

25-26 July 2011

High-Level Meeting on Youth

Background

The General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/65/267 (currently available as document A/65/L.63) decided that the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on Youth shall be held on 25 and 26 July 2011 in New York and that the overarching theme of the high-level meeting shall be “Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding”.

The high-level meeting will comprise two consecutive informal interactive roundtables on 25 July 2011 and two plenary meetings on 26 July 2011. The round tables will be chaired by Member States at the invitation of the President of the General Assembly and will address the following themes:

Round table 1: Strengthening international cooperation regarding youth and enhancing dialogue, mutual understanding and active youth participation as indispensable elements towards social integration, full employment and the eradication of poverty;

Round table 2: Challenges to youth development and opportunities for poverty eradication, employment and sustainable development.



Thematic panel 1: Strengthening international cooperation regarding youth and enhancing dialogue, mutual understanding and active youth participation as indispensable elements of efforts towards achieving social integration, full employment and the eradication of poverty.

This panel will enable a discussion on international cooperation needed to address common youth challenges beyond national borders, and share opportunities for strengthening economic, social and cultural relations to extend prosperity, stability and well-being for youth.

The round table will also address dialogue between and with youth, and explore successes, challenges and lessons learned from existing channels for dialogue and mutual understanding. It will identify key priorities for increased investments and concrete partnerships to promote the ideals of peace, inclusiveness and development locally and globally.

The panel will also highlight mechanisms for enhancing young people's active participation and the importance of further developing participatory processes at local, national and international levels in efforts towards achieving social integration, full employment and the eradication of poverty.

OVERVIEW

Young people aged 15-24 currently number 1.8 billion; with some 87 per cent living in developing countries where development constraints pose the additional challenges of limited access to resources, education, training, employment, and broader economic development opportunities. Youth do not constitute a homogeneous group, as their socio-economic, demographic, and geographical situations vary both within and between regions. Nevertheless, global solutions are called for as more youth issues exceed national borders, including facing poverty, unemployment, under-representation in decision-making, economic and social inequalities, and insufficient access to resources, health, education and information and communication technology.

Young people and youth-led organizations and networks have been mobilizing, at country and regional levels and are taking the lead to address challenges and create opportunities for a better future, and to bring these perspectives to the attention of the international community's development agenda. The activism of young people in shaping their societies points to the centrality of young people as agents of development, social inclusion, tolerance and peace.

Effective and democratic mechanisms for dialogue, information exchange and mutual understanding among young people and with their national governments and other relevant decision makers, are essential for creating and enhancing partnerships that can more effectively address challenges young people face today. Indeed, the absence of such channels and opportunities for youth participation and civic engagement can lead to a feeling of frustration, that when combined with economic and social exclusion, may result in social instability and civil unrest as evidenced by recent events.

The aspiration of young people to participate in the processes that shape their lives, their societies and their future is legitimate. It is now more urgent than ever to focus on measures to strengthen national capacities to engage young people and youth-led organizations and channel their activism and dynamism in efforts to effectively participate in the development of local, national, regional and international development strategies and policies towards achieving social integration, full employment and the eradication of poverty.

Strengthened mechanisms are needed for government institutions, development partners and the private sector to increase coherence and present a coordinated

response towards the rights and needs of young people, including in humanitarian situations.

KEY ISSUES

International Cooperation

- » International cooperation is crucial for promoting the rights and needs of young people within developmental priorities and for addressing the emerging challenges that hinder youth development.
- » International efforts targeting youth are often piecemeal, uncoordinated and inadequate, and therefore limited in their scale and potential impact. Full integration of youth development issues into the international development agenda is needed by the international community.
- » International cooperation is key for promoting conditions conducive to coherent and coordinated response of governments and development partners in efforts to reach internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to implementation the World Programme of Action on Youth.
- » The strengthening of international cooperation regarding young people, including the availability of financial resources, access to information and technology, capacity building of national institutions and young people, enhancing dialogue, mutual understanding and strengthening mechanisms for youth participation are crucial elements of efforts towards achieving the eradication of poverty, full employment and social integration.
- » Recognizing the expanding roles and responsibilities of civil society, particularly youth-led organizations, and the private sector, there is a need for strengthening international cooperation and partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders.
- » The international community and civil society as well as the private sector should invest in mechanisms for dialogue and consultation with young people at the national, regional and global levels and strengthen international cooperation in order to support Member States in their efforts to achieve progress in youth development efforts.
- » Promoting greater coordination and providing financial and technical support to the work of youth-led organizations will enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of their activities at the regional and national levels.

Youth Migration and International Cooperation

- » The lack in economic development contributes to the decision of young people to migrate. Unemployment, low wages and poor working conditions motivate young men and women to migrate towards countries with better opportunities.

Whether it is economic need, poverty, lack of employment and educational opportunities, conflict, poor governance or environmental degradation that contributes to the increasing involvement of youth in the migratory process, they seem to remain absent from the international migration agenda.

» International cooperation and dialogue, and a comprehensive and balanced approach on migration, are necessary to take advantage of the opportunities that international migration generates and to address migration's negative consequences.

» Strengthening cooperation at the global, regional and bi-lateral levels is an essential component of any strategy to enhance the contribution of international migration and migrants to development; inter alia facilitating a more effective management of the recruitment and admission of migrant workers, fostering improvements in their working conditions, promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants, especially young people, and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability.

» Global and regional forums on migration play an important role in fostering cooperation, sharing good practices and promoting constructive dialogue and cooperation among countries, relevant international agencies as well as with civil society. More formal mechanisms to advance the debate on international migration should be established.

» With skills shortages affecting different regions of the world, it is expected that the demand for skilled workers from developing countries is likely to increase, which raises concerns as these countries face serious shortages of those skills.

» Young people have the right to be protected from all forms of violence related to international migration, including gender based violence, trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, as well as the involvement and manipulation of young people in transnational organized criminal activities such as drug related crimes.

Dialogue and Mutual Understanding

» Young people around the world are nurturing and promoting the ideals of peace, freedom, justice, tolerance, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. In many parts of the world, young people are also leading efforts to achieve progress and development, to better address their related issues, particularly as regards to ensuring meaningful youth participation, full employment and decent work for all youth, thereby achieving social integration.

» Promoting and providing gender sensitive life skills based human rights education and learning for young people, taking particular account of marginalized adolescent girls and young women, is crucial to the promotion of

development, dialogue and mutual understanding, tolerance and friendship among youth of all nations

» Strengthening mechanisms for involving young people and youth-led organizations in decision-making processes, and creating effective channels of cooperation, dialogue and information exchange among young people, including rural and urban youth, their national governments and other relevant decision makers, are indispensable elements of efforts towards achieving social integration, full employment and the eradication of poverty.

» Youth organizations are important forums for developing skills necessary for effective participation in society, promoting tolerance and increased cooperation and exchanges between youth organizations. Investments must be made in strengthening the capacities of youth-led organizations including through financial and technical support.

» Information and communication technology plays an important role in assisting young women and men to communicate easily and freely with other youth from all over the world thereby promoting social integration, dialogue and mutual understanding. There are more internet, mobile and radio users than ever before and efforts should be directed at promoting increased communication with and amongst young people.

Full and Effective Participation

» The capacity for progress of societies is based, among other elements, on their capacity to incorporate the contribution and responsibility of youth in the building and designing of the present and the future. Young women and men bring unique perspectives to addressing development issues through their intellectual contribution, as well as their ability to mobilize support.

» Tackling social integration, full employment and the eradication of poverty in an effective manner calls for increased participation of youth and youth-led organizations in the development of local, national, regional and international development strategies and policies.

» Full and effective participation of young people and youth-led organizations in relevant decision-making processes through appropriate channels is key to, inter alia, achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to implementing the outcomes of global conferences and summits, as well as the World Programme of Action for Youth.

» Young people can make better use of the opportunity to participate in decision-making by their improved access to information and by strong mechanisms through which they could participate in governance and hold stakeholders accountable.

» Opportunities should be strengthened for young people to learn their rights and responsibilities, promoting their social, political, developmental and environmental participation, removing obstacles that affect their full contribution to society and respecting, inter alia, freedom of association

Social Integration, Employment and Decent Work, and Poverty Eradication

» The need to promote dialogue and mutual understanding and ensure full and effective participation of youth in decision-making processes will not be beneficial without also addressing development constraints and challenges faced by youth due to social exclusion, unemployment and underemployment as well as poverty.

» Youth living in vulnerable situations, such as in disadvantaged urban areas as well as in remote areas, youth affected by and living with HIV, youth with disabilities, refugee and migrant youth, and youth affected by conflict, are at higher risk of falling into and experiencing poverty.

» Education plays a fundamental role in creating an inclusive society and reducing inequity and inequality, as well as for achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development

» There is a need to increase efforts in improving the quality of education and in promoting universal access to education, particularly for young women, to ensure that youth can acquire the knowledge, capacities skills and ethical values needed for dialogue and mutual understanding and for participation in social, economic and political development

» Since the beginning of the financial and economic crisis in 2008, the average youth unemployment rate has increased by 7 percentage points; the largest two-year increase on record. The youth unemployment rate is now three times higher than the adult rate.

» Unemployment rates, however, reflect only the tip of the iceberg. Young people are prone to work longer hours under informal, intermittent and insecure work arrangements characterized by low productivity and earnings and reduced social protection.

» There is continued discrimination against young women in employment; being confronted with a double burden: working age and gender factor. Young women suffer from insufficient access to equal opportunities in employment and education.

» There is a need to remove barriers to bridging the digital divide, including through transfer of technology and international cooperation, so as equip young people with the knowledge and skills needed for employment and decent work.

- » Social exclusion of youth is usually linked to marginalization based on socio-economic backgrounds, gender, migrant status, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation and religious beliefs. Recent food, energy and financial crises have increased social vulnerabilities of youth and highlighted the key role of social integration in advancing sustainable and inclusive development.
- » Access to equal rights, full employment, quality education and opportunities for participation is central to social inclusion and cohesion of youth, which is in turn key to the sustainability, stability and prosperity of societies.
- » Cooperation between governments, civil society and policy makers offers hope for eliminating physical and social barriers and improving the situation that marginalized youth find themselves in.
- » The media should be encouraged to promote youth understanding and awareness of all aspects of social integration, including tolerance and non-violent behavior. Youth tend to be misrepresented in media, if not absent altogether, whereby young people are often stereotyped as being trouble makers who have little value to society and are a threat to community safety and stability. This is amplified in the case of young people who are marginalized and therefore have been failed or underserved by systems and society, and whose access to opportunity and appropriate supports is limited. The media is encouraged to report positively on young people, celebrating their achievements and goals, as well as their creative perspectives, intellectual contribution and their ability to mobilize support for inclusive societies for all.

Way Forward

- » Enhance measures to strengthen international cooperation between governmental and non-governmental organizations and other members of civil society, with a view to responding to youth aspirations.
- » Increase commitment and investment in youth through increasing recognition of youth development as a smart investment by the public and private sectors, advocating for the recognition of young people's contributions to national and community development and to achieving the MDGs, promoting understanding of inequalities amongst youth and how to effectively address the needs of the most disadvantaged, and through fostering research and knowledge building on youth to better inform youth policies and programmes.
- » Strengthen trust and build real partnerships at the international, regional and national levels through Government, NGO, media, academia and private sector initiatives to foster mutual respect, tolerance and understanding among and with young people.

- » Mobilize, engage and increase youth participation and partnerships through institutionalizing mechanisms for youth participation in decision-making processes, supporting youth-led organizations and initiatives to enhance their contribution to society, and through strengthening networks and partnerships among Governments, youth-led organizations, academia, civil society organizations, the private sector, the media and the United Nations system, to enhance commitment and support for holistic youth development.
- » Connect, build bridges and increase intercultural understanding among youth through promoting youth interactions, networks and partnerships across cultures, and through empowering and supporting youth as agents of social inclusion and peace
- » Addressing the global challenge of youth unemployment by developing and implementing strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work, and, in this context, consider undertaking efforts towards the development of a global strategy on youth employment with a focus on youth unemployment
- » Key elements for better inclusion of young people in efforts towards social integration, poverty eradication and full employment
 - A collective and better understanding of what youth participation involves, and how it can be implemented for all youth ages;
 - Creation of structures and mechanisms to advance youth participation in decision-making processes that affect young people, such as establishing youth advisory groups, youth networks for positive civic engagement, etc;
 - Strengthen support and provide financial contributions to youth structures at international, regional and national levels;
 - Include youth in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes, instruments and strategies;
 - The inclusion of youth in a post 2015 international development agenda, paying particular attention to education, inclusion and employment;
 - Enhanced regional cooperation on youth issues through development of regional youth policies.



Thematic panel 2: Challenges to youth development and opportunities for poverty eradication, employment and sustainable development

The panel will enable a discussion on challenges and obstacles hindering youth development, and will underscore opportunities that promote and sustain secure and healthy lives, higher standards of living including an environment of quality, and access to education and employment. The panel will highlight lessons from differing experiences in poverty eradication, youth employment and sustainable development, and reflect on how well they provide an opportunity for long term solutions to the development challenges of young women and men. The panel will also promote new and deeper knowledge of emerging issues affecting young people today.

The panel's discussion aims to identify innovative and proven solutions that stimulate the thinking of leaders in the public, private, philanthropic and nonprofit sectors about the actions needed to support poverty eradication, employment and sustainable development, particularly as they relate to youth development.

OVERVIEW

The majority of the world's youth live in developing countries where development constraints pose additional challenges to youth due to their limited access to resources, education and training, health care, employment and broader socio-economic development opportunities. Today, 62 per cent of the world's youth live in Asia, whereas the second largest proportion (17 per cent) lives in Africa. Projections show that while the proportion of youth living in Asia is expected to decline to 53 per cent by the middle of the twenty-first century, those in Africa are likely to rise significantly to 29 per cent.

Current financial, economic and other crises have had a strong impact on youth. Nearly 40 per cent of the world's unemployed – about 81 million – are between 15 and 24 years of age. More youth are poor and underemployed than ever before, often working at wage levels below the poverty line, in unsafe conditions, and insecure jobs with less benefit and no prospect for advancement.

Globalization and rapid technological development, while presenting many young women and men with opportunities for education, innovation and productive rewarding work, has created uncertainty and insecurity for millions of other youth, by exacerbating already vulnerable situations.

Giving young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work is central; it represents an opportunity to pursue a more balanced and sustainable development, with direct positive consequences for poverty alleviation, promoting social integration and stability.

KEY ISSUES

Youth in the Demographic Transition

» Ongoing demographic transitions in certain regions of the world, by which the proportion of young women and men (aged 15-24 years) is significantly increasing compared to other age groups, has opened a window of opportunity to invest in young people who will be the next generation of workers and entrepreneurs. This opportunity, if invested in, will enable countries to reduce poverty and leapfrog stages of economic and social development.

Youth Employment

- » Since the start of the financial and economic crisis in 2008, the average youth unemployment rate has increased by 7 percentage points; the largest two-year increase on record. The youth unemployment rate is now three times higher than the adult rate.
- » Unemployment rates, however, reflect only the tip of the iceberg. Young people are prone to work longer hours under informal, intermittent and insecure work arrangements characterized by low productivity and earnings and reduced social protection.
- » There is continued discrimination against young women in employment; being confronted with a double burden: working age and gender factor. Young women suffer from insufficient access to equal opportunities in employment and education.
- » There is a need to remove barriers to bridging the digital divide, including through transfer of technology and international cooperation, so as equip young people with the knowledge and skills needed for employment and decent work.

Youth Education

- » Deep and persistent inequalities in education consign millions of youth to poverty and diminished opportunities and prospects for economic growth. These inequalities in access to education are reflected between countries as well as within countries.
- » Youth unemployment disproportionately affects marginalized youth, including young girls, youth with disabilities and indigenous youth, who lack general or vocational education and training opportunities.
- » The financial and economic crisis has made the transition from school to work more difficult, especially for young persons without an educational background that corresponds to the needs of the labour market

Youth Health

- » Prevalence of diseases such as malaria, HIV and AIDS, and other threats to health including hunger and malnutrition, engulf the lives of many young people.
- » Some youth suffer to varying degrees from poor access to health facilities, especially for young women, youth in rural areas, and youth with disabilities. In least developed countries, health facilities and services themselves suffer from poor standards and quality of services. This is particularly relevant to countries experiencing security concerns and armed conflicts.

- » Many young women and men are vulnerable to risky behavior related to substance abuse, smoking and unhealthy nutritional consumption. Patterns of risky behavior lead to excess morbidity and mortality.
- » Poor reproductive health is both a cause and consequence of poverty. Investments in sexual and reproductive health of young people will help them lead healthier, more productive lives.
- » In 2009, young people aged 15 to 24 accounted for 41% of new HIV infections worldwide, due to physical vulnerability, social inequality and exclusion and other reasons.

Youth Migration

- » It has been estimated that approximately 15 percent of all migrants are youth.
- » Youth migration presents challenges as well as opportunities countries of origin and destination as well as for the migrants themselves.
- » In 2009, the unemployment rate of young migrants was 15.3 per cent in the United States, 20.2 per cent in Canada and 24.1 per cent in the European Union.
- » The challenge of finding a job is exacerbated by changing migration patterns, with particular reference to return migration and increased restrictions on emigration.

Social Exclusion of Youth

- » Girls and young women are often treated as inferior and are subject to discrimination in access to education, health, nutrition and employment. They are also often victims of violence and exploitation
- » Youth in rural areas face different challenges from their urban peers.
- » Young people with disabilities continue to face enormous challenges in the labour market.
- » In some countries, ethnicity, particularly among young migrants, is a factor in their social exclusion and marginalization.
- » In efforts to achieve social integration, there is a need to ensure full employment and eradication of poverty, as well as the promotion of universal access to education, particularly for young women, out-of-school youth, youth with disabilities, indigenous youth, youth in rural areas, youth migrants, and youth living with HIV and affected by AIDS, without discrimination on any basis.

Youth and the Environment

- » Continued unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, as well as environmental degradation aggravate poverty and imbalances.
- » With most of the world's young people living in areas where dependence on natural resources and persistent poverty intersect, climate change could pose a serious threat to youth livelihood patterns and economic stability.
- » Shifting perspectives on sustainable development have created a growing market for green jobs across many sectors including energy supply, recycling, agriculture, and transportation. Green jobs represent an opportunity to make development truly sustainable, as they are specifically geared towards reducing the ecological footprint of economic activities. Simultaneously, they can play an important role in efforts to address rising unemployment.

Youth and Armed Conflict

- » Youth are often among the main victims of armed conflict. They are killed or injured, made orphans, forcibly displaced, and deprived of housing, healthcare, education and employment. Young women and girls face additional risks, in particular those of sexual violence and exploitation.
- » Young people returning from armed conflict and confrontation face increasing difficulty in integrating into society and gaining access to education and employment.

THE WAY FORWARD

- » All channels, agents and forms of education and training should be mobilized so as to achieve universal education for all, to ensure that education reflects economic and social needs of youth, and to incorporate the concepts of environmental awareness and sustainable development in schools and educational institutions, as well as to promote human rights education, so that young people are aware of their civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights as well as their societal responsibilities.
- » Existing inequalities in youth access to ICT should be evaluated and addressed to overcome the digital divide in each country, thus empowering youth through the fundamental right of access to local and global networks of knowledge and information, and through the creation of new economic and social opportunities for poverty eradication.
- » There is a need for an integrated approach combining supportive macro-economic policies and targeted measures addressing labour demand and supply as

well as the quantity and quality of youth employment, to give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work. Policies and national programmes that provide incentives to enterprises to hire young people, promote youth entrepreneurship, and facilitate access to finance and to other targeted active labour market measures can also help countries to improve decent work prospects of its young population. Viable employment opportunities for youth are the basis not only for poverty eradication, but also to reduce forced migration, trafficking in persons and the brain drain which all of which are debilitating for developing countries.

- » Young women and men need an enabling environment that promotes good health, offers protection from diseases and addiction and is free from all types of violence, including armed conflict.
- » International migration should be addressed through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and through a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants, especially young people, and address the root causes of youth migration, while avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability.
- » The natural environment must be preserved, maintained and enhanced for both present and future generations. This requires stakeholders to embrace the new paradigm of environmentally sustainable economic growth and to put in place the systems that are required to achieve it. More efforts must be made to ensure that young people are ready to take advantage of new environment-oriented employment opportunities. Growing attention to climate change and sustainable development offers an ideal opportunity for green economic growth around the world.
- » Necessary measures should be undertaken to guarantee to all young people, including young women and girls, youth with disabilities, refugee youth, indigenous youth and migrant youth, the elimination of all forms of discrimination against them, and the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- » The international community should bridge the gap between implementation and commitments to ensure the protection of young women and men from the adverse effects of war.
- » There is a need for increased participation of youth and youth-led organizations in the development of local, national, regional and international strategies and policies. With adequate capacity building and the creation of institutional spaces for participation, young people can make great contributions to the effectiveness of policies and programmes.



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

20 October 2010

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to resolution 64/134 entitled “Proclamation of 2010 as the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding”, adopted during the sixty-fourth session on 18 December 2009.

The General Assembly decided to “proclaim the year commencing on 12 August 2010 the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding”. The Assembly also decided “to organize under the auspices of the United Nations a world youth conference as the highlight of the year” and invited “the President of the General Assembly to conduct open-ended informal consultations with Member States with a view to determining the modalities of the conference, which is to be funded by voluntary contributions”.

I am very pleased to inform you that H.E. Mr. Jean-Francis Régis Zinsou, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Benin, has agreed to continue to serve as Facilitator for the consultations on the organization of the world youth conference.

To ensure a successful world youth conference, I trust all Members States will give the Facilitator their full support on this collective undertaking.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Joseph Deiss

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the
United Nations
New York



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

6 July 2011

Excellency,

The General Assembly, by its resolution 64/134 of 18 December 2009, decided to organize under the auspices of the United Nations a world youth conference as the highlight of the International Year of Youth. In its resolution 65/267 of 11 March 2011, the Assembly decided that the world youth conference shall take the form of a High level Meeting of the General Assembly, to be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 25 and 26 July 2011.

In paragraph 10 of this resolution, the Assembly invited “the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of representatives of other non-governmental organizations, relevant civil society organizations and the private sector who might participate in the High-level Meeting, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical representation, and to submit the list to Member States for consideration on a no-objection basis”.

I transmitted the list for your consideration on a no-objection basis on 29 June. I hereby would like to inform you that the list is now approved. Please see attached the final list.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deiss'.

Joseph Deiss

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



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New York

COUNTRY	NAME
Argentina	Impacto Asociación Civil
Austria	International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges
Bahrain	Bahrain jurists society
Bangladesh	Chittagong Hill Tracts Hill Student's Council
Bangladesh	Design Bangladesh
Bangladesh	kathak academy bangladesh(KAB)
Belgium	FIMCAP - International Federation of Catholic Parochial Youth Movements
Belgium	The International Falcon Movement – Socialist Educational International (IFM-SEI)
Belgium	Youth For Public Transport
Benin	Club NTIC
Bolivia	Tics y Juventud
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Water and Youth
Brazil	Universidade da Juventude
Cameroon	African Leadership Community link Advancement program
Cameroon	Think Youth lindependent Association (TYIA)
Cameroon	Youth Employment Fund
Cameroun	Association National des Etudiants Camerounais
Canada	BIAS FREE Co-operative, Inc.
Canada	Give One Project
Canada	Millennium Network Community
Canada	Street Kids International
China	Future China Society
Colombia	Corporación Centro Para Jóvenes C2PJ
Cote d'Ivoire	Children's International Summer Villages (CISV)
Croatia	CroMSIC/Y-PEER Croatia
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Association de Jeunes Visionnaires pour le Développement du Congo
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Aube Nouvelle pour la Femme et le Développement
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Centre d'Encadrement, de Protection et de Defense des Autochtones en RD Congo "CENPROD"
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Fondation des Oeuvres pour la Solidarité et le Bien Etre Social (FOSBES)
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Ligue des Jeunes des Grands Lacs
Democratic Republic of the Congo	ONGD-ASBL Maison de Lecture JPKAS Les Amis de Lemba et de Waremmé
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Sauvons Notre Planète
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Solidarite pour un Monde Meilleur
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Universite pedagogique nationale
Djibouti	Association pour le Développement du Millénaire
Dominican Republic	Fundacion Parque Cibernetico de Santo Domingo.
Dominican Republic	Asociación Dominicana de las Naciones Unidas ANU-RD
Dominican Republic	National Youth Network, Youth Transforming This
Dominican Republic	PROJuventud

Dominican Republic	Red nacional de adolescentes y jovenes en salud sexual y prevencion de VIH/SIDA
Egypt	Arab Forum for Alternatives
Ethiopia	The Council of Natural Capitalism for Sustainable Development - APACE Youth Innovations and Development Centre (CNCSD's Department for Youth)
Fiji	Pacific Youth Council
France	Afghan Boursiers du Gouvernement Français (BGF) Association
Gabon	Agape Global Life Care Foundation (AGLICAF)
Gambia	Children for Children Organization
Gambia	Youth Alliance- The Gambia
Ghana	Abibimman Foundation
Ghana	Bloechliger Foundation
Ghana	Federation of African Medical Students' Associations
Ghana	Global Development Network
Ghana	Global Youth Action Network Ghana
Ghana	Kay Morris Foundation
Ghana	Richbone Initiative Foundation
Ghana	Sheikh Dr. Osmanu Nuhu Sharubutu Education Trust Fund
Ghana	United Nations Youth Association of Ghana
Ghana	Youth Action Forum for Networking, Ghana
Ghana	Youth Bridge Foundation
Ghana	Youth Empowerment Synergy
Ghana	All Africa Students Union
Ghana	Youth Empowerment Synergy
Grenada	Caribbean Association for Youth Development
Guyana	Diverse Youth Movement
Haiti	Concile Mondial de Congres Diplomatiques des Aumoniers pour la Paix Universelle des Droits Humains et Juridiques
Haiti	Global Movement for Children Group
Haiti	Organisation RESH
India	Electronic Youth Media
India	GGI Institute of Information Communication Technology India
India	Shikhar Chetna Sangathan
India	SOCIAL SERVICES TRUST
India	South Asia Regional Youth Network of International Planned Parenthood Federation
India	Swechha
India	Universal Versatile Society
India	Centre for Development and Population Activities, India
India	Organization for Liberation of Rural Daliths
India	People like us (PLUS) Kolkata
Indonesia	Indonesian Students Association For International Studies
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Moasseseh Farhangi Ejtemaeye Ofogh Omid
Ireland	Foroige
Italy	Society of the Sacred Heart
Jamaica	Guys Hill Gospel Chapel Sunday School
Japan	Japan Society of Humanistic Anthropology Association
Jordan	Leaders of Tomorrow
Kenya	Junior Achievement Kenya
Kenya	YES Kenya

Lebanon	Y-PEER Lebanon
Liberia	Advocacy for Health, Education, Agriculture and Development, Inc.
Liberia	Community Youth Network Program (CYNP) Inc
Mali	IMCS Pax Romana
Mexico	ASHOKA
Mexico	Espacio de Vinculacion, Asociacion Civil (EVAC)
Mexico	Espacio Iberoamericano de Juventud
Mexico	Espolea
Mexico	Red Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos
Mexico	Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (YCSRR)
Mexico	Servicios a la Juventud A.C.
Morocco	Association Assalam pour le Developpement Social
Morocco	The Youth Peer Education Network Morocco
Morocco	United Nations Youth Association Morocco
Nepal	Gramin Apasi Bikas
Nepal	My Social Responsibility
Nepal	United Nations Youth Association, Nepal
Nepal	Global South Initiative
Nepal	Nepal Development Initiative
Netherlands	AIESEC International
Niger	Réseau de la Jeunesse Nigérienne sur les Changements Climatiques
Nigeria	Abiodun Adebayo Welfare Foundation
Nigeria	Africa Youths International Development Foundation
Nigeria	Alcohol Prevention Youth Initiative, Nigeria
Nigeria	All-Nigeria United Nations Youth and Students Association
Nigeria	Association for Community Development and Human Technology
Nigeria	Blood Drive Initiative
Nigeria	Centre For 21st Century Issues
Nigeria	Digital Peers International
Nigeria	Economic and Social Empowerment Of Rural Communities
Nigeria	Foundation for Leadership & Education Development (FLED)
Nigeria	Make Poverty History, Nigeria
Nigeria	Pidarc HealthProject
Nigeria	United Nations Youth Association Nigeria
Nigeria	Youth Development & Peace Network
Nigeria	Youth Empowerment and ICT Foundation
Nigeria	Moremi Initiative for Women's Leadership in Africa
Nigeria	New Era Educational and Charitable Support Initiative
Nigeria	Nigeria Youth Climate Coalition
Pakistan	AG: Aware Girls
Pakistan	Bargad-Organization for Youth Development
Pakistan	Kaliss Foundation International
Pakistan	Pakistani Youth
Pakistan	Skyian Welfare Organization
Pakistan	Wespak Welfare Trust Rawalpindi Pakistan
Pakistan	World Welfare Association
Pakistan	Youth Parliament of Pakistan
Pakistan	Juvenile Dignitaries Organization
Pakistan	Pakistan Community Peace Foundation
Pakistan	School of Leadership
Panama	Fundacion Calicanto

Paraguay	SOMOSGAY
Philippines	Barangay Sang Virgen Youth Movement National Center
Philippines	Young Liberals & Democrats of Asia
Portugal	Fórum de Juventude da CPLP
Republic of Korea	LG Electronics
Russian Federation	International Youth Forum, Seliger
Senegal	Conseil National de la Jeunesse du Sénégal
Serbia	Cultural Center DamaD
Sierra Leone	Africa Youth for Peace and Development
Sierra Leone	African Pikin Foundation
Somalia	Somali National Youth Union
Spain	Consejo de la Juventud de España
Sudan	African and Arab Youth Council
Sudan	Society Studies Centre (MADA ssc)
Sudan	Sudanese Organization for Education Development
Suriname	Nationaal Jeugd Instituut
Switzerland	Jugend UNO Netzwerk Schweiz
Switzerland	Schweizerische Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Jugendverbände
Tanzania	Youth For Africa
Togo	Association des Nations Unies du Togo
Togo	Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement
Togo	VISIONS SOLIDAIRES
Tunisia	Associamed
Tunisia	Tunisian Association Against STI and AIDS
Tunisia	UNESCO Club Tunisia
Tunisia	Youth Peer Education Network-Tunisia
Turkey	Genc Ongoru Association
Uganda	GREEN ALTERNATIVES AND PEACE MOVEMENT UGANDA
Uganda	Youth For Human Rights International Somalia
United Kingdom	British Youth Council
United Kingdom	Grassroot Diplomat
United Kingdom	Restless Development
United Kingdom	World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
United States of America	Association for Trauma Outreach and Prevention/ Meaningful World (ATOP)
United States of America	Athletes United for Peace
United States of America	Bridge the Gap
United States of America	Brooklyn Technical High School UNICEF Club
United States of America	Caring & Living as Neighbours
United States of America	Center for Global Community and World Law
United States of America	Education Development Center, Inc.
United States of America	Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR)
United States of America	Focal Point Global
United States of America	Foundation for Human Horizon
United States of America	GimmeMo
United States of America	Imagination x Inspiration x Innovation Foundation
United States of America	International Solidarity and Human Rights Institute
United States of America	Intersections International
United States of America	KOCO- Kenwood Oakland Community Organization
United States of America	LitWorld International, Inc
United States of America	National Collegiate Conference Association (NMUN Program)
United States of America	OneVoice Movement
United States of America	ONG Association des Jeunes pour l'Agriculture au Mali ASJAM

United States of America	Project Girl Performance Collective
United States of America	Railroad Street Youth Project
United States of America	SHARE (Shannon's After-school Reading Exchange)
United States of America	St. Norbert College
United States of America	The BARKA Foundation
United States of America	The Center for Art and Spirituality in International Development
United States of America	United Natives, Inc
United States of America	Water and Youth International Movement.
United States of America	Wide Angle Youth Media
United States of America	Women Deliver
United States of America	World Faith
United States of America	World Welfare Association
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Fundación Hogares Libres de Violencia Sagrada Familia
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Inusev
Yemen	AlJawf Women Organization
Zambia	Afriyan
Zimbabwe	Young Africa



Permanent Mission of Austria
to the United Nations
New York



New York, 13 July 2011

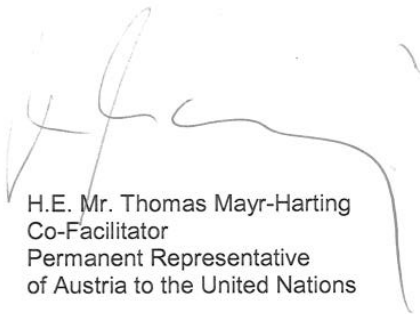
Excellency,

We have the honour to forward herewith a copy of the declaration to be adopted at the High-level Meeting on Youth on 25 and 26 July 2011 in New York. Revision 4 of the draft declaration was sent out yesterday with a silence procedure until 5 pm today. The silence procedure is now expired and the text is agreed.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your active support and flexibility during the negotiations.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

The Co- Facilitators,



H.E. Mr. Thomas Mayr-Harting
Co-Facilitator
Permanent Representative
of Austria to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Jean-Francois R. Zinsou
Co-Facilitator
Permanent Representative
of Benin to the United Nations

High-level Meeting on Youth

Outcome document Final agreed version – 13 July 2011

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 64/134 of 18 December 2009, in particular paragraph 3 thereof, and its resolution 65/267 of 11 March 2011, in particular paragraph 1 thereof,

Adopts the following outcome document:

Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the 65th session of the General Assembly on Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding

1. We, Heads of State and Government, Ministers and representatives of Member States, gathered at the high-level meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 25 and 26 July 2011 to address “Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding,” stress the necessity to disseminate, educate and foster among young people the ideals of peace, freedom, justice, tolerance, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, solidarity and dedication to the objectives of progress and development;

2. *Recall* resolution 64/134 of 1 February 2010, which proclaimed the year commencing on 12 August 2010 as the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding, and acknowledge the significance of this meeting as the highlight of the International Year of Youth;

3. *Reaffirm* the World Programme of Action for Youth, including its fifteen interrelated priority areas, and call upon Member States to continue its implementation at the local, national, regional and international levels;

4. *Encourage* Member States to develop comprehensive policies and action plans that focus on the best interest of youth, particularly the poor and marginalized, and address all aspects of youth development, and also *encourage* the international community and the United Nations system to support national youth programmes and further develop and improve the existing international framework on youth, including the World Programme of Action for Youth, in order to fully address all current challenges affecting youth;

5. *Encourage* Member States to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in all aspects of youth development; recognizing the vulnerability of girls and young women, and the important role of boys and young men in ensuring gender equality;

6. *Take note with appreciation* of the activities, special events, contributions and inputs by Member States and all stakeholders including youth-led organizations, the private sector, civil society and the media, as well as United Nations entities; and *take into account* the input from youth-led organizations to the outcome document of the High-level Meeting on Youth;

7. *Recognize* that the ways in which young people are able to address their aspirations and challenges and meet their potential will influence current social and economic conditions and the well-being and livelihood of future generations, and stress the need for further efforts to promote interests of youth, including the full enjoyment of their human rights, inter alia, by supporting young people in developing their potential and talents and tackling obstacles facing youth;

8. *Recall* the commitment to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to implementing the outcomes of global conferences and summits and relevant programmes;

9. *Stress* the important role of effective sectoral and cross-sectoral national youth policies, reflecting youth in all its diversity, as well as of international cooperation in promoting the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

10. *Invite* Member States to review and evaluate the implementation of their commitments to relevant internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and the relevant outcomes and programmes of action, including the World Programme of Action for Youth, and *request* United Nations regional commissions to assist Member States in sharing information on national experiences, lessons learned and good practices in that regard;

11. *Encourage* Member States to continue developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating effective national youth policies, taking into account their cultural context regarding youth development, as well as to promote relevant regional programs on youth;

12. *Reaffirm* our determination to give priority attention to the promotion of youth and their interests and to address the challenges that hinder youth development, in particular through poverty eradication, promotion of sustained economic growth, sustainable development and full and productive employment and decent work for all and call for increased participation of youth and youth-led organizations in the development of, as appropriate, local, national, regional and international development strategies and policies;

13. *Reaffirm* the need for young people to be protected from all forms of violence, including gender based violence, trafficking in persons, bullying, cyber bullying, as well as the involvement and manipulation of young people in criminal activities such as drug related crimes, and recognize the need for the development of safe and youth-friendly counselling, complaint and reporting mechanisms for the redress of their rights;

14. *Reaffirm* that the strengthening of international cooperation regarding youth, including through the fulfilment of all ODA commitments, transfer of appropriate technology and capacity building, enhancing dialogue, mutual understanding and active participation of youth are crucial elements of efforts towards achieving the eradication of poverty, full employment and social integration;

15. *Welcome* the ongoing efforts by Member States to implement their pledges to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and *acknowledge* the contributions of Member States, the United Nations entities, and civil society organizations, including youth-led organizations, and the private sector to improve the situation of young people; however, *note* with concern that despite these efforts, substantial numbers of young people reside in areas where poverty constitutes a major challenge, access to basic social services is limited, especially for girls and young women. Youth development remains hindered by the economic and financial crisis, as well as by challenges brought about by the food crisis and continued food insecurity, the energy crisis and climate change. Also further *note* with concern that the overall progress towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular on issues relevant to youth, have been uneven;

16. *Recognize* that the majority of the world's youth live in developing countries and that development constraints pose additional challenges to youth due to their limited access to resources, education and training, health care, employment and broader socio-economic development opportunities; and, therefore, *request* United Nations entities to take into account these development constraints when designing and implementing their programmes on youth in order to ensure that benefits reach young people living in developing countries equally;

17. *Condemn* the recruitment and use of youth in armed conflict in contravention of applicable international law, *deplore* the negative consequences that it has on involved youth and *call* upon Member States, in cooperation with the United Nations entities, to take concrete measures and continue to support programs to ensure effective social and economic reintegration and rehabilitation of demobilized young people;

18. *Recognize* the importance of preventing and addressing youth crime, including drug related crime, and its impact on youth and the socio-economic development of societies, as well as of protecting young victims and witnesses, and supporting the rehabilitation, reintegration and inclusion of young offenders in society with a view for them to assume constructive roles;

19. *Invite* Member States, following celebrations of the International Year of Youth, to continue to place greater emphasis on and expand their activities at the national, regional and international levels, in promoting, including through human rights education and learning, a culture of dialogue and mutual understanding among and with youth, as agents of development, social inclusion, tolerance and peace;

20. *Reiterate* that full and effective participation of young people and youth-led organizations in relevant decision-making processes through appropriate channels is key to, inter alia, achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to implementing the outcomes of global conferences and summits, as well as the World Programme of Action for Youth;

21. *Recognize* the positive contribution that youth representatives make to the General Assembly and other United Nations entities and their role in serving as an important channel of communication between young people and the United Nations, and, in this regard, *request* the

Secretary-General to support adequately existing instruments so that they can continue to facilitate their effective participation in meetings;

22. *Encourage* Member States, in cooperation with relevant actors, to promote dialogue and mutual understanding to better address youth related issues, particularly as regards active youth participation, youth work, gender equality and the empowerment of women, social integration, full employment and decent work for all, access to quality education, development of scientific and innovative capacities, scholarships and training, access to and safe use of information and communication technology, in particular, in the interest of protection of children and young people, access to healthcare, elimination of discrimination, protection from all forms of violence, intergenerational solidarity, and impact of financial and economic and other crises;

23. *Request* the United Nations agencies, and invite the international community and civil society as well as the private sector, to promote the broader youth development agenda and to strengthen international cooperation and the exchange of good practices in order to support Member States in their efforts to achieve such progress, taking into account that the primary responsibility for ensuring youth development lies with States;

24. *Urge* the United Nations entities, including specialized agencies, funds and programmes, in accordance with their mandates, to support upon request, the strengthening of national capacities and efforts in development and implementation of national plans, policies and programmes that can accelerate the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and the relevant outcomes and programmes of action, including the World Programme of Action for Youth;

25. *Request* the United Nations entities to enhance their coordination and intensify efforts towards a more coherent, comprehensive and integrated approach to youth development, inter alia, through the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, and *call upon* the United Nations entities and relevant partners to develop additional measures to support national, regional and international efforts in addressing challenges hindering youth development; and, in this regard, *encourage* close collaboration with Member States as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society;

26. *Request* the Secretary-General to submit a report, with due regard to existing reporting obligations, to the Commission for Social Development, at its 51st session, on national experiences, lessons learned, good practices on how to address problems affecting youth. The report shall also evaluate achievements and shortcomings of ongoing United Nations programmes related to youth. The report shall put forward concrete recommendations on how to more effectively address the challenges that hinder the development and participation of youth, including through volunteer activities, on how to improve the United Nations programmes and structures related to youth as well as their coherence, on how to better foster dialogue and mutual understanding among youth worldwide and on how to assess progress in these fields. The report should be prepared in consultation with Member States as well as the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and regional commissions, taking into account the work done by the United Nations system and further *request* the Secretariat to consult, as appropriate, with

youth-led and youth-focused organizations to ensure that various youth inputs are duly shared with the Commission for Social Development during its deliberations;

27. *Reiterate* our request to the Secretary-General to propose a set of possible indicators linked to the World Programme of Action for Youth and the proposed goals and targets, in order to assist Member States in assessing the situation of youth, encouraging continued consultations with Member States;

28. *Renew* our resolve to fulfil our commitments to promote youth development, dialogue and mutual understanding, paying due attention to the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and relevant outcomes and programmes of action including the World Programme of Action for Youth. Therefore, we *pledge* to commit to the following actions:

- (a) *Call upon* the international community to continue to support the efforts of Member States, together with civil society, including youth-led organizations, the private sector and other parts of society, to anticipate and offset the negative social and economic consequences of globalization and to maximize its benefits for young people;
- (b) *Also call upon* donors, including Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to support the efforts of Member States in the implementation of this outcome document as well as the World Programme of Action for Youth;
- (c) *Address* the high rate of youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment and informality by developing and implementing targeted and integrated national youth employment policies for inclusive job creation, improved employability, skills development and vocational training to meet specific labour market needs of youth, including young migrants, increased entrepreneurship, including the development of networks of young entrepreneurs at the local, national, regional and global levels, and which foster knowledge amongst young people about their rights and responsibilities in society; and, in this regard, *requesting* donors, specialized UN entities and private sector to continue to provide assistance, including technical and funding support, as required;
- (d) *Urge* Member States to address the global challenge of youth unemployment by developing and implementing strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work, and, in this context, consider undertaking efforts towards the development of a global strategy on youth employment with a focus on youth unemployment, and *encourage* Member States, employers organizations, trade unions, the private sector, institutions of education at all levels, youth organizations and civil society, with the support of the international community, all relevant stakeholders, including financial institutions, and the UN system as appropriate, to develop partnerships in this regard to foster inclusive employment opportunities in the labour market, including through the promotion of youth entrepreneurship, taking into account regional and national particularities;

- (e) *Undertake* appropriate measures, in cooperation with civil society, including youth-led organizations, educational institutions and the private sector, in order to strengthen international, regional and national partnerships to foster mutual respect, tolerance and understanding among young people with different racial, cultural and religious backgrounds;
- (f) *Increase* efforts to improving the quality of education and promote universal access to education, particularly for young women, out-of-school youth, youth with disabilities, indigenous youth, youth in rural areas, youth migrants, and youth living with HIV and affected by AIDS, without discrimination on any basis, to ensure that they can acquire the knowledge, capacities, skills and ethical values needed, including by appropriate access to scholarships and other mobility programmes, non-formal education, as well as technical and vocational education and training to develop and to participate fully in the process of social, economic and political development, since knowledge and education are key factors for youth participation, dialogue and mutual understanding;
- (g) *Promote and provide* human rights education and learning for the youth, taking particular account of young women, and to develop initiatives in that regard, in order to promote dialogue and mutual understanding, tolerance and friendship among youth of all nations;
- (h) *Urge* Member States to take effective measures in conformity with international law to protect young people affected or exploited by terrorism and incitement;
- (i) *Adopt* appropriate laws and develop strategies for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against youth, in all settings and to ensure implementation of policies and adequately resourced programmes on ending violence against youth, including initiatives to support youth's action to end violence through youth-led organizations and networks;
- (j) *Strengthen* the use of information and communication technology to improve the quality of life of young people, and, with the support of the United Nations system, donors, the private sector and civil society, promote universal, non-discriminatory, equitable, safe and affordable access to information and communication technology, especially in schools and public places, and to remove the barriers to bridging the digital divide, including through transfer of technology and international cooperation, as well as to promote the development of locally relevant content and implement measures to equip young people with the knowledge and skills to use information and communication technology appropriately and safely;
- (k) *Ensure* that young people enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health by providing youth with access to sustainable health systems and social services without discrimination and by paying special attention to, and raising awareness of, nutrition, including eating disorders and obesity, to the effects of non-communicable and communicable diseases and to sexual and reproductive health as well as to measures to prevent sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV and AIDS;

- (l) *Promote* youth participation in training and capacity-building for environmental issues, including climate change adaptation and mitigation, tackling desertification and other challenges, particularly to those who are engaged in agricultural production and play a vital role in providing food security threatened by climate change;
- (m) *Promote and protect* effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, especially those of young people, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and through a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants, especially young people, and address the root causes of youth migration, while avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability;
- (n) *Urge* Member States to take concerted actions in conformity with international law to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the rights of young people living under foreign occupation to promote the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- (o) *Encourage* Member States, the international community, the United Nations system and the private sector to support youth-led organizations in achieving openness and inclusiveness and to strengthen their capacity to participate in national and international development activities;
- (p) *Encourage* Member States to strengthen mechanisms for partnerships with civil society, including youth-led organizations, as contributions to youth development, and create effective channels of cooperation, dialogue and information exchange among young people, including rural and urban youth, their national Governments and other relevant decision makers, as appropriate;
- (q) *Call* upon donors, including Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to actively contribute to the United Nations Youth Fund in order to support catalytic and innovative actions in the field of youth and to facilitate the participation of youth representatives from developing countries in the activities of the United Nations Programme for Youth, taking into account the need for a greater geographic balance of youth representation, and, in this regard, requesting the Secretary-General to take appropriate action to encourage contributions to the Fund as well as synergy with other youth related funds of United Nations entities.



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

19 July 2011

Excellency,

The General Assembly, by its resolution 64/134 of 18 December 2009, decided to organize under the auspices of the United Nations a world youth conference as the highlight of the International Year of Youth. In its resolution 65/267 of 15 March 2011, the Assembly decided that the world youth conference shall take the form of a High-level Meeting of the General Assembly, to be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 25 and 26 July 2011.

The General Assembly, in paragraph 12 of the resolution, requested “the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to finalize the organizational arrangements of the meetings, taking into account the length of the meetings, the identification of the eminent person and the youth representative to speak at the opening plenary meeting and the identification of Chairs for the round tables, bearing in mind the level of representation as well as equitable geographical representation”.

In this regard, I have the honour to transmit herewith the second information note on the organizational arrangements for the High-Level Meeting on Youth.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deiss'.

Joseph Deiss

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Organizational arrangements for the 2011 High-level Meeting on Youth (25-26 July 2011, New York)

Information Note (No. 2)

Introduction

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 64/134 of 18 December 2009, decided to organize under the auspices of the United Nations a world youth conference as the highlight of the International Year of Youth. In its resolution 65/267 of 15 March 2011, the Assembly decided that the world youth conference shall take the form of a High-level Meeting of the General Assembly, to be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 25 and 26 July 2011.
2. The General Assembly, in paragraph 12 of the resolution, requested “the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to finalize the organizational arrangements of the meetings, taking into account the length of the meetings, the identification of the eminent person and the youth representative to speak at the opening plenary meeting and the identification of Chairs for the round tables, bearing in mind the level of representation as well as equitable geographical representation”.

Participation

3. Participation in the High-level Meeting will be in accordance with paragraphs 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of General Assembly resolution 65/267.
4. The High-level Meeting will be attended by several Heads of State and Government and will have a significant level of ministerial participation. In letters dated 25 May 2011, the Secretary-General extended an invitation to all Heads of State and Government to participate in the High-level Meeting. It is expected that all five regional groups will be represented at high level.
5. In accordance with paragraph 10 of resolution 65/267, the consolidated list of non-ECOSOC accredited civil society representatives that need accreditation to participate in the High-level Meeting, including the thematic panel discussions, was submitted to Member States and Permanent Observers for consideration on a non-objection basis on 29 June 2011. The final list was transmitted to Member States and Permanent Observers on 6 July 2011.
6. In accordance with paragraph 9 of resolution 65/267, the list of representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, who pre-registered to participate in the High-level Meeting, was drawn up and is posted on the website of the President of the General Assembly.
7. Pursuant to paragraph 8 of resolution 65/267, Member States are called upon to consider including in their delegation to the High-level Meeting young people who suitably and broadly represent youth in their countries, bearing in mind the principles of gender balance and non-discrimination.

Programme of the High-level Meeting

8. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution 65/267, the High-level Meeting will comprise plenary meetings and two thematic panel discussions. The programme of the High-level Meeting is contained in Annex A. Additional explanatory details are provided below.

Plenary meetings

9. The opening plenary meeting scheduled on 25 July 2011 from 10 to 11 a.m will feature statements by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, an eminent person actively engaged in youth issues, and a youth representative of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

10. The formal plenary meetings are scheduled on 26 July 2011 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 5.30 p.m. To enable maximum participation within the limited time available, statements in formal plenary meetings should not exceed three minutes when speaking in the national capacity and five minutes when speaking on behalf of a group. A list of speakers is open for inscription at the General Assembly Affairs Branch (room IN613A. tel. (212) 963-5063; fax. (212) 963-3783; or email: heddachem@un.org).

11. Speaking order will follow the established protocol order. Accordingly, precedence will be accorded to the Heads of State or Government and Ministers.

12. The closing plenary meeting is scheduled on 26 July 2011 from 5.30 to 6 p.m. It will feature the Co-chairs' summaries of the thematic panel discussions and concluding remarks by the President of the General Assembly.

Thematic panel discussions

13. The two thematic panel discussions will be held in the General Assembly Hall on Monday 25 July from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m. The thematic panel discussions will provide an opportunity to have in-depth discussions on the themes identified in resolution 65/267 and will also make reference to the content of the outcome document to be adopted by the General Assembly on 26 July. To promote interactive, free-flowing discussions, participants will be invited to make very brief remarks, not to exceed three minutes, to raise questions and to respond to other speakers.

14. Each panel will be comprised of two Co-chairs and four panellists with thorough knowledge and expertise of the subject. The identity of the panellists is included in Annex B. Background papers for each panel discussion were prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development and are posted on the website of the Youth Programme of DESA as well as the website of the President of the General Assembly.

15. The thematic panel discussions are open to Member States and General Assembly Observers as appropriate and selected representatives of the United Nations system and civil society representatives. As the thematic panel discussions will be held in the GA Hall, access to the panel discussions will be limited to six per Member State.

16. Pursuant to paragraph 4(d) of resolution 65/267, and to promote interactive and substantive discussions, participation in the thematic panel discussions will be without a list of speakers being maintained. However, Member States and General Assembly Observers are encouraged to inform the General Assembly Affairs Branch (room IN613A. tel. (212) 963-5063; fax. (212) 963-3783; or email: heddachem@un.org) in which panel discussions they wish to intervene.

17. Pursuant to paragraph 4(c) of resolution 65/267, the Co-chairs of the thematic panel discussions will present summaries of the discussions at the closing plenary meeting.

18. On 8 July 2011, the Office of the President of the General Assembly proceeded to the drawing of lots for the identification of four Co-chairs for the two thematic panel discussions. The result was conveyed to all regional groups by letter dated 14 July 2011 and is also contained in Annex B. Regional groups are urged to convey the identity of the Co-chairs to the Office of the President of the General Assembly.

Webcast

19. The plenary meetings and the two thematic panels will be transmitted via live webcast.

Accreditation of Delegations

20. Accreditation of members of official delegations and members of the parties of Heads of State/Government, Vice-Presidents and Crown Prince/Princesses is being carried out by the Protocol and Liaison Service. Missions which have not done so yet are kindly requested to submit their lists of delegations and requests for passes to the Protocol and Liaison Service at Room NL-2058 or by fax (212) 963-1921.

Access to the General Assembly Hall

21. Members of delegations will have access to the General Assembly Building via the Delegates' Entrance. Access cards will not be required for the plenary meetings and the thematic panel discussions taking place at the General Assembly Hall, however, members of delegations are reminded that each Member State will be limited to six seats. Each intergovernmental organization will be allocated two seats and each specialized agency will be allocated one seat. All other delegation members wishing to follow the proceedings of the meetings may be accommodated at the third floor Gallery on a first come first served basis.

Security and United Nations Pass and Identification Office

22. The 45th Street gate entrance will be reserved for the use of high-level VIPs and delegates. The pedestrian gate at 47th Street and 1st Avenue will also be accessible for VIPs and delegates.

23. Escorted motorcades and vehicles of Permanent Representatives will be allowed to enter the United Nations premises at the 43rd Street and 1st Avenue vehicular entrance, drop off their passengers at the Delegates' Entrance, and then exit through the 45th Street

and 1st Avenue gate. All escorted motorcades will be coordinated by the Host Country in conjunction with United Nations Security and Safety Service personnel.

24. Prior to the opening of the High-level Meeting, the United Nations Pass and Identification Office will be exceptionally open for the accreditation of delegates on Monday 25 July 2011 at 7 a.m.

Side-Events

25. A calendar of various events related to the High-level Meeting from 21 to 27 July is posted on the Youth Programme of DESA website.

Media arrangements

26. All members of the media accompanying Heads of State/Government or Heads of Delegation must submit a letter of assignment from their Bureau Chief or Editor-in-Chief, attached to an official letter from the Permanent Mission concerned, listing the names of the media representatives with their functional titles and affiliation, addressed to Isabelle Broyer, Chief, Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit, Department of Public Information, United Nations, fax: (212) 963 4642, email: malu@un.org.

27. Members of the media accompanying Heads of State/Government or Heads of Delegation must present themselves to the Media Accreditation Office (45th Street and 1st Avenue), where they will have their photographs taken and be issued a United Nations grounds pass upon presentation of national passports and valid photo identification.

28. All media representatives will be required to present a valid United Nations grounds pass to the United Nations security officers at the gate. The designated press entrance is at 42nd Street and 1st Avenue.

29. Media liaison desks will be available to assist the press on the third floor of the General Assembly building for securing access to booths in the General Assembly for TV crews and photographers and to obtain tickets to the fourth floor balcony for print press and outside of Conference Room 1 to allow media to be escorted to special events in the North Lawn Building (NLB), as the press will not be allowed to move around the building without an escort. There will be stakeout areas for the press on the East Foyer on the second floor of the General Assembly building.

Annex A

Programme for the High-level Meeting on Youth

Monday 25 July 2011		
10 – 11 a.m.	Opening plenary meeting: <i>Statements by:</i> <i>(1) H.E. Mr. Joseph Deiss, President of the General Assembly;</i> <i>(2) H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General;</i> <i>(3) Ms. Alek Wek, International supermodel, humanitarian and author (UK/South Sudan); and</i> <i>(4) Mr. Romulo Dantas, YMCA (Brazil)</i>	GA Hall
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Thematic panel discussion One: <i>Strengthening international cooperation regarding youth and enhancing dialogue, mutual understanding and active youth participation as indispensable elements towards social integration, full employment and the eradication of poverty</i>	GA Hall
3 – 6 p.m.	Thematic panel discussion Two: <i>Challenges to youth development and opportunities for poverty eradication, employment and sustainable development</i>	GA Hall
Tuesday 26 July 2011		
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Formal plenary meeting	GA Hall
3 – 5.30 p.m.	Formal plenary meeting	GA Hall
5.30 – 6 p.m.	Closing plenary meeting: <i>(1) Co-chairs' summary of the thematic panel discussions; and</i> <i>(2) Closing remarks by H.E. Mr. Joseph Deiss, President of the General Assembly</i>	GA Hall

Annex B

Themes and composition of the two thematic panel discussions

Panel 1: Strengthening international cooperation regarding youth and enhancing dialogue, mutual understanding and active youth participation as indispensable elements towards social integration, full employment and the eradication of poverty

This panel will enable a discussion on international cooperation needed to address common youth challenges beyond national borders, and share opportunities for strengthening economic, social and cultural relations to extend prosperity, stability and well-being for youth. The panel will also address dialogue between and with youth, and explore successes, challenges and lessons learned from existing channels for dialogue and mutual understanding. It will identify key priorities for increased investments and concrete partnerships to promote the ideals of peace, inclusiveness and development locally and globally. The panel will also highlight mechanisms for enhancing young people's active participation and the importance of further developing participatory processes at local, national and international levels in efforts towards achieving social integration, full employment and the eradication of poverty.

Date/Time: Monday 25 July, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
(General Assembly Hall)

Co-chairs: Asian Group

Eastern European Group

United Nations Representatives: Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Ms. Geeta Rao Gupta, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Civil Society Representatives: Mr. Falko Mohrs, European Youth Forum (Germany)

Ms. Leila Yasmin Mucarsel, CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation (Argentina)

Panel 2: Challenges to youth development and opportunities for poverty eradication, employment and sustainable development

This panel will enable a discussion on challenges and obstacles hindering youth development, and will underscore opportunities that promote and sustain secure and healthy lives, higher standards of living including an environment of quality, and access to education and employment. The panel will highlight lessons from differing experiences in poverty eradication, youth employment and sustainable development, and reflect on how well they provide an opportunity for long term solutions to the development challenges of young women and men. The panel will also promote new and deeper knowledge of emerging issues affecting young people today. The panel's discussion aims to identify innovative and proven solutions that stimulate the thinking of leaders in the public, private, philanthropic and nonprofit sectors about the actions needed to support poverty eradication, employment and sustainable development, particularly as they relate to youth development.

Date/Time: Monday 25 July, 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
(General Assembly Hall)

Co-chairs: African Group

WEOG

United Nations Representatives: Ms. Irina Bokova, Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Mr. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs

Civil Society Representatives: Mr. Ahmed Al hindawi, Leaders of Tomorrow (Jordan)

Ms. Monique Coleman, United Nations Youth Champion (USA)