth/YO:
- national level:

- UN Administrator should consult with Member States on communication channels
- UN public info services should provide youth specific info
- Secretary General with Member States should identify national focal points for youth
- regional level:
 - Regional commission should pay special attention to youth participation at national level
- international level:
 - Publish Youth Information Bulletin
 - Intensify the work of the Office of public information
 - Secretary General should utilize existing channels of communication

1978 UNGA Resolution: Channels of communication with youth and youth organisations [33/6]

- invites Member States to implement 31/135
- will come up with a Youth Res in 1979

1978 UNGA Resolution: International Youth Year [33/7]

- recalls its various resolutions on youth
- recognizes the profound importance of youth participation at all levels
- considering it necessary to disseminate among youth the ideals of peace [...]
- believes it is urgently desirable to consolidate the UN efforts in the field of youth
- decides to proclaim an International Youth Year

1978 UNGA Resolution: Physical education and sports exchanges among young people [33/8]

- Member States should adopt measures to promote physical education and sport exchanges

- Member States should cease to have sporting contact with countries practising apartheid

1979 UNGA Resolution: International Youth Year (IYY) [34/151]

- IYY will serve to mobilize efforts at the local, national, regional and international levels to promote the best educational, professional and living conditions for young people; with active participation
- 1985 = 20th anniversary of the UNGA Res 2037 (XX) and 15th anniversary of the UNGA Res 2659 (XXV) [= Establishment of the UN Volunteers Programme]
- Secretary General shall prepare draft programme for the Advisory Council of the IYY

1979 UNGA Resolution: Policies and Programmes relating to youth [34/163] (and channels of communication in annex)

- recognizes that Y/YO must participate in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the IYY
- proposes additional guidelines for the improvement of the channels of communication between the UN and Y/YO

1980 UNGA Resolution: Channels of communication between the UN and Y/YO [35/139]

- invites Governments to implement the guidelines

1980 UNGA Resolution: Efforts and measures for securing the implementation and the enjoyment by youth of human rights, particularly the right to education and to work [36/29]

- considers it necessary that States and int. organisations examine more the implementa-

tion of human rights as regards youth

- wants to include the Advisory Committee of the IYY in that

1981 UNGA Resolution: IYY: Participation, Development and Peace [36/47]

- invites all Member States, UN bodies, YO and other relevant bodies to exert all efforts to make the IYY a success
- stresses the need for direct youth participation
- is convinced of the imperative need to harness the energies, enthusiasms and creative abilities of youth to the tasks of nation-building, the struggle for self-determination and national independence in accordance with the UN Charter, against foreign domination and occupation and for the economic, social and cultural development [...]
- invites States that are no members of the Advisory Council to be there as observers
- appeals to the UN, to Member States and to the public to donate to the IYY budget

1981 UNGA Resolution: Channels of communication between the UN and Y/YO [36/17]

- adopts additional guidelines from 1979
- additional guidelines for the improvement of the channels of communication between the UN and Y/YO
- national level:
 - expand advisory services on youth by UN
 - establish national focal points on youth
 - (added: to include youth reps in their national UN Delegations to the UNGA and other UN meetings):
- regional level: the regional commissions shall...

- review their relations with NGOs
- give special attention to active youth participation in development (added: especially the regional executive secretaries)
- promote and coordinate youth participation
- organise regional workshops
- international level:
 - Administrative Committee on Co-ordination should promote and coordinate youth participation in programmes on social and economic development
 - Youth Information Bulletin
 - UN internships for youth should be expanded
 - Youth publications should be circulated to the relevant YO
 - Secretary General should review existing channels of communication
 - (added: Geneva informal meetings of YNGYO as channel of communication)

1982 UNGA Resolution: IYY: Participation, Development and Peace [37/48]

- believes that UN system should make more efforts as regards youth exchanges, sporting activities a.o.
- endorses the recommendations made by the Advisory Council of the IYY
- invites States to establish national coordinating mechanisms
- stresses the importance of active and direct participation of youth at all levels in the IYY

1982 Efforts and measures for securing the implementation and the enjoyment by youth of human rights, particularly the right to education and to work [37/49]

- invites national coordinating committees or other organs or coordination to give appropriate priority to the activities during the IYY to the enjoyment by youth of human rights

1982 UNGA Resolution: Channels of communication between the UN and Y/ YO [37/50]

- calls upon Member States and UN System to implement fully the guidelines
- calls upon national coordinating mechanisms of the IYY to be aware of their role as channels of communication

1983 UNGA Resolution: IYY: Participation, Development and Peace [38/22]

- recognizing that the IYY contributes to the Third UN Development Decade
- commends on five regional preparatory meetings

1983 Efforts and measures for securing the implementation and the enjoyment by youth of human rights, particularly the right to education and to work [38/23]

- is aware that insufficient education and the unemployment of young people limits their ability to participate in development; emphasis on secondary and higher education
- IYY should promote increasing participation
- calls upon all States and other bodies to implement the past resolutions with a view to youth employment

1983 UNGA Resolution: Channels of communication between the UN and Y/ YO [38/26]

- calls upon Member States and UN System to implement fully the guidelines with Y/YO
- requests the Advisory Council of the IYY to monitor and evaluate the measures taken at national level

1984 Efforts and measures for securing the implementation and the enjoyment by youth of human rights, particularly the right to education and to work [39/23]

- invites national coordinating committees or other organs or coordination to give appropriate priority to the activities during the IYY to the enjoyment by youth of human rights [see 37/49]

1984 UNGA Resolution: Channels of communication between the UN and Y/ YO [39/24]

- requests Member States and UN System to implement fully the guidelines with Y/YO
- requests national coordinating mechanisms of the IYY to be aware of their role as channels of communication
- requests Secretary General to give special attention to those in regions of the world that are difficult to reach and to improve the Youth Information Bulletin

1985 International Youth Year

1985 UNESCO World Congress on Youth (Barcelona)

1985 UNGA Resolution: IYY:
Participation, Development and Peace

- conscious that the IYY has raised global interest in youth matters

1985 UNGA Resolution: Opportunities for youth (comment: mainly focused on employment) [40/16]

- education and training remains an impediment for youth; goals of the International Development Strategy of the Third UN Development Decade
- urges Member States to narrow the gap between demand and supply of educational and training opportunities at all levels in developing countries

1985 UNGA Resolution: Channels of communication between the UN and Y/YO [40/17]

- takes note of the IYY

1986 UNGA Resolution: Efforts and measures for securing the implementation and the enjoyment by youth of human rights, particularly the right to education and to work [41/98]

- Calls upon all States, NGOs a.o. to the formulation and implementation of effective measures for securing the exercise by youth of the right to education and to work

1986 UNGA Resolution: Channels of communication between UN and Y/YO [41/99]

- is convinced that youth reps to UN meetings can enhance the channels of communication
- recognizes that the guidelines from 2200 A (XXI, annex) provides a constructive framework for a long-term strategy

1987 UNGA Resolution: Efforts and measures for securing the implementation and the enjoyment by youth of human rights, particularly the right to education and to work [42/52]

- see 41/98

1987 UNGA Resolution: Opportunities for youth [42/53]

- recalling the achievements of the IYY
- notes with appreciation the results of HOPE 87 esp. the establishment of the HOPE office in Vienna to undertake data-collection and analyses, the organisation of competitions and financial assistance in youth employment projects

1987 UNGA Resolution: Implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth [42/54]

1987 UNGA Resolution: Opportunities for youth [42/55]

- Calls upon Member States to pay increased attention to youth employment
- Urges Member States, NGOs and UN bodies increase, wherever possible, technical cooperation activities with a view to narrowing the gap between demand for and supply of educational training opportunities in developing countries
- Calls upon Member States to promote greater awareness on equal opportunities for girls and young women
- Renews the invitation to Governments to include youth reps

1987 UNGA Resolution: Questions on youth [43/94] (comment: follows up on channels of communication between UN and Y/YO)

- calls upon all States, UN bodies and other stakeholders for further planning and suitable follow up in the field of youth
- requests the Secretary General to promote and monitor (with the help of DESA) the inclusion of youth-related projects and activities in the programmes of the UN, specifically on such themes as communication, health, housing, culture, youth employment and education
- calls upon Member States, UN bodies a.o. to implement the guidelines for channels of communication, not just in general, but with concrete measures
- calls upon youth mechanisms that have been set up by Y/YO during the IYY to act as future channels of communication
- calls upon all States, NGOs and UN bodies esp. ECOSOC/CSD with a view to resolving the problem of youth unemployment
- stresses the importance of Y/YO participating in all stages of policies, projects and activities relevant to youth
- invites governments to include youth reps in their national delegations to the UNGA

1988 UNGA Resolution: Evaluation of the implementation of the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples [43/136]

- stresses the role of the mass media in supporting the implementation 2037 (XX)
- invites States to submit to the Secretary General their views and comments on the impact of the Declaration 2037 (XX)

1989 UNGA Resolution: Policies and programmes involving youth [44/59]

- noting that 1990 marks the 25th anniversary of the proclamation by the GA of 2037 (XX)
- Appeals to States to adopt effective measures in accordance with their legislations, particularly in the fields of teaching and education, culture and information in order to promote 2037 (XX)
- Requests the Secretary General to organise a meeting between YNGOs to discuss the problems of current channels of communication
- Calls upon youth mechanisms to put forward their proposals for cooperation with the UN systems
- Emphasizes that providing education and employment to each young person is a worthy goal for all States
- Renews the invitation to Governments to include youth reps
- Requests the Secretary General to continue to include the UN Youth Fund at the UN Pledging Conference for Development Activities

1990 Convention of the Rights of the Child comes into force

1990 UNGA Resolution: Policies and programmes involving youth [45/103]

- noting that 1995 will mark the 15th anniversary of the IYY
- recognizing that when implementing the guidelines, priority should be given to human rights (esp. education and to work), hunger, drug abuse, diseases esp. HIV/AIDS and the environment
- mindful of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

- requests the Secretary General to continue to promote with DESA the inclusion of youth projects in UN bodies specifically on communication, health, malnutrition, poverty, housing, culture, youth employment, illiteracy, juvenile delinquency, education, leisure-time activities, drug abuse and the environment
- emphasizes the need for a review of the implementation of the guidelines on the basis of which a global youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond will be drafted equipped with target orientation and a time frame [WPAY!]
- requests the regional commissions, youth mechanisms to contribute to the preparation
- Renews the invitation to Governments to include youth reps

1991 World Youth Forum (Vienna)

1993 UNGA Resolution: Policies and programmes involving youth [47/85]

- takes note of the ad-hoc working group in the CSocD to elaborate standards rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons
- calls upon Member States to enable young people to obtain a modern education on such subjects as environmental and human rights issues
- invites Member States to consider preparing a national action plan
- Renews the invitation to Governments to include youth reps

1995 UNGA Resolution: IYY [49/152]

- bearing in mind that the preparation for and observance in 1995 of the 10th anniversary of the IYY offer a refocus attention on the needs and aspirations of youth
- decides to designate an international Youth Day (IYD) in 1995 in which Y/YO shall be appropriately involved
- Renews the invitation to Governments to include youth reps to UNGA and CSocD

1995 UNGA Resolution: Policies and programmes involving youth [49/154]

- encourages the preparation by Member States of a national youth policy
- calls once again upon Member States, UN bodies and NGOs to fully implement the guidelines from 36/17, 31/135 and facilitate the activities of youth mechanisms that have been set up by youth and youth organisations
- Renews the invitation to Governments to include youth reps to UNGA and CSocD

1995 UNGA Resolution: World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond [50/81]

1998 World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon)

1998 World Youth Forum (Braga, Portugal)

1998 UNGA Resolution: Policies and programmes involving youth [51/83]

2011 UN High Level Meeting, Member States adopted the Outcome Document submitted by the President of the General Assembly, A/RES/65/312

ANNEX 9

Special Representatives for the Secretary-General

Country/Region	Title	Name (Country)	UN Mission	Date of Appointment
	Special Adviser to the Secretary-General	Joseph V. Reed, (United States)		
	Special Adviser to the Secretary-General	Iqbal Riza, (Pakistan)		
	Special Adviser to the Secretary-General	Edward Luck, (United States)	Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide	21 February 2008
Alliance of Civilizations	High Representative of the Secretary-General for the Alliance of Civilizations	Jorge Sampaio, (Portugal)	United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)	26 April 2006
Avian and Human Influenza (Bird flu)	Senior United Nations System Coordinator for Avian and Human Influenza	David Nabarro, (United Kingdom)		29 September 2005
Children and Armed Conflict	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict	Radhika Coomaraswamy, (Sri Lanka)		7 February 2006
Climate Change	Special Envoys of the Secretary-General on Climate Change	Gro Harlem Brundtland , (Norway)		1 May 2007
		Ricardo Lagos Escobar , (Chile)		
		Festus Mogae, (Botswana)		
		Srgjan Kerim, (former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)		1 May 2007,
				18 September 2008
				18 September 2008
Disaster Reduction	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction	Vacant		

Financing for Development	Special Adviser on Innovative Financing for Development	Philippe Douste-Blazy, (France)		February 2008
Food Security and Nutrition	Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Food Security and Nutrition	David Nabarro, (United Kingdom)		29 October 2009
Global Education	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Global Education	Gordon Brown, (United Kingdom)		13 July 2012
HIV/AIDS in Africa	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for HIV/AIDS in Africa	Asha-Rose Migiro, (Tanzania)		13 July 2012
HIV/AIDS in Asia and in the Pacific	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for HIV/AIDS in Asia and in the Pacific	Nafis Sadik, (Pakistan)		24 May 2002
HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean Region	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean Region	Edward Greene, (Gyana)		November 2011
HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe	Vacant		
Human Rights and the Business Community	Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the Issue of Human Rights and Transnational Corporations and other Business Enterprises	John Ruggie, (United States)	Human Rights Council	28 July 2005
Human Rights for Internally Displaced Persons	Representative of the Secretary-General on the Human Rights for Internally Displaced Persons	Walter Kälin, (Switzerland)	Human Rights Council	21 September 2004
Human Security	Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Human Security	Yukio Takasu, (Japan)		10 December 2010
Malaria	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Malaria	Ray Chambers, (United States)		14 February 2008
Migration	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Migration	Peter Sutherland, (Ireland)		23 January 2006
Millennium Development Goals	Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals	Jeffrey D. Sachs, (United States)		4 February 2002

Prevention of Genocide	Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide	Francis Deng, (Sudan)	Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide	29 May 2007
Sexual Violence in Conflict	Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict	Zainab Hawa Bangura, (Sierra Leone)		22 June 2012
Sport for Development and Peace	Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace	Wilfried Lemke, (Germany)	UN Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP)	18 March 2008
Tuberculosis	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to Stop Tuberculosis	Jorge Sampaio, (Portugal)		12 May 2006
United Nations International School	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations International School (UNIS)	Michael Adlerstein, (United States)		
Violence Against Children	Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children	Marta Santos Pais, (Portugal)		1 May 2009
World Summit on Information Society	Special Adviser of the Secretary-General for Internet Governance	Nitin Desai, (India)		21 July 2003

ANNEX 10

Draft Terms Of Reference For Discussion, United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development

Purpose:

- The United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development aims to increase coordination and collaboration among the UN entities working in the area of youth development. The Network seeks to increase coordination among all relevant UN entities, while respecting and harnessing the benefits of their individual strengths and unique approaches to youth and development.

The main objectives of the Network will be:

1. To develop and implement a joint collaboration plan among UN agencies working on youth and facilitate technical cooperation in project/programme implementation and evaluation.
2. To serve as a platform for knowledge through the facilitation of information sharing among agencies and with external stakeholders.
3. To support, contribute to and promote a joint follow-up mechanism of key youth events worldwide
4. To facilitate collaboration between the UN system and youth-led as well as youth-focused organizations.
5. To provide all relevant agencies are the opportunity to contribute to the development of the World Youth Report, the celebration of the International Youth Day and to other youth-focused, UN-representative publications, observances and events.

Membership

Membership of the Network shall consist of United Nations departments, offices, regional commissions, agencies, funds and programmes whose work is relevant to Youth.

The Group shall be composed of representatives, identified by the Heads of these departments, commissions, agencies and programmes.

Representatives should have broad knowledge and experience of the United Nations system and of the activities within their organization concerning youth.

Membership in the group implies a commitment to participate regularly, and to share information in a timely fashion, in order to enable and facilitate coordination and cooperation.

Activities of the Network

Through the structure of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) and its 15 priority areas and other relevant mandates from the member entities, the Network will:

Provide a forum for cooperation and support for the representatives of each of the member organizations of the Network.

Provide an opportunity for representatives of its member organizations to meet regularly to exchange information in relation to their work on youth.

Consider ways of strengthening cooperation among its member organizations to promote work on youth, through joint activities and other forms of cooperation.

Nurture and share relationships with Governments, youth organizations, donor agencies, civil society organizations, and others, to consider co-operative ways to support work in the area of Youth at the United Nations.

Methods of operation

The Network will hold meetings every two months at UNHQ, with telephone/video conferencing to other Duty Stations. Other forms of online networking will be incorporated as much as possible. A meeting of Heads of Programme will be held on an annual basis.

The Network will have two co-chairs. The United Nations Programme on Youth will be a Co-Chair of the Network and, as such will coordinate administrative functions of the Network and will provide support and continuity to the other Co-Chair and the Network as required. The Co-Chair

of the Network will rotate through the member organizations on an annual basis.

The Network shall undertake a set of specified joint activities at any given time. Additional informal groups among its membership on specific issues will be encouraged.

The Network may invite on an ad-hoc basis, experts, youth organizations, and other entities whose expertise may contribute to the Network's work, as short term observers and contributors to its discussions. These invited contributors would be able to attend parts of the meetings as may be decided by the Chair, after consulting with other members of the Network.

Network member organizations participating in the meetings are responsible for covering their own costs in relations to the Network meetings.

The Network shall keep a record of its proceedings.

ANNEX 11

Strategy for enhanced youth engagement

UN-Habitat And The Youth: Strategy For Enhanced Engagement

Introduction

1.1 The Challenge

1.1.1 The Urbanisation of Poverty and the increasing vulnerability of youth

The world's population is becoming increasingly urban, and three-quarters of the urban population growth is occurring in developing countries. Cities in the developing world are characterised by inadequately planned and overcrowded settlements without access to even the basic urban services.

Urban areas should provide opportunities in terms of access to better housing, health services, schools and employment. The majority of those growing up in cities in developing countries, however, face greater risks than opportunities. These include health risks from overcrowding and poor sanitation, increased vulnerability to natural disasters, risks of eviction and economic vulnerability because of the lack of secure employment. These issues have far-reaching impacts on urban populations, particularly on youth.

1.1.2 The Habitat Agenda and Youth

Eight years ago, the Habitat II Conference was held in Istanbul, Turkey during which a historical breakthrough was made in the concept of governance of cities and towns. National Governments for the first time recognised local governments,

civil society, business communities, youth, women, and other local stakeholders as equal partners in the decision making processes that affect human settlements. The conference resulted in the Habitat Agenda, which has set a foundation upon which local partnerships could be fostered and developed to realise safer, healthier, cleaner and equitable cities. It provides a new challenge to stakeholders such as the youth to organise themselves for participating in a more meaningful way in local development.

UN HABITAT is supporting the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at local, national and regional levels through participatory city-based programmes. These programmes address issues such as urban poverty reduction, crime prevention and access to basic services like water, sanitation and waste.

UN HABITAT has launched two important global campaigns, one for secure tenure and the other on urban governance. The aim of these two campaigns is to reduce urban poverty through renewed policies, which emphasise equity, sustainability and social justice. Strategic and operational partnerships with government, local authorities, non-governmental and community based organisations, the private sector, youth, women and UN agencies are crucial to the success of these campaigns. And they provide an opportunity for young women and men, particularly those at risk, to participate in community-centred development.

1.1.3 Rationale for Enhanced Engagement of Youth

The rationale for an intensified focus on youth is the fact that a high proportion of the world's population is young, especially in the developing world, and this segment of the population is inordinately affected by the problems of unsustainable development. At the same time, the target group of UN-Habitat's strategy, urban 15-24-year-olds in developing countries, possess immense potential to contribute to social development if afforded the right opportunities. The challenge of putting the youth at the centre of development strategies can be compared to the challenge, two decades ago, of putting women and gender issues on the development agenda. It is no longer conceivable to solve the problems of developing countries without focusing on the role of women. UN-Habitat believes that a similar paradigm shift is required with respect to youth in development, and this strategy is a first attempt to address this.

Young people have the highest rate of unemployment and in many ways are the most vulnerable to the social depredations that are caused by unemployment and poverty. At the same time they are the promise of the future, and failure to invest in the young generation imposes great constraints on the potential for future development.

Today more than 1 billion people are between 15 and 24 years of age and nearly 40% of the world's population is below the age of 20. 85% of these young people live in developing countries where many are especially vulnerable to extreme poverty. Children and young people represent a very high percentage of urban populations in developing countries. In many African cities, more than 50% of its inhabitants are under the

age of 19.⁷⁸ The combination of poverty, unemployment, environmental and health problems, often exacerbated by violent conflicts, is placing increasing numbers of young people in cities at risk. Girls tend to be disproportionately at risk, as are youth from indigenous communities.

The World Youth Report 2003 states that a majority of warfare takes place in developing countries, particularly in Africa, where an estimated 300,000 young soldiers between the ages of 10 and 24 risk their lives in the course of armed conflict willed by adults. Even in countries not plagued by armed conflict, the youth have often been misused in the political arena. While their energy and enthusiasm are powerful tools in promoting social or political issues, they are also vulnerable to being misled and misused, often leading to disruptive results.

Over the past twenty years the youth have been particularly affected by growing urban poverty, the growth in trafficking of children and the young, sexual exploitation of young people, especially girls and young women, high levels of unemployment, a growing phenomenon of street children, crime and violence by young people, youth gangs, the recruitment of child soldiers, destruction of family patterns, environmental degradation, worsening health conditions and its impacts, namely the transmission of infectious diseases, and the emergence of new diseases as well as the continued growth of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Many UN-Habitat initiatives focussed on youth have had successful outcomes and provide models for future work of UN-Habitat with the youth, but the scale of the urban youth problem is such that it requires efforts to mainstream it across the

⁷⁸ *Cities in a Globalizing World, Global Report on Human Settlement 2001. Nairobi: UN-Habitat and Earthscan Publications*

entire Agency programme. In spite of the above successful initiatives, a number of the Agency's programmes do not have any explicit focus on the youth, and there is an expressed need for guidance on how to increase attention on the youth.

UN-Habitat's mandate has been re-articulated to focus on its role in implementing the relevant Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This re-focusing, as outlined in the UN-Habitat Strategic Vision (May 2003), envisions a unique integration of both normative and implementation functions, and calls for more radical re-thinking of how the Agency goes about its work.

As the UN lead Agency to address the MDG of improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020, UN-Habitat is faced with a pressing demand to see action on the ground. The Strategic Vision begins to show how this can be done, including shifting its focus from global policy discussion to local implementation. Included in this re-thinking are how UN-Habitat works with partners, and what kind of partners it needs in order to effectively implement the current strategic vision. This paper proposes a way to place the youth at the centre of UN-Habitat's strategy.

The UN HABITAT Governing Council's Response

1.2.1. The Habitat Agenda and UN HABITAT's Strategic Vision

Fourteen out of the 241 paragraphs in the Habitat Agenda address youth issues in human settlements development. In paragraph 13, member states have stipulated that "The needs of children and youth, particularly with regard to their living environment, have to be taken fully into account. Special attention needs to be paid to the participatory processes dealing with the

shaping of cities, towns and neighbourhoods; this is in order to secure the living conditions of children and of youth and to make use of their insight, creativity and thoughts on the environment..." Paragraphs 45, 113, 120, 123, 213 elaborate on how youth should be involved in human settlements development with specific focus in the development of a participatory approach where they can voice their views and demands in decision making processes.

It is in this context that UN HABITAT's Strategic Vision has been refined giving more attention to strategic partnerships in addition to knowledge management and the financing of housing and human settlements. The strategic partnerships, which include partnerships with youth, are intended to leverage resources and coordinate international programme activities that work towards similar ends.

1.2.2. Resolution on Youth

In May 2003, the Governing Council adopted a resolution (GC19/13) on the engagement of the youth in the work of UN-Habitat. The resolution requests the Executive Director to develop a strategy on enhancing the engagement of the youth and youth organizations in the work of UN-Habitat, to be submitted to the Council at its 2005 session. GC19/13 also requests the Agency to enhance engagement of the youth in urban governance and in addressing the problem of the youth at risk, to focus on capacity-building and poverty alleviation and on participation of UN-Habitat in the Secretary General's initiative on youth employment, to develop a Global Partnership Initiative on Urban Youth Development in Africa and to establish an interim youth consultative mechanism. All of these elements must, therefore, be taken into consideration in the proposed strategy for the enhanced engagement of youth in UN HABITAT's work.

The development of the strategy has involved a wide consultation with young people, Local Authorities, Civil Society Organizations and national Governments between January 2004 and December 2004. The Partners and Youth Section facilitated these consultations and the development of the strategy.

Objectives and Principles

2.1. Objective

The objective of the strategy is to provide an integrated approach to urban youth development, which will mainstream a focus on the youth in the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, and will ultimately strengthen the impact of the Agency's work in reducing urban poverty. It will provide a road map for the promotion of urban youth empowerment and participation in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the related Millennium Development Goals.

The strategy needs to be clearly focused on implementation of the UN-Habitat mandate with respect to the youth. The Habitat Agenda commits governments and UN-Habitat to "Working in partnership with the youth in order to develop and enhance effective skills and provide education and training to prepare the youth for current and future decision-making roles and sustainable livelihoods in human settlements management and development".

That imperative, however, could be interpreted to imply that the objective is a one-way street, where the work of UN-Habitat sees the youth as objects of training for future citizens. The youth have an important role to play in sustainable development. . They can be effective advocates of change, both to decision-makers and to the general public, and they can and do make a big difference in implementing change on the ground.

Consequently, UN-Habitat's strategy needs to address the youth as a major group partner with great potential to help carry forward the Habitat Agenda and the achievement of the MDGs.

2.2. Principles

In view of this mandate, and in order to work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, UN-Habitat is committed to developing, supporting and promoting initiatives, which contribute to:

- Mainstreaming the youth as a cross-cutting element in the design and implementation of UN-Habitat programmes and priorities.
- Initiating and fostering inter-agency collaboration, as well as partnerships with youth organizations, as vehicles for outreach and youth participation;
- Engaging youth concerns at an international level to help formulate an international understanding of pressing youth issues,
- Recognizing the diversities among young people and enhancing their participation in UN-Habitat's work so that young people's views and contributions are valued;
- Providing the youth with the best-available information resources and facilities pertaining to employment, health, crime prevention, governance, gender equality and empowerment and youth rights and responsibilities;
- Providing evidence-based approaches that show how effective integration of the youth in development strategies strengthens racial integration, inclusiveness and reliable impact.

Components of the strategy

Implementing the objectives and principles will require strategies that address both internal and external functions, as well as normative and operational concerns. Mainstreaming a youth

focus across all programmes is an underlying principle of the strategy. UN-Habitat's effort in recent years to mainstream gender serves as a good model for this approach, and the Partners and Youth Section is learning from that experience.

Design of the strategy must take into account several in-built constraints to addressing youth issues. By their nature, young people lack experience in engaging in policy and governance activities, and therefore strong information, training, and coaching elements are required in all approaches. Secondly, the limited time span of any individual's participation in youth activities means that there is a higher degree of turnover among leadership than in other segments of society. This necessitates a concerted focus on enduring institutions rather than on individuals, such as larger, more established youth organizations or permanent government institutions. In other words, the approach must be on institutionalizing youth engagement. Thirdly, there is a pervasive tendency by institutions and governments to accord marginal importance to youth organizations or issues. In this regard it will be critical for UN-Habitat not only to show that it takes youth seriously, but that in addressing youth concerns effectively, it demonstrates how this has a positive impact for sustainable development.

It is envisioned that the strategy will consist of five principal components as outlined in the following sections.

Component 1: Youth participation in UN HABITAT's organs and forums at global, national and local levels

The problems of youth in human settlements cannot be addressed without the full participation of the youth in defining the problems, and in identifying and implementing solutions. Effective participation in governance requires both a

demand to participate and a capability to do so. UN-Habitat must, therefore, focus on strategies to raise awareness of the youth about rights, the value of civic participation, and building youth capacity to play an active role in local and national governance and development.

The youth should be seen as social change agents, just as much as advocacy NGOs, women's groups, or other activist groups in society. Supporting and guiding youth groups to channel energies into promoting and fostering principles of sustainable development, good governance and human rights can have a significant effect on enhancing the achievement of these values.

Groups that have the capacity will grasp existing opportunities while others require assistance to do so. There are many active youth groups that are doing a substantial amount with considerable impact on the ground. They are responding to felt needs using innovation and creativity. It is important that the efforts of such groups are promoted, to enable them to attract better support and recognition. At the same time, there is need to provide opportunities to those that are marginalized. This will also help to ensure that youth potential is better understood, accepted and adopted in mainstream development planning.

This component will target youth organizations and networks operating at the regional or international level, which have the capacity to reach a broad constituency of national and local level youth-focused groups. The approach will be to jointly develop awareness-raising and advocacy programmes, including activities to build skills in advocacy, which the partner organizations can implement through their membership.

It will focus on all levels of governance:

a. Global Level

Enhancing youth engagement at the global

level through participation in UN-Habitat governing processes, catalyzing demand for the youth to be part of national policy formulation, and strengthening recognition among youth groups that they can have an important influence on local development.

Establishment of an interim youth consultative mechanism, as requested by the Governing Council, will be the first step in implementing this component of the strategy. The organizations and networks envisioned as taking the lead in these initiatives will form the core of the consultative body, and will provide guidance to further formulation of the initiatives. The consultative mechanism will give young women and men a forum to influence Governing Council decisions as well as facilitate the flow of information to the youth at local, national, regional and international levels.

Based on the experience of this interim mechanism, recommendations will be made for the establishment of a more institutionalized structure. It is envisioned that this mechanism, such as a youth advisory council, will meet during the regular sessions of the Governing Council, and will also convene during meetings of the Global Youth Congress in conjunction with World Urban Forum events. The composition of the consultative body will be determined through discussions with key stakeholders that began at the Global Youth Congress in September 2004, while at least considering gender balance and regionally representation.

Programmes and Campaigns will also include youth representatives in their Steering Committees. To ensure effective linkage is made, youth organisations in the campaign steering committees should be represented in an appropriate manner in the youth advisory/consultative mechanism of UN HABITAT.

b. National Level:

The Habitat Agenda has been further refined into National Plans of Action coordinated by National Steering Committees housed in the respective focal Ministries of member states. The engagement of youth in the work of UN HABITAT can be further advanced through the inclusion by governments of youth or a youth subcommittee within these national steering organs. In addition, the National Human Settlements Programme national offices that have been established in some countries offer further possibilities of youth access and engagement. The same applies to National Campaign Steering Committees in countries where the National Launches have been implemented or are at their preparatory stages.

c. Local Level

UN HABITAT's operational activities at the city level can explore possibilities to have youth subcommittees incorporated in the administrative structure of city projects while working to support the objectives of the projects. Project offices can also be encouraged to provide employment for youth.

Component 2: Youth and human settlements programmes

Youth and human settlements programmes – including strategies on unemployed youth and other special risk groups such as slum youth, substance abusing youth, youth in conflict with the law, and HIV/AIDS orphans: UN-Habitat needs to be proactive in targeting the vulnerable youth in its programmes to address urban slums and poverty, as a key strategy for meeting the Millennium Development Goals. Pilot projects and technical assistance to governments and civil society need to be accelerated to address decent and productive livelihoods through empowerment and social inclusion.

The process will be complementary to and build on the concurrent initiatives of UN-Habitat in support of the Secretary General's Youth Employment Network, the Secretary General's Special Report on Violence and the Secretary General's World Youth Report 2003 and thereby enhance inter-agency collaboration in building and strengthening the current areas of the work programme dealing with youth.

Urban slums – and their youth - are the front line for any such efforts. Thus, in its programmes aimed at slum upgrading, urban planning and management, and regional development, UN-Habitat will engage in capacity-building of all key stakeholders to better address the youth problems in communities. Local authorities are the lead actors, but also citizens' groups, faith-based organizations, youth networks, indigenous groups, women's organizations, NGOs, the private sector, and research and educational institutions all have an important role to play. UN-Habitat's programmes with these partners will concentrate on addressing youth unemployment and the youth at risk in urban areas.

The recently developed Strategy for Youth at Risk in Africa and the conception of a similar strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean represent a first multi-sectoral effort to define and target urban youth vulnerability factor. Implementation and programmatic responses to such strategies need to be supported and scaled up.

A particular initiative to work with partners on a large scale will be the pilot Global Partnership Initiative on Urban Youth Development in Africa (GPI), where, in co-operation with selected cities in Africa as well as world-wide, UN-Habitat will work towards implementing the Millennium Development Goals through launching and strengthening programmes at the city level

that focus on and work with the urban youth on the continent. As the GPI will build on current initiatives of various UN-Habitat programmes in cities in Africa, it will require a high level of co-operation between the programmes in planning and implementation, and thus will serve as a model for mainstreaming youth approaches in the Agency.

At the same time, focus on slums and youth at risk must not lose sight of broader issues of youth and development. For example, youth unemployment is also critical for university graduates and other newly skilled young people who are unable to find jobs and contribute to the development of their countries. Building capacity of national and local governments to address this issue needs to be part of UN-Habitat's programme approaches.

Component 3: Youth policy formulation and programme planning capacity

In order for youth participation and governance strategies to be effective, it will be equally important to create an enabling environment, as well as to recognize the implication of policies and programmes on young women and men. This means, in particular, strengthening the capacity of institutions, such as local authorities, to address youth in their development planning, and to build mechanisms for effective participation of young women and men in decision-making and implementation activities. It will be important for UN-Habitat to collaborate with other UN agencies and international organizations in implementing this component.

This will be primarily through a capacity-building approach, and the Training and Capacity Building Branch will play a lead role. At the national level it will require supporting ministries responsible for various aspects of urban planning

and management – including water, health, social services, security, in addition to Ministries for local government or for youth or women’s affairs – in developing policy and strategies to strengthen youth participation in planning and decision-making structures at the local level. This process at the national level should, at the same time, ensure participation of youth representatives especially from vulnerable groups.

At the level of local authorities, UN-Habitat supports the development of models of participatory governance structures. A number of programmes are addressing this, to some extent, such as: ` Safer Cities, Urban Management Programme, Sustainable Cities Programme and the Training and Capacity Building Programme. There is a need, however, for ensuring a consistent approach across the different programmes to strengthening youth engagement in local governance. Such coherence is particularly important where there is need to develop models that can be replicated or scaled up by other agencies and organizations. The proposed inter-divisional task force (see Component 5) will spearhead development of such a coherent approach.

Component 4: Information, communication and knowledge management

Under its new strategic vision, UN-Habitat intends to ensure that its promotion of norms such as housing rights and good governance make a difference in the way the Agency and its partners work, and that lessons learned from programme implementation expand our knowledge of how to make development initiatives more effective. This means that communication and learning systems must be strengthened, and that partners engaged in the youth strategy must be fully part of this process.

The Evaluation Unit would develop mechanisms for information management on how the Agency is working with non-state partners, including those engaged in youth activities, and on how this work can be strengthened. Such mechanisms will involve indicators for measuring the effectiveness of interactions ,their outcomes and impact. Regular reports will be prepared and distributed to all UN-Habitat programmes, providing assessments of the extent to which the Agency’s mandate towards the youth engagement is being realized. A comprehensive database will be developed on current and potential partners.

The contribution of youth and the impact on youth on urbanization trends will be defined and further analysed and monitored by the Monitoring Systems branch. These will also analyse the substantive work UN-Habitat conducts on youth and the quality of the partnerships developed. The Disaster, Post Conflict and Safety Section and the Urban Governance Section will in liaison with the P&Y Section advance the development of an information inventory/source book on youth.

Mechanisms will also be strengthened to disseminate and share information on work with the youth, youth services organizations and other partners in addressing the concerns of the youth at local, national and international levels. The P&Y Section webpage will be enhanced for this purpose, as an interactive site for the youth to use in networking, advocacy, and reporting on developments, and will feature a list-serve targeting youth organizations and activists. To ensure that the youth who lack access to electronic communication are not excluded, print publications will also be used as a means of informing reporting and networking. This will include regular features in existing UN-Habitat publications such as “Habitat Debate”, and other youth-fo-

cused print media will also be explored. Youth organizations will be actively invited to contribute news and opinion articles to these media initiatives.

Working with schools is another important vehicle for disseminating information to youth and encouraging their involvement in sustainable development activities. The Water for African Cities Programme has had considerable success in focussing on the youth in its valuebased water education, linking local water authorities with schools and water and sanitation clubs. This provides a good model for other programmes.

In this regard, information communication technologies (ICT) should also be seen as an opportunity for youth employment and empowerment. Strategies will therefore be developed to incorporate ICT activities in all strategy components - especially those in Component 3 - and approaches explored to promote ICT and the youth aspects in all UN-Habitat programmes. These could include inclusion of internet cafes as part of youth employment information centres in slums and community centres focused on the youth at risk, and training programmes to enhance skills of the youth in internet usage as well as entrepreneurial skills in ICT-based business.

Component 5: Coordination and partnership strategies

The Partners and Youth Section (P&Y Section) of UN-Habitat will have lead responsibility for overseeing and supporting implementation of the strategy, while the various programmes will have direct responsibility for integrating and implementing youth-focused normative and operational activities. In order to mainstream inclusion of the youth in all Agency activities, an inter-divisional task force will coordinate the implementation of the strategy.

The P&Y Section will function first and fore-

most as a liaison between major youth partners and internal programmes, promoting the programmes to potential partners, facilitating accessibility, and guiding the programmes in identifying suitable partners to engage in their activities. It will further facilitate linkages, with respect to youth engagement, between the two major UN-Habitat campaigns and the relevant programmes. At the global level, the P&Y Section will coordinate activities that support the participation of youth partners in major policy forums, such as the Governing Council and the World Urban Forum. It will also conduct promotional activities to encourage participation of the youth in UN-Habitat campaigns and initiatives.

This does not imply that the P&Y Section will be simply a "post office" or information broker between external and internal organs. It will also play a very active role in coordinating the development of tools and mechanisms to enhance the Agency's engagement with the youth. As an early step in implementing this strategy the P&Y Section will develop guidelines for all programmes on how to strengthen their engagement with the youth. These guidelines will ultimately be incorporated into formal project and programme planning procedures used by the Project Review Committee.

When dealing with any specific group it is important to define the major characteristics and qualities that group should possess. Any definition of youth groups must take into consideration the age group, socio-economic status, gender profile, education level, access to education and other factors that would assist in identifying the strengths and weaknesses within each "category" and engage a group in a more effective and efficient manner. The P&Y Section will thus establish and maintain an informative contact database to enable effective and efficient inter-

actions. This should become a fundamental resource for all of UN-Habitat's programmes when designing programmes and projects.

All UN-Habitat divisions will be responsible for developing and implementing plans for incorporating the youth strategy into their programmes. In general the focus of each division should include the following:

Regional and Technical Cooperation Division will play a lead role in working with regional and national level youth organizations and networks in implementing Component 1, and with national and local governments for Component 3.

Global Division will lead the process of developing models for inclusion of the youth in governance processes at the local level (Component 3), addressing youth issues in human settlements programmes (Component 2), and in liaison with the P&Y Section, overseeing implementation of the youth strategy and in particular designing modalities for Component 1.

Monitoring and Research Division will be responsible for the monitoring and knowledge management elements of Component 4.

Concerted effort will be made to enhance engagement of partner networks and organizations, including key youth networks, in implementing the strategy, with a focus on strengthening the Youth Advisory Council. UN-Habitat's regional offices will play an important role in this regard, identifying and collaborating with youth organizations, and engaging with governments and local authorities, particularly through training programmes and governance strategies, to ensure enhanced focus on the youth. Particularly at the national level, the partnership with UNDP should include a focus on working together with youth organizations.

Implementing the Strategy

Responsibility for implementing the mainstreaming strategy is agency-wide, and rests at the highest level within the agency, and its departments; and adequate accountability mechanisms for monitoring progress in UN-Habitat's interventions need to be established within each and every area of work. The staff and management are also to be committed to promote and ensure a youth perspective in their collaboration with partners and other agencies.

Political will from the Senior Management by providing competent leadership and enabling allocation of adequate resources for youth mainstreaming is required, including necessary financial and human resources. Provision of training to all personnel at UN-Habitat headquarters and in the field is essential, as well as appropriate follow-up in order to reach strengthening of competence and knowledge regarding youth mainstreaming and awareness for staff and management.

Considering the above, the agency needs additional staffing on youth across the board, enhancement of information management systems, and resources for publications and communication.

1. Main functions of the P&Y Section with respect to the youth will be the following:
2. Promoting the youth strategy to all UN-Habitat programmes, multi-lateral agencies, partner organizations, governments and donors, and negotiating opportunities and modalities for collaboration in its implementation;
3. Convening the inter-divisional task force and serving as its secretariat;
4. Preparing annual work programmes and reports;

5. Developing and maintaining information systems, including a database on youth-focused organizations and programmes, a tracking system for monitoring the engagement of the youth in UN-Habitat activities, and a database on best practices;
6. Facilitating development of tools by the normative programmes to support effective engagement of the youth in the Agency's activities, including guidelines for incorporating the youth in project design;
7. Facilitating pilot projects and developing innovative approaches to working with the youth;
8. Convening global and regional meetings of partners focused on the youth, and serving as the secretariat for the youth consultative mechanism.

Implementation of the strategy will require generation of resources and innovative approaches, such as a special trust fund or grants programme for youth initiatives, partnerships with the private sector and civil society, and joint activities with other UN agencies.

An early priority for the P&Y Section and the Sections working with youth will be to formulate project and programme proposals that will engage the above development partners and secure resources for implementation of the strategy. Examples of projects that warrant further development in this regard are one stop youth information resource centres, the pilot Global Partnership Initiative on Urban Youth Development in Africa (GPI), database on best practices, tools to implement youth at risk strategies, tools to enhance the role of cities and youth organisation networks, and guidelines on youth involvement in political processes.

ANNEX 12

HSP/GC/RES/19/13: Enhancing the engagement of youth in the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

9 May 2003

Enhancing the engagement of youth in the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration and its important goals and targets pertaining to youth,

Recalling its resolution 18/3 of 16 February 2001, which invites all relevant stakeholders and partners to formalize partnerships with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) with a view to realizing the goals of the secure tenure and urban governance campaigns,

Recalling its resolutions 17/19 of 14 May 1999 and 18/8 of 16 February 2001 on partnership with youth,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995 in which the General Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond; and aware of the outcome of the review at the forty-first session of the Commission for Social Development of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the global situation of social groups including the youth,

Acknowledging that in paragraph 170 of its Plan of Implementation the World Summit on Sustainable Development resolved to “promote and support youth participation and activities re-

lating to sustainable development through, for example, supporting local youth councils or their equivalent, and by encouraging their establishment where they do not exist”,

Taking note of the Declaration on Cities and other Human Settlements in the New Millennium of the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly, for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, which called for intensification of efforts towards enhancing the role of youth,

Noting with appreciation the partnerships already established by UN-Habitat with several bilateral donors on undertaking urban youth development programmes focusing on crime prevention and employment generation,

Noting the establishment by the Executive Director of a Partners and Youth Section as a mechanism to support and advance the engagement of youth organizations in the work of the Programme,

Noting also the UN-Habitat global campaign on urban governance, which promotes the involvement of youth in local governance; as well as the activities of UNHABITAT in support of vulnerable urban youth within the framework of the Safer Cities Programme,

Considering the implementation of related youth programmes by various United Nations agencies and in specific the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund, and the need to enhance inter-agency coordination on UN-Habitat's work programme elements on youth employment and youth crime prevention at the city level,

1. Requests the Executive Director to continue to strengthen and advance the work programme of UN-Habitat in the engagement of youth in urban governance and in addressing the problem of youth at risk, and to develop actions with special focus on capacity-building and poverty alleviation;
2. Also requests the Executive Director to ensure the active participation of UNHABITAT in the Secretary General's initiative on youth employment, in the framework of the United Nations Millennium Declaration goal of improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020;
3. Also requests the Executive Director to develop a Global Partnership Initiative on Urban Youth Development in Africa, in partnership with other relevant United Nations agencies, such as the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund, as well as, multilateral institutions and private foundations, in the context of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
4. Requests the Executive Director to establish an interim youth consultative mechanism to contribute to the work of UN-Habitat and to initiate the development of a draft strategy on enhancing the engagement of youth and youth organisations including Youth for Habitat International Network in the work of UN-Habitat, to be submitted to the Governing Council at its twentieth session, in 2005;
5. Invites Governments to support and enable the participation of youth in national and local activities related to human settlements development, including through the formulation of integrated, gender-sensitive and cross-sectoral youth policies at the local level and through supporting the development of local youth plans of action targeting vulnerable groups;
6. Invites Governments to develop programmes to sensitize and educate youth in sustainable development, particularly in matters of human settlements.
7. Encourages Governments, as appropriate, to allocate financial resources for protection, rehabilitation and reintegration of urban children and urban youth at risk;
8. Invites Governments, non-governmental and private-sector organizations and international financial institutions to provide or increase their support to the activities of UNHABITAT on urban youth development programmes;
9. Requests the Executive Director to report to it at its next session progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

ANNEX 13

HSP/GC/RES/20/1: Youth and human settlements

8 APRIL 2005

Youth and human settlements

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Habitat Agenda, specifically those paragraphs relating to youth and participation and most notably among them, those paragraph which stress the importance of partnership and involvement,

Recalling also its resolutions 17/19 of 14 May 1999, 18/3 of 16 February 2001 and 18/8 of 16 February 2001 on partnership with youth and 19/13 of 9 May 2003 on enhancing the engagement of youth in the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

Acknowledging the importance for children and youth of participating in the shaping of their environment and of freedom of association, bearing in mind applicable human rights instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Recognizing that young people are key agents for sustainable human settlements development and a vital resource in achieving the development goals related to the United Nations Millennium Declaration

Concerned that social exclusion and poverty limit young people's involvement and participation in society and hamper them in realizing their potential as agents of social change,

Especially concerned that girls and young women and indigenous young people are particularly at risk of exclusion and discrimination, and that gender inequalities also negatively affect boys and young men,

Recognizing that young people are in an important transitional period of their lives, during which habits and attitudes necessary for good citizenship are established,

Noting the experiences from youth information and resource centres aiming to provide free, impartial and low-threshold information services to all young people,

Convinced that comprehensive policy approaches implemented at national and local levels aimed at increased community participation by young people will make important contributions to accelerating the processes towards sustainable human settlements development,

Noting with appreciation the efforts made in the framework of the Youth Employment Network to increase the employability of young people,

Taking note of the Global Campaign on Urban Governance, which promotes the involvement of young people in local governance, the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in support of vulnerable young people within the framework of the Safer Cities Programme and of the Global Partnership Initiative on Urban Youth Development in Africa,

Taking note also of the draft strategy on enhancing the engagement of youth and youth organizations in the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

Noting with appreciation that some countries have taken steps to include youth representatives in their delegations,

1. Requests the Executive Director to finalize the Youth Strategy for Enhanced Engagement, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and to develop an action plan for implementation, including an internal evaluation which takes into consideration inputs from youth organizations,
2. Also requests the Executive Director to continue to strengthen and mainstream the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in collaboration with other United Nations agencies where necessary, on the engagement of young people in human settlements development and in addressing the problems of young people at risk, especially girls and young women;
3. Encourages the Executive Director and local and central governments to draw on the experiences of other stakeholders working in the area of youth participation and youth information;
4. Invites Governments and other partners to assist in capacity-building by providing resources to young people and their organizations, in order to promote inclusiveness, responsiveness and transparency in local governance and community development, and to enable young people to participate in international, national and local activities related to sustainable environmental and human settlements development;
5. Encourages Governments and youth organizations to support the creation of representative and democratic national youth councils;
6. Also encourages Governments, local authorities and civil society to support and implement enabling strategies in cooperation with relevant youth organizations and youth movements, by among other things, providing young people, especially those living in urban areas, with education and training to enhance their vocational and entrepreneurial skills so that they may secure their own employment;
7. Encourages local and central governments to support forms of cultural and recreational expression to enable young people living in slums and inner cities to play an active role in support of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;
8. Recommends the Executive Director to initiate a study, subject to availability of funds, in collaboration with relevant Habitat Agenda partners, on the effects of social and economic conditions related to urbanization on the inter-generational transfer of values conducive to good citizenship and on the manner in which national and local governments can assist this process where necessary;
9. Urges Governments, local authorities, Habitat Agenda partners and youth-serving organizations to establish youth information and resource centres, where feasible, with the aim of reaching all young people, including vulnerable youth groups;
10. Invites local authorities to establish city-to-city partnerships for developing, exchanging and improving best practices on youth participation in decision-making processes, in close partnership with local formal and informal youth movements;

11. Requests the Executive Director, within the framework of the Habitat Agenda, to support local, regional, national and international youth organizations in developing partnerships with other youth organizations in their own regions, and also in other regions;
12. Also requests the Executive Director to facilitate the participation of representative youth organizations and of youth movements at important meetings of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and to make arrangements for youth caucuses before and during meetings at future sessions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and of the World Urban Forum;
13. Urges Governments to include young people drawn from representative youth organizations and youth movements in their national delegations to sessions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and of the World Urban Forum;
14. Also urges Governments in a position to do so and other partners to provide the United Nations Human Settlements Programme with resources for youth activities, particularly in the least developed countries, through available mechanisms, and to increase development assistance to those countries aimed at youth activities;
15. Requests the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present resolution, including on the youth strategy and action plan, at the twenty-first session of the Governing Council.

1. *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.*
2. *Paragraphs 13, 26, 27, 30, 31, 32 and 33.*
3. *General Assembly resolution 55/2.*

ANNEX 14

HSP/GC/RES/21/6: Urban youth development

20 APRIL 2007

Urban Youth Development

The Governing Council,

Fully aware that a high proportion of the world's population is young, especially in the developing world, and that that segment of the population is inordinately affected by the problems of unemployment and unsustainable urban development,

Also fully aware of the immense potential of youth between the ages of 15 and 24 in developing countries to contribute to social development if afforded the right opportunities,

Noting therefore that positioning young people at the centre of urban development strategies is critical to solving the problems of human settlements in developing countries,

Having in mind rural-urban linkages and noting the dynamic, cyclical movements between rural and urban areas by young people,

Recalling its commitment in paragraph 45 (e) of the Habitat Agenda³¹ to the objective of "working in partnership with youth in order to develop and enhance effective skills and provide education and training to prepare youth for current and future decision-making roles and sustainable livelihoods in human settlements management and development",

Also recalling its resolutions 19/13 of 9 May 2003 and 20/1 of 8 April 2005 inviting Governments and other partners to support and implement enabling strategies for young people, in

particular young women, to promote their involvement and participation in local and national governance related to human settlements development,

Acknowledging the strategy entitled "UN-Habitat and youth: strategy for enhanced engagement",³² which states the objective of working with youth as "to provide an integrated approach to urban youth development which will mainstream a focus on youth in the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat and will ultimately strengthen the impact of its work in reducing urban poverty",³³

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 60/2 of 6 October 2005 on policies and programmes involving youth and acknowledging the World Development Report 2007: Development and the Next Generation, prepared by the World Bank, which explores ways of broadening opportunities for young people to develop their human capital,

Keeping in mind the important role of the young generation as the bearer of continuity and institutional memory of the experience accumulated by Governments and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the sphere of urbanization,

Cognizant of the 2006–2007 work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the Medium-term Strategic and Strategic Plan for 2008–2013 and their strengthened focus on mainstreaming youth in

the normative and operative programmes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

1. Requests the Executive Director to establish a special fund within the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, to be designated the “Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-led Development”, to support youth-led initiatives in pursuance of the Habitat Agenda, the work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and overall strategy within the following areas:
 - (a) Mobilizing young people to help strengthen youth-related policy formulation;
 - (b) Building the capacities of Governments at all levels, non-governmental and civil society organizations and private-sector entities to ensure a better response to the needs and issues of young people;
 - (c) Supporting the development of interest-based information and communication-oriented networks;
 - (d) Piloting and demonstration of new and innovative approaches to employment, good governance, adequate shelter and secure tenure;
 - (e) Sharing and exchange of information on best practices;
 - (f) Facilitating vocational training and credit mechanisms to promote entrepreneurship and employment for young women and men, in collaboration with the private sector and in cooperation with other United Nations bodies and stakeholders;
 - (g) Promoting gender mainstreaming in all activities of urban youth;
2. Requests the Executive Director to target support from the special fund to those young people who need assistance the most, in particular the most vulnerable in urban slums;
3. Also requests the Executive Director to establish an advisory committee which would develop criteria for the operation of the special fund and for mainstreaming youth issues in the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, whose membership would comprise senior managers of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, contributing donors and youth representatives, both male and female;
4. Further requests the Executive Director to mainstream age-related instruments in the overall work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and in line with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme’s Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan for 2008–2013;
5. Requests the Executive Director to encourage contributions from multilateral agencies, Governments, the private sector and civil society for the establishment of the special fund;
6. Also requests the Executive Director to undertake an evaluation of the operation of the special fund and to submit a report thereon to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session;
7. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;
8. Invites Governments, through regional ministerial conferences on housing and urban development such as those of the Africa, Asia and Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean regions to take into consideration the significant role of youth in sustainable urbanization and urban development by promoting youth-centred policies.

ANNEX 15

HSP/GC/RES/22/4: Strengthening the development of urban young people

3 APRIL 2009

Strengthening the development of urban young people

The Governing Council,

Acknowledging that a high proportion of the world's population is young, especially in the developing world, and that that segment of the population is affected by the problems of unemployment and unsustainable urban development, issues which may be further exacerbated by the current global economic crisis,

Recognizing that youth are key agents for sustainable human settlement development and a vital resource in attaining the development goals related to the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Recalling its commitment in paragraph 45 (e) of the Habitat Agenda¹¹ to the objective of working in partnership with youth in order to develop and enhance effective skills and provide education and training to prepare youth for current and future decision-making roles and sustainable livelihoods in human settlements management and development,

Acknowledging the progress made by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme towards mainstreaming the participation of youth in slum upgrading and other programmes and also acknowledging the establishment of the Youth Advisory Board at the fourth session of the World Urban Forum, held in Nanjing, China, in 2008,

Noting with appreciation the establishment by the Executive Director of the special fund with the Human Settlements Foundation, known as the "Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-Led

Development", which supports youth-led initiatives, targeting support to those young people who are most in need of assistance, in particular young girls,

Recognizing the success of the World Urban Youth Forum as a platform for youth engagement in the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in particular its role in proposing the Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-led Development at the third session of the World Urban Forum in Vancouver, Canada, in June 2006, and launching the Fund at the fourth session of the World Urban Forum on 4 November 2008,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 62/126 of 5 February 2008, which underlined the strategic importance of initiatives such as the Fund and invited member States to contribute to this fund, and resolution 19/13 of 9 May 2003, which invited Governments and other partners to provide or increase their support to the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on urban youth development programmes,

Noting with appreciation the contribution from the Government of Norway for the establishment of the Opportunities Fund,

Considering the positive steps made by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies and partners, towards implementing the Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-led Development,

1. Encourages Governments to give priority and support to youth-led development initiatives and invites multilateral agencies, Governments, the private sector and civil society to listen to youth and develop policies on their development based on participatory processes;
2. Invites multilateral agencies, Governments, the private sector and civil society to promote the Opportunities Fund to youth-led organizations within their respective regions and to encourage such organizations to apply for the Fund;
3. Also invites multilateral agencies, Governments, the private sector and civil society to contribute voluntarily, wherever possible, to the Opportunities Fund;
4. Requests the Executive Director to undertake the following activities in compliance with the medium-term strategic and institutional plan and the work programme for the biennium 2010–2011:
 - (a) To strengthen further the institutional management and operations of the Fund and build the capacities of regional partners to manage the Fund better;
 - (b) To promote upscaling of support for marginalized groups, such as youth, and for youth-led initiatives and to enhance learning potential for the Fund by supporting an approach taking into consider-

ation best practices, research and replication;

- (c) To promote the exchange of experiences and good practices learned from the Opportunities Fund, which will support the normative agenda of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and other United Nations agencies;
 - (d) To continue to strengthen and mainstream the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on the engagement of young people in human settlements development and in taking measures in relation to their livelihoods;
 - (e) To provide the necessary mechanisms for the World Urban Youth Forum to be recognized as an integral part of the World Urban Forum;
 - (f) To evaluate the operation of the Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-led Development and to submit a report thereon to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session;
5. Also requests the Executive Director to ensure that urban youth development issues are reflected substantively in future issues of the Global Report on Human Settlements and of the State of the World's Cities report;
 6. Further requests the Executive Director to submit a report on the progress in the implementation of the present resolution to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session.

ANNEX 16

HSP/GC/23/CRP.8/Rev.1: Urban youth development; the next step

The Governing Council,

Considering that nearly one fifth of the world's population is between 15 and 24 years of age and that that proportion is even higher in the developing world, and that that segment of the population is affected by the problems of unemployment, poverty and unsustainable urban development, issues which may be further exacerbated by the global economic crisis,

Considering also that young people are key agents for sustainable human settlements development and positive social change and vital resources in attaining the development goals related to the United Nations Millennium Declaration,¹

Recalling that the Habitat Agenda² identifies the need to work in partnership with young people to develop and enhance effective skills and provide education and training to prepare young women and men for current and future decision-making roles and sustainable livelihoods in human settlements management and development,

Bearing in mind that by its resolution 64/134 of 18 December 2009 the General Assembly declared August 2010–August 2011 to be the United Nations International Year of Youth with the theme “dialogue and mutual understanding”,

Noting with appreciation the great interest expressed by urban young people around the world following the implementation of Governing Council resolutions 21/6 and 22/4 and the

success of the UN-Habitat Urban Youth Fund,³ which has in its first two years of operation awarded grants totalling nearly 2 million United States dollars to 113 youth groups drawn from a pool of more than 3,000 applications,

Noting also with appreciation the contribution by the Government of Norway to, and the profound interest that it has demonstrated in, the Youth Empowerment Programme and the Urban Youth Fund,

Considering the positive steps made by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other United Nations agencies and partners, in strengthening the youth agenda and the mainstreaming of youth-related issues in the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations system,

Recalling the world programme of action for youth, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, in particular the priority area “full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and in decision making”,

1. Encourages Governments to give priority and support to urban youth-led development initiatives and invites multilateral agencies, Governments at all levels, the private sector, universities and other research bodies and civil society to engage and include urban young people in participatory processes of

- sustainable urban development;
2. Invites the above parties in a position to do so to contribute financially to the Youth Empowerment Programme to ensure its continued operation and sustainability;
3. Encourages the Executive Director to consider implementing in line with available resources in the work programme and budget the following recommendations of the recent 2011 evaluation of the Youth Empowerment Programme:
 - (a) Strengthen the financial basis and human resources of the programme;
 - (b) Establish an independent youth unit;
 - (c) Begin the process of outsourcing the grant management of the Urban Youth Fund to the regional offices;
 - (d) Ensure the alignment of the thematic focuses of the Fund with the overall focuses of the key work programmes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;
 - (e) Implement other recommendations in the evaluation report as appropriate, with special attention to the recommendations related to the Urban Youth Fund;
4. Also encourages the Executive Director to strengthen further the participation of young people across the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme through the involvement of the Youth Advisory Board and to give priority to urban-youth-led development initiatives and include urban young people in participatory sustainable urban development processes;
4. Requests the Executive Director to conduct an evaluation of the operation of the Urban Youth Fund after five years and to present the results to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session;
5. Also requests the Executive Director to continue the process of mainstreaming young people throughout the programme, in line with the medium-term strategic and institutional plan and the programme of work and budget, including in its general research activities and publication activities, including in respect of the State of the Urban Youth reports, to ensure that all organizational parts of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme interact with the Youth Empowerment Programme in all youth-related issues and that youth issues, including those mentioned in the findings from the Urban Youth Research Network and the Global Youth Helpdesk, are substantially incorporated into all operational and normative programmes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including its global reports;
7. Encourages the Executive Director to share and build upon the expertise and successes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the area of urban youth together with other United Nations agencies to explore the possibility of enhancing the substantial involvement of young people in sustainable urban development;
8. Encourages the Executive Director to work towards the goal that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme leads joint efforts on urban youth issues within the United Nations system;
9. Also encourages the Executive Director to explore the feasibility of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme appointing goodwill envoys with a focus on urban youth;
10. Further encourages the Executive Director to mainstream urban youth in focus areas in the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019;

11. Requests the Executive Director to submit a report on the progress in the implementation of the present resolution to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session.

- 1 *General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.*
- 2 *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.*
- 3 *Previously known as the Opportunities Fund for Youth-Led Development.*
- 4 *HSP/GC/23/5/Add.4*

Youth 21

Building an Architecture for
Youth Engagement in the UN System

0108



The Youth 21: Building an Architecture for Youth Engagement in the UN System report explores how youth have been historically engaged within the UN system. The report highlights both the challenges and the successes of youth's engagement, and building on these, proposes three possible models of engagement, and a tentative conclusion on the best way forward for the UN system and the member states. This report was authored by UN-Habitat, a member of the UN Interagency Network on Youth Development.

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