What is UN MGCY?

The official and self--organised space for children and youth in certain intergovernmental and allied process at the United Nations

Vision of UN MGCY

Children and youth are planning, designing, implementing, monitoring, reviewing and evaluating sustainable development policies.

What gives us the mandate?

1) **Agenda 21**
2) **UN General Assembly Resolutions (such as 2013's A/Res/67/290)**
3) **Agreements with UN bodies and conferences**

Who are Members?

1. Any individual 30 years old or under who signs up to the MGCY online or in person.

2. Any organisation, network, commiQee, group or other association of individuals that signs up to the MGCY online or in person and that fulfills either of the following requirements:

   a. *Representative of the interests of children and/or youth, and has a policymaking body controlled by people 30 years old or under; or*

   b. *Works with children and/or youth but doesn't have a policymaking body controlled by individuals 30 years old or under.*

Overall Organogram

Organising Partners (OPs)

Eligible Organisations mandated to co-ordinate the activities of the UN Major group for Children and Youth (UN MGY). One permanent (legal entity and board) and 5 elected eligible organisations collectively make up the OPs.

Mandated Tasks
- Facilitation, Governance and Outreach;
- Co-ordination and liaison with the UN system and other stakeholders;
- Oversee the UN MGCY External Working Groups (EWG) and Internal Working Groups (IWG), and intervene in case needed.

Election
- The OPs are elected by the the UN MGCY participants, through online voting (Votes are weighted between individuals and organisations, as 50 - 50%.);
- Each elected organisation have a two years mandate;
- The criteria for eligible organisations includes; non profit, youth or child led.

Board & Legal Entity
(Children and Youth International, CYI)

Children and Youth International is the board and the legal entity of the UN MGCY. All MGCY participants are members of Children and Youth International.

Mandated Tasks
- Operates the Finance Working Group;
- Convenes the Elections IWG.

Selection / Election
- The board members of CYI are elected in a staggered manner at the annual UN MGCY General Assembly (Votes are distributed as 50 - 50 %.)
- All named/lead people of OP organisations are on the board ex officio.
- CYI takes up a permanent, non-elected OP place to ensure continuity for the MGCY in the UN. There is no named OP for Children and Youth International.

Assembly

The body that decides the activities of the UN MGCY. The Assembly happens through regular calls convened by OPs, with invitations through the mail lists. Open for all individual and organisational members of the UN MGCY with equal weightage.

Mandated Tasks
- Receive reports from the OPs and the WGs on their activities and any policy or statements that have been developed on behalf of the UN MGCY;
- Co-ordinate any policy and decide on issues where there may be overlap or conflict between WG;
- Ratify changes to the individuals representing each organisation as OPs, DOPs or Facilitators by a simple majority;
- Establish new or close old Working Groups (WG).

Internal Working Groups (IWGs)

Current IWGs and mandated tasks
- Children: Co-ordinating policy in the interests of children and engaging children in UN processes;
- Communications and Media: Maintaining our websites, external presence, and media work;
- Renewal and Outreach: Improving internal processes and increasing the accessibility of UN MGCY's work to new/potential members;
- Elections: Co-ordinating the elections and selections of the UN MGCY;
- Finance: Co-ordinating the finance of the UN MGCY and advise on fundraising.

Co-ordination and Participation
- Each IWG is co-ordinated by facilitators, open for any eligible organisation or individual to apply. Elected through an election process co-ordinated by the Election IWG;
- All MGCY members may participate in any IWG, with the exception of Finance, whose members are elected at the Annual Assembly.

External Working Groups (EWGs)

Operate day-to-day functions of the UN MGCY, linked to respectively mandated UN process

Mandated Tasks
- Co-ordinates the development and delivering of the UN MGCY's policy positions and contribution to the relevant UN process;
- Liaise with respective UN agencies together with the OPs.

Current EWGs
Post-2015 and Sustainable Development Policy; Sustainable Development Governance and Participation; Sustainable Consumption & Production; Disaster Risk Reduction; Small Island Developing States; Sustainable Urban Development and Housing; Finance for Sustainable Development; World Humanitarian Summit.

Coordination & Participation
- EWG are co-ordinated by two Deputy Organising Partners (DOPs), elected through an election process co-ordinated by the Election IWG;
- EWG is open for any participant of the UN MGCY to participator in.

Process Specific Organogram

Deputy Organising Partners (DOP)

Deputy Organising Partners are individuals who facilitate the External Working Groups of the MGCY.

Mandated Tasks
- Facilitation, Governance and Outreach as pertains to External Working Groups.
- Liaising with the UN on Respective Policies in coordination with OPs.
- Coordinating statements, Facilitating position development and Advocacy.

Election
- Voting occurs via secure online platform where votes are weighted between organisations and individuals 50-50.
- Organisations cannot change DOPs and change will trigger a by-election.

Board & Legal Entity (Children and Youth International)

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Mandated Tasks
- Operates Financial Working Group
- Oversees Elections Internal Working Group Selection / Election !

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Regional Focal Point (RFP)

- The MGCY as an overall space does not have regional or geographical focal points. However, external Working Groups may decide to establish those, and the MGCY space supports such structures.
- The decision to establish such focal points can be based on a UN mandate or a decision taken by the Working Group.
- The mission of the UN MGCY RFPs is to facilitate and coordinate the children and youth engagement in the specific process for their respective regions. The importance of this position can not be understated as it will allow for the necessary outreach work to be competently carried out, while ensuring the prioritization of challenges specific to constituents of those regions.

Process Specific Activities

- Each WG has formulated specific mechanisms and processes that help in the execution of its mandate and respective tasks and duties.
- The DOPs of the HIII Working Group act as the Chairs of the Children and Youth Constituent Group of the World Urban Campaign's General Assembly of Partners.
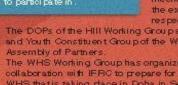- The WHS Working Group has organized a Steering Committee in collaboration with IFRC to prepare for the Global Youth Consultation for WHS that is taking place in Doha in September 2015.
- In the DRR we developed a mechanism to collaborate with the preexisting scientific and business advisory boards in the UNISDR.
- In the SCP Process DOPs are part of the Stakeholder Follow-up and Review Meetings.
- In FFD, the designated OPs are part of the Addis Ababa coordination group.
- Post2015 is overseen by OPs and in HLPF MGCY is a member of HLPF Working Group.

External Working Groups

Support

- Concept Note and Manual for Open Ended Youth Consultation
- Facilitation Manual
- Mobilisation methods
- Consultation & Workshop advisors
- UNMGCY introduction materials
- UNMGCY lecturer (depends on funding)
- Advocacy trainer (depends on funding)

Baqa'a Palestine refugee camp youth consultation

Challenges…
- **Lack of social and political space**
- Call are made without having any youth participants present in call making
- Drug use

Solutions…
- **Provide places for the youth and kids to hangout in and play**
- Educate peers to prevent them from smoking, drug-use etc.

Youth Priorities

- Cities will need to be centers of mitigation, adaptation and resilience building.
- Ecological footprint of cities must not exceed the biocapacity and must remain within environmental thresholds and local scope for planetary boundaries
- Intergenerational partnership to achieve Sustainable Consumption and Production

Position Paper

Support car-pooling /Sharing

Living Together

Free accommodation with elderly people in care home

Policy recommendation

1. Deliver social services and social protection for all, especially lifelong learning-education, health, water and sanitation through a rights based approach that delinks a any status of a person from access to these, specially age in the context.

2. Public Spaces are emerging as a critical priority in the Habitat III process, they will only be fully effective if that can be accessed by people of all ages and abilities. The accessibility to all is what makes a space public.

3. Disaggregation has become a buzzword in the process, but we need to focus and shift attention to investment in statistical capacity so as we can actually be able to do this and operationalise its intended promise.

What we can do?

1. Recognise stakeholders on ageing as one of key partners and mainstream aging across all groups. Both are needed, one is not a substitute for another.

2. Do not be silo when we are criticising silo approach. As age issues are not just age issues, they are sustainable development issues that are need to be age proofed. Old people are not only users of social security, but resources of knowledge and expertise, and are also affected by unsustainable consumption and production patterns as well.

3. An intergenerational approach, does not only imply that the world and older generations owe something to the young. We too need to play our role in designing agendas and Implementing projects designed for all ages and abilities.

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