UNITED NATIONS INTER-AGENCY NETWORK ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (IANYD)
OPEN MEETING WITH YOUTH-LED ORGANIZATIONS, NETWORKS AND MOVEMENTS
REPORT

The United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development hosted an Open Meeting with Youth-led Organizations, Networks and Movements on 18-20 September at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The meeting brought together representatives of the 40 member entities of the Network and over 100 youth-led organizations, networks and movements. The aim was to identify ways in which the Inter-agency Network on Youth Development could better work with and for young people, present the rationale for and components of the UN System-Wide Action Plan on Youth, to find innovative ways to partner with young people in the implementation of the System-Wide Action Plan on Youth, and to discuss options to strengthen institutional mechanisms for meaningful youth participation in the United Nations system and contribution to the implementation and monitoring of UN-led activities on youth. The main outcome of the meeting is an agreement between youth-led organizations and the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development on structured ways for partnerships, collaboration and participation. Additional outcomes include recommendations for strengthening communication and guidelines to address the realities of marginalized young people, particularly youth with disabilities and indigenous young people, in programmes to implement the UN System-Wide Action Plan on Youth.

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I. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

A. THE INTER-AGENCY NETWORK ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (IANYD)

The United Nations system has come together to form the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (http://social.un.org/youthyear/unianyd.html) to increase the effectiveness of the work of the United Nations on youth development by strengthening collaboration and exchange among all relevant UN entities, while respecting and harnessing the benefits of their individual strengths and unique approaches and mandates.

It is permanently co-chaired by UN-DESA and has a rotating co-chair from amongst its members each year. The network was formed in 2010 to ensure that the United Nations system would be able to work together effectively during the International Year of Youth beginning 12 August 2010. The network developed a framework approach to jointly advocate for investments in the youth agenda and young people, mobilize networks to promote youth participation and create a forum for dialogue and partnership on young people’s priorities. Following its success, at the High Level Meeting on Youth in 2011, the General Assembly requested United Nations entities to “enhance their coordination and intensify efforts towards a more coherent, comprehensive and integrated approach to youth development through, inter alia, the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development.”

“As we continue our collaboration and coordination, we are mindful that young people must be at the centre of our work.”

– Daniela Bas, Director, Division for Social Policy and Development, UN-DESA

The IANYD has coordinated support from within the UN system to for the implementation of the Secretary-General’s priorities and promoted youth participation in their planning and implementation. For the System-Wide Action Plan on Youth, the network conducted an online survey in July-August 2012 in which 13,500 young people from around the world shared their ideas on what this Action Plan should look like.

Based on the survey and guided by the World Programme of Action for Youth (http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/wpay2010.pdf) and outcomes of consultative meetings, including the Bali Global Youth Forum Declaration, the Network drafted a System-Wide Action Plan on Youth. The network set up a working group of UN agencies to provide support to UN Volunteers in drafting and finalizing the Youth Volunteer Strategy. It

1 A/RES/65/312
also drafted of the Terms of Reference for the SG’s Envoy on Youth and sought nominations from youth-led organizations to decide who the envoy should be.

In recent years, the network has played an increasingly important role in calling for strengthened political commitment for investments in young people, mobilizing and engaging young people to increase their participation in the United Nations system, and recently, coordinating support for the implementation of the priorities of Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon on “working with and for young people” including through the creation of a UN Youth Volunteer Programme, the adoption of a System-Wide Action Plan on Youth and the appointment of an Envoy on Youth.²

“At the beginning, we were closed because we said we needed to get our act together. We had to figure out who we were and how to work. But we thought about ‘nothing about us without us’. How can we tell everyone to have youth participation without having it ourselves? We can’t move forward without working with youth-led organizations.”

– Nicola Shepherd, UN Focal Point on Youth and Permanent Co-Chair of the IANYD

B. ORGANIZING THE OPEN MEETING

Given the increasing importance of its role and as a measure of accountability, the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development recognized the need for direct engagement with young people themselves. At its Annual Meeting in March 2012, the network adopted as a priority the development of institutional mechanisms for accountability and young people’s participation within the United Nations system and the IANYD activities. As a first step in this process, it would host an open meeting with youth-led organizations, networks and movements to share with young people the work being done by the IANYD, to seek feedback and to set up mechanisms for continued engagement and accountability. It was decided that such a meeting should be organized alongside the UN General Assembly in September to allow enough time for preparation, to provide an opportunity for joint advocacy with young people (which was also timely and cost-effective because many youth-led organizations were already planning to be in New York during that time.

To prepare for this meeting, members of the network volunteered to be part of a sub-group. In their first meeting, the sub-group decided to invite youth-led organizations and networks to join them from the initial stages so that planning could take place jointly. The criteria for including youth-led organizations in the sub-group were:

1. Global or regional membership-based
2. Democratic, transparent, non-discriminatory, independent and youth-led
3. Thematic expertise in areas relevant to the WPAY
4. Inclusion of marginalized groups (including indigenous, conflict, disability)
5. Ability to commit time to participate in planning of this meeting
6. Gender and regional balance

² 25 January 2012 - Secretary-General’s remarks to the General Assembly on his Five-Year Action Agenda: “The Future We Want” <http://www.un.org/sg/statements/?nid=5825>
The sub-working group invited representatives from the International Coordinating Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO) and the Major Group on Children and Youth (MGCY) being two global platforms of youth-led organizations that partner with the United Nations – and set the dates in conjunction with the ICMYO Annual Meeting and the Youth Blast organized by the MGCY.

“Despite the fact that marginalized young people, including those with disabilities, LGBT youth, or indigenous youth, for example, may be present in the membership of broad networks and platforms, as an abundance of caution and as affirmative action, we consider it important to invite groups that work specifically with these populations and represent their priorities.”

– Prateek Awasthi, UNFPA, Co-Chair IANYD

In the course of its meetings from July till September 2013, the sub-working group developed Terms of Reference (ANNEX 1), and put forward two objectives in addition to those already proposed by the IANYD (namely increasing awareness of the work done by the IANYD and allowing for youth organizations to network amongst themselves and IANYD members). These were:

1. to identify ways for young people to contribute to the implementation and reporting of the SWAP and
2. to establish mechanisms for young people to participate in the functioning of the IANYD (in its sub-working groups, in country networks, etc.).

Based on these objectives, the sub-working group developed an agenda (ANNEX 2).

The sub-working group also agreed that alongside the open meeting with youth-led organizations – it would be strategic to organize a high-level meeting of the principals of UN entities as well as a meeting with partners and donors to call for additional investments in policies and programmes for young people. Following this suggestion, the SG’s Envoy on Youth, along with UN-DESA, UNFPA, ILO and UN-Volunteers, organized a “Roundtable Dialogue on Investing in Young People” on 19 September (ANNEX 3).

“How the sub-working group operated while organizing this meeting gives a sense of the passion and the shared commitment to opening up spaces to youth-led organizations. It was definitely a cooperative process. From the onset, the UN wanted to invite youth-led organizations into planning. They didn't progress until people came on board and were receptive to feedback throughout the process. There is a real commitment at this meeting to look for new ways to work together during these three days as well as into the future.”

– Alex Surace, Global Young Greens, Co-Chair, Sub-Working Group
C. PARTICIPANTS

The sub-working group decided that an open call should be made for participants. To be fully inclusive, criteria such as ECOSOC/DPI consultative status can be waived. Yet, to be meaningful, there has to be some limit on the number of participants. Funding should be made available to allow youth-led organizations to participate in person – particularly to represent those groups that are not usually represented - and meaningful avenues should be put in place to allow effective participation online. Efforts should be made to ensure that all age groups 10-24 are represented, along with regional, gender and other diversities taken into account.

The sub-working group developed a call for applications (ANNEX 4) that included as their eligibility criteria:

- Aged between 15-29 years
- Affiliated with, and endorsed by, a youth-led or youth-focused organization, network or movement
- Able to prepare for the meeting by reading relevant background materials
- Able to clearly demonstrate a multiplier effect of participating in the meeting
- Willing and able to continue engagement and participation after the meeting

Over 2000 applications were received out of which a total of 100 were selected by the sub-working group, which reviewed applications on a rolling-basis. Twenty participants were provided full scholarships that covered travel, accommodation and incidental expenses – sponsored by UNDP, UNFPA, UN Alliance of Civilizations and UN-DESA. 60 participants were provided accommodation – sponsored by the YMCA and UNFPA – and all participants were provided food during the meeting.

D. VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT

An online platform was set up on http://open.icpdyouth.org which has 3000+ registered users allowing participants to read background documents, view sessions online and participate via Twitter using #openmeeting #UN4Youth @UN4Youth. Despite some technical glitches, several participants were able to follow discussions and send their comments and questions.

“What is the UN is doing to integrate the voices of youth refugees?”

– Judith, Tanzania (via Twitter)

“In the process of developing the SWAP, we tried to make sure the language didn't exclude refugees and stateless people. As we roll out to regional levels and country levels, we will ensure that they remain on the agenda.”

– Petra Samways, UNRWA

E. ACCESSIBILITY

The meeting was organized in a location that was physically accessible to young people with disabilities. Simultaneous transcription (CART) and sign-language interpretation was provided throughout all sessions. The Africa Network of Youth with Disabilities, a member of the sub-working group, developed a Youth with Disabilities Equality Checklist (ANNEX 5) for this meeting, which was applied.
2. DELIVERING AS ONE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

A. THE THREE INITIATIVES

One of the main objectives of the Open Meeting was to introduce participants to the work done by the IANYD in supporting the three initiatives of the Secretary-General on working with and for young people, namely the System-Wide Action Plan on Youth (Youth-SWAP), the UN Youth Volunteer Programme and the SG’s Envoy on Youth. The rationale was partly to strengthen accountability – to report back since young people had been consulted in the process – but also to identify areas for partnerships between the United Nations system and youth-led organizations.

The System-Wide Action Plan on Youth was announced by the Secretary-General and developed as a response to requests from member states for greater coordination within the UN system.

“There were three main reasons for developing the Youth-SWAP: the need for the UN to be more responsive to young people’s issues; the need to develop a concrete action plan with clear targets, measures, and indicators to enhance coordination; and ultimately to improve results and impact on the ground.”

– Noëlla Richard, UNDP

To develop the Youth-SWAP, the IANYD started by conducting an online survey in all official UN languages in July-August 2012. Over 13,000 respondents from 186 countries participated in the survey. 27 UN entities actively participated and another 22 were consulted or provided input.

“If you take the Youth-SWAP in one hand and you take the survey results in the other and do a comparison, it is pretty easy to see that inputs from young people have formed the plan.”

– Elizabeth Niland, UN-DESA

The Youth-SWAP covers 5 main areas:

- Employment and entrepreneurship
- Protection of rights and civic engagement
- Political inclusion
- Education, including comprehensive sexuality education
- Health

For each thematic area, the Youth-SWAP includes one overarching goal, which represents the long-term objective to which the UN System should contribute in this area. Moreover, each thematic area consists of a set of commitments, measures that need to be achieved in order to meet these commitments, and indicators to monitor their implementation. At its spring

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session in April 2013, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination endorsed the Youth-SWAP as a framework to guide youth programming for the UN system.

“It is important for UN Resident Co-ordinators to be engaged in promoting joint programming which contributes to fulfilling the commitments in the Youth-SWAP and supporting the efforts of the IANYD in expanding interagency networks on youth at the country level. I write now to request your support to establish or strengthen interagency networks on youth at the country level, which may, inter alia, bring together a range of stakeholders including youth-led organizations; conduct assessments to understand the situation of young people; identify the most marginalized; and develop a multi-sectoral advocacy agenda to promote their human rights and development.”

– Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator, Letter to Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators dated 17 July 2013

The Youth-SWAP is currently being adapted to regional and country settings and acts as a framework for joint programming. The first report of the Youth-SWAP will be due in April 2014, following which there will be annual reports presented by the IANYD. The Youth-SWAP represents a commitment made by the United Nations system – and young people must be able to hold it accountable – but it is also a framework within which partnerships can be established for joint implementation, particularly at the country level.

“Normally plans come with a budget attached. Is this representing additional resources for young people in implementation? Or is it more of an arrangement of the regular budget already in place?”

– Romulo Dantas, YMCA

“We have a highly decentralized system. Our country offices work with government partners and NGOs locally and they come up with their own plans. The important role we play is to influence their thinking and give them guidance to put youth firmly on the agenda. Even where they have already formed the five-year plan, the UNDAF, the development plan at the country level, there is always room for youth-led organizations to approach any UN office on the ground and advocate for the priorities they should consider. It is true the Youth-SWAP doesn’t come with a budget but there is some thought going into how we can put together something that is meaningful. While you don’t see money at the global level, programmes have quite a bit of money at the country level.”

– Jamshed Kazi, UNDP

In feedback received after the meeting it became clear that there were still some lingering doubts as to how the Youth-SWAP related with the World Programme of Action on Youth (WPAY). There is a need to clarify that the Youth-SWAP does not (and cannot) replace the WPAY, but in fact it guides the UN system on how to better support member states in the implementation of the WPAY in five key priority areas.

“[The Youth-SWAP] provides strategic guidance to the UN system as a whole in its work on youth within the framework of the World Programme of Action for Youth.”

– Youth-SWAP Implementation Guidance
Another perception was that in the absence of a budget, the UN would try to report on existing programmes and the contributions of youth-led organizations instead. It should be clarified that reports on the Youth-SWAP will collect information on what the UN system does collectively (which will be highlighted as a priority), but also what is done by entities individually that contributes to the measures of the Youth-SWAP (which will give a fuller picture of what the United Nations system does as a whole for and with young people). It is expected that the first report in April 2014 will provide baseline information on activities that are undertaken by UN entities individually or jointly as a part of existing plans that contribute to achieving the measures or commitments in the Youth-SWAP. From April 2015 onwards, reports are likely to include more information on new joint initiatives planned as a result of the Youth-SWAP.

The Youth Volunteering Strategy developed by UN Volunteers is planned for 2014-2017. It aims to facilitate the access of youth in the volunteering activities around the world, focusing on global peace. It was developed through a multi-stakeholder process, beginning with a workshop in 2012 that brought together over 50 organizations and individuals that included UN entities, youth networks, NGOs, government bodies, academic institutions and independent experts.

The aim is to facilitate the engagement of youth in global peace and sustainable development through volunteering. This will bring the voices of youth into the development discourse and help young people realize their full potential. The principles that guide it are inclusion, diversity and learning.

The strategy has three outcomes:

1. To increase the recognition of the contribution of youth in global peace and sustainably development through volunteers and inclusion of youth voices in the development discourse. This is done through advocacy and research to demonstrate the value added of youth volunteers.

2. To strengthen the capacity of relevant stakeholders are support the environment for regional, national volunteering and sustainability development. This includes supporting countries to start their own national youth volunteer schemes, establishing standards and conducting trainings.

3. To increase and diversify opportunity for young people to contribute globally through the UN Youth Volunteer modality.

UN Volunteers is planning to set up a global youth consultative group that includes youth organizations and can advise on strategies for its implementation. There will also be a project board that includes youth-led organizations. It was clarified that only United Nations agencies can apply for UN volunteers but they can be placed in governments and organizations.

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A trust fund has been established and efforts are on-going for mobilizing resources. Germany has already contributed $1.5 million. UNV is putting in its own funding and also establishing partnerships with countries giving "fully funded youth volunteers" to UNV, by recruiting their own citizens to go abroad as volunteers.

As next steps in the implementation of this strategy, UNV is exploring ways to work with youth-led organizations in the monitoring and evaluation of the strategy, and preparing a policy note, formulating the conditions for the youth volunteer and a project document for the release of the resources available.

“The UNV program is part of the Youth-SWAP. The Secretary-General included in the SWAP as one of the measures. Since volunteers will contribute to the work of the UN, this means that some of the programs that will be implemented within the SWAP can call on UN Youth Volunteers If there are organizations in this room that are working in the area of youth volunteering, I would be interested to chat with you and see what you’re all doing and how we can work together.”

— Robert Toe, UN Volunteers

Following this discussion, it will be important to identify specific youth organizations that are interested in following the discussions on volunteering more clearly. A few organizations expressed an interest in joining the Youth Volunteering Sub-Group of the IANYD. They should be invited to join as members.

The Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, Ahmad Alhendawi, delivered a speech (ANNEX 6) in which he called on youth-led organizations to build a global movement. The UN system has made remarkable progress in the past year and will continue to increase political support for investing in young people, developing joint programmes and putting in place better coordination mechanisms at all levels. The UN has the capacity to set standards, to inspire with its universal values, to be a strong advocate and to amplify the voices of young people. With the new emphasis of prioritizing young people within the UN agenda, there is a need for young people to be strong and organized as well, so that we can achieve results globally.

“This meeting is important because it establishes a new tradition in the UN system: to bring young people together to partner with the system. We hope this will spill over to the intergovernmental processes too.”

— Ahmad Alhendawi, UN Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth

B. WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

In implementing the three initiatives, the meeting focused on partnership in relation to the Youth-SWAP. There were some apprehensions on whether it was worthwhile for youth-led organizations to invest time and effort in the Youth-SWAP.

“The Youth-SWAP is not “just another initiative”. It is different for a number of reasons. One, the Secretary-General has made it one of his top five priorities in his second term that will require all of the resources of the United Nations to fulfil. Second, the document builds on what young people have been saying. Thirdly, this document has now been endorsed by the entire global UN system and sent with instructions to every UN Resident Coordinator in the
world. Finally, we have the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth who has been talking to heads of state, governments, ministers, UN officials all over the world. All of these give us a momentum we feel has never existed before.”

– Prateek Awasthi, UNFPA Co-Chair IANYD

In discussion, participants noted that there was a need for a wide dissemination of the Youth-SWAP to make it available to young people around the world, since at this point, except for a limited number, young people in general are not aware of the existence of the Youth-SWAP. Youth organizations also need capacity-building on how to support the implementation and reporting of the Youth-SWAP, and engage with joint programmes at the country level. On reporting, it was also noted that if shadow reports are sought, there has to be a mechanism in place to provide feedback to those reports. There should be a system in place for mutual accountability.

Most youth organizations find the UN impenetrable. It is difficult to find avenues and visualize what kind of engagement is possible. That is something the UN and a lot of governments have been failing at. The content and how the interface works is just as important as the content. They think as long as you put some document up, young people should be able to educate themselves about it. No! You are going to lose them and make them apathetic and cynical. We need to make a platform that is intuitive and concise. Youth-friendly is a term I don’t usually like. Adults also like concise, brief, and fun to engage with materials. That is universal. We have been trying to do that.

– Samuel Diaz Fernandez, Youth Employment Programme

It became apparent in discussions that the main barrier preventing young people’s engagement with the UN was in fact communication. Even for surveys or consultations, the UN ends up reaching only a limited number of young people from the same networks. The field gets even narrower when it comes to partnerships for advocacy or implementations.

“When you talk about interacting with youth organizations, what they often forget is that it’s a give and take. As somebody who’s worked for different organizations, I am concerned about the money and knowledge I get. It boils down to whether I would go to the UN website or office while doing a project. In the end, some people are lucky enough to attend a UN event or read those documents. But for many people working on the ground, the UN doesn’t actually offer many things. I read the plan, and it says "youth organizations should advocate for the SWAP.” But why would I do that if the UN wasn’t giving me anything concrete? It very much depends on how the national and regional UN offices and the individuals who work there communicate with young people.”

- İrem Tümer, European Youth Parliament

One idea that emerged from discussions was to have a website which allowed young people who wanted to collaborate with the UN to be able to conduct an easy search based on country, region or thematic areas of the Youth-SWAP that would easily provide a list of UN focal points with contact information.
In break-out sessions focusing on each theme participants had interactive and informal discussion between the UN and youth-led organizations to develop a better understanding of each other’s programmes and priorities and exploring avenues for partnership between them within the framework of Youth-SWAP. Each session was co-moderated by one UN entity and one youth-organization. (ANNEX 7). A summary of the results and recommendations from each discussion are summarized here.

Employment and Entrepreneurship

- Create a knowledge-sharing platform that can bring together ideas of best practice, identifying organizations that could be leading implementation, etc.
- Conduct a mapping the key actors and key initiatives and looking at the role of universities and schools.
- Bring key actors into the room – including governments, the private sector and academia - to agree upon the way forward.
- Develop a communication strategy that is accessible.

Protection of rights and civic engagement

- Formulate “the human rights of youth” and identify common indicators on civic engagement.
- Youth-led organizations must be supported to integrate the Youth-SWAP into their work and developing common indicators for objectives. Information being made available on Youth-SWAP.
- The UN should act as a facilitator in the dialogue between governments and youth organizations.
- UN structures, mechanisms and processes on youth are strong at the global level, but they are yet to be translated in regional and national level.

Political inclusion

- There should be a greater focus on young people participating in the electoral and parliamentary processes, public administration and local governance, including through capacity building of young people.
- There needs to be capacity-building - within formal education systems but also by youth-led organizations. For this to happen, the next step could be to have an inter-youth-led organization youth network be national, regional or global to work on disseminating the information.
- Youth need to convince the governments to make real commitments to engage in policy making. The solution would be capacity building within formal education, on how to communicate and interact with the government.
- A SWAP index should be created that compares the implementation at local level, through national youth councils – between countries and regions.
• Some countries don’t have national youth councils – and setting up such structures should be a priority.

• Lessons should be drawn from the experience of the Advisory Council on Youth in the Council of Europe, where a close relationship has been created between youth and governments, resulting in real youth participation in the decision making process; the Youth Cabinet in Venezuela, where the policies have a youth perspective; the Democratic Revolution Party PRD in Mexico, where one of every five candidates is under 30.

**Education including comprehensive sexual education**

• Access to education should be on the agenda, specifically for people with disabilities. Curriculums should be ready to meet the needs of youth, especially youth with disabilities, based on the things they need and what they would like to learn about.

• Education through different platforms, including formal education, non-formal education, and online education are important. Young people can benefit from this virtual network and transferring different information to young people.

• Organizations agreed to establish and contribute to learning through experience and having inter-cultural exchanges between youth organizations.

**Health**

• A partnership was identified between youth led organizations and WHO, for a collaboration in contributing to the World Adolescent Health Report and drafting the new World Health Assembly Resolution in the year to come.

• The UN should suggest to governments to open a space for youth led organizations consultancy and also by offering opportunities of education in advocacy.

• UN act as a mediator between YLOs and governments

• Some points looked at the opportunities to work and collaborate with the UN system.

• We looked at putting people into contact with NCDs. Also mental health and putting people in touch with UNDESA.

• Much data is available with the UN but needs to be made accessible to youth organizations and the UN system can better work on that.

The break-out sessions provided a forum for youth organizations to learn about the details of the Youth-SWAP and many partnerships emerged from those discussions.

“We talked about four or five organizations interested in coming together on SRHR education. IPPF is doing this assessment, and UNFPA and Dance for Life are thinking of working together to make this assessment effective.”

— Chernor Bah, Moderator of the Education Break-Out Session

Several recommendations were directed at the UN and will be taken on by the IANYD as follow-up. Yet, when it came to partnerships it was clear that there was a need to set up better communications systems, establish a sustainable structure for participation – which includes
modifying guidelines, rules and regulations that currently prevent youth organizations from partnering with the UN, and strengthen the capacities of youth-led organizations through financial and technical support.

C. CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES

In World Cafés, participants were invited to look at the Youth-SWAP as a whole and address certain cross-cutting issues. The purpose of this session was to ensure that programmes that implement the Youth-SWAP reach the most marginalized and to think about ways to effectively monitor and report on the SWAP. The format of a World Café was chosen to foster an environment that facilitates natural conversations to share ideas in a relaxed, informal and creative atmosphere. Each World Café was co-facilitated by one UN staff person and one representative of youth-led organizations. (ANNEX 8). The main recommendations from the World Cafés summarized here were directed towards strengthening the "Implementation Guidance for the Youth-SWAP".

GENDER

Young women and girls often face double discrimination, as a consequence of being both young and female. The group identified several key concerns that the Youth SWAP needs to address throughout its implementation in order to ensure it takes into account the diverse forms of discrimination that young women and girls encounter.

1.) Existing and prevalent social norms and perceptions are key factors that can either hinder the development of young women and girls, or that can create key opportunities to eliminate discrimination. Analyzing the specific cultural and social norms prevalent in the designated implementation country or region can go a long way in ensuring the very design of the programme responds to the needs of its intended beneficiaries. Programmes that do not take into account the prevailing social norms otherwise risk not reaching young women and girls. For instance, programmes focused on education may need to take into account the gender of teachers, the safety of the location where the activities are to take place and safe transport options for young women and girls.

2.) The analysis of context must go beyond an analysis of social and cultural norms. It must also look at the country-specific situation: whether it is a long-standing democracy or whether on the other hand it is emerging from conflict. The situational context will be important in designing programmes that take into account the particular risks and needs young women and girls face.

3.) The results of the preliminary contextual analysis might point at the need of designing initiatives that target young women and girls specifically. When necessary, differentiated programming can be an effective way of ensuring young women and girls benefit from the implementation of programming activities to contribute to youth development. A dual approach is recommended: gender sensitive implementation must take place in all areas and in all activities of the SWAP, but there must also be targeted initiatives that specifically target the needs to young women and girls.
The importance of having sex-disaggregated statistics and reporting mechanisms for both quantitative and qualitative indicators was highlighted as a fundamental necessity in the implementation of the SWAP.

**INDIGENOUS ISSUES**

The major challenge regarding indigenous youth being included in the SWAP remains how to go beyond lumping indigenous youth into the “usual” category of marginalized or disadvantaged groups and one way to do that is to introduce thematically issues that are of importance to indigenous youth, but would benefit more than just indigenous youth.

This is why we emphasized the element of intercultural education and intercultural health care. This implies that education is provided in a language in a native language to the students, and that it is relevant to their realities, that it allows them opportunities to work and function not only in the dominant society but also in their own communities, where they can practice their own traditional livelihoods. The concept of interculturality fit with an emphasis on substance. That is to say that providing education to all is not enough. The quality of education must also be of a high or at least adequate standard, and an important element of the issue of quality is relevance - that the education provided to children and youth must be relevant to their realities, their cultures, their linguistic background etc.

The concept of intercultural healthcare is equally important and is absolutely essential for the provision of sexual and reproductive healthcare as well as in other cases, of course. An intercultural health system typically provides healthcare that is based on the western form of healthcare as well as other traditional forms of healthcare. Interculturality not only shows respect for non-western health care systems but it provides them with adequate human and financial resources, so in practice healthcare centers provide services that take advantage of both western/dominant forms of healthcare as well as traditional knowledge, medicinal plants and methods. Such a healthcare strategy would be based on an understanding of health that is not only based on physical and mental health and well-being but also on a spiritual element as well as a harmonious coexistence with nature.

We also discussed other issues, including self-determination (which by the way is important in the context of both education and health care). The group also discussed the importance of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as well as ILO convention 169 and in that regard, it is important that the ILO coordinate its efforts on youth with its efforts to promote the implementation of Convention 169.

**KEY POPULATIONS**

The term Key Affected Population: in the context of the Youth SWAP it should refer to as “Youth Marginalized Group” so that it does not only capture key affected population which is usually used in the context of HIV and SRHR which includes sex workers, transgender, men who have sex with men, injecting drug users. The term “Youth Marginalized Group” will include the groups mentioned above including other marginalized groups such as young people with disabilities, young migrants, LGBTIQ etc. As the Youth SWAP does not only reflect young people in SRHR issues but broader young people issues in other social and development issues.
“Youth Marginalized Groups” should be specifically mentioned and included in the five key areas of the Youth SWAP i.e. in Employment and Entrepreneurship, Protection of Rights and Civic Engagement, Political Inclusion, Education Including on Sexuality and Health. It was felt that was very important as sometimes these groups are often left out in key programming for young people. By including “Youth Marginalized Groups” in the SWAP it will also ensure that issues and programming relating to Marginalized Groups is cross cutting.

An accountability mechanism to be in place to measure implementation of the Youth SWAP specifically for “Youth Marginalized Population”. This mechanism could be parallel to the recommendations generated by the Shadow Reporting Group.

**DISABILITY**

The population of the young persons with disabilities is between 180 to 220 million worldwide and it is increasing because of various factors like climate change, disasters, malnutrition, etc. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities should be considered in the implementation of UN SWAP. The three main issues that emerged from the Disability Rights Cafe are;

- Partnership with organizations of young persons with disabilities and organizations for young persons with disabilities and disabled persons' organizations in terms of delivering programs:
- Accessibility; Physical accessibility in terms of buildings and reasonable accommodation.
- Access to information through sign language interpretation or CART or visual accommodation.
- Youth with disabilities participation checklist; Indicators to see whether young persons with disabilities are benefited in the activities. There is a checklist developed (ANNEX 5) that should be referred to.

Advisory group should include representatives of all marginalized categories, including indigenous persons, persons with disabilities, etc. We can see young persons with disabilities in the decision making process and in the board rooms.

**MEASURING PROGRESS AND DEMONSTRATING IMPACT**

People feel that things are getting better on the ground. Rather than just giving statistics – young people are linking it to a narrative telling their stories on the ground and in the projects that they’re taking part in.

Many of those things could be captured through an online portal hosted by the UN but populated by youth organizations. They can also be captured through shadow reports – but we need to make sure there is some feedback or response to shadow reports – and that there is some support for follow up from the UN system.

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

It is important to strengthen youth participation in human rights mechanisms.

There is a need for a legal standard on the rights of young people – perhaps a Convention for Youth. There are difficulties due to the definition of youth, age, and considering different rights for young adolescents and older youth.
The right to vote for political participation and the right to education. It is also a matter of accountability. Perhaps using existing mechanisms on human rights could be used. Different mechanisms such as shadow reports go back to accountability. It also becomes complicated when you add other elements in the youth discussion such as future rights.

There is the element of intergenerational solidarity between the youths and the older population. There is the point of inequality in society itself as well as different countries being developed and developing – and within countries, there are marginalized youth populations.

**URBANIZATION AND LAND ISSUES**

Young people should be engaged in policymaking and decision making in land governance.

Raising awareness and availability of information should be a priority. Most young people have no access to information regarding land governance or land management.

There should be a focus on developing youth networks. The young people living in city areas need to be in a single forum to talk to the government about policy reform.

Young people may find economic empowerment through agriculture given lack of lack of opportunities in the rural areas and over-crowding in cities.

“It's a question for Babatunde Osotimehin. We have two more days together or one and a half more days together. What do you think we should be trying to achieve with that? Do you have any questions you would like us to answer? Do you have any priorities that we should have in mind?”

– Hannah Smith, Restless Development

“That is precisely what I am not going to do. I think what is important is what you want and how you think we can be of help. That has always been my position. Of course, I can stand up here and say this and that, but that's not important. What is important is what exactly do you want and how do you want us to engage? I can assure you we will listen.”

– Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director, UNFPA

Following the discussions in World Café’s, there was a strong sentiment of support towards working to support the Youth-SWAP, recognizing that it addressed many of the multifaceted concerns of young people, but also conscious that specific focus has to be on targeted programmes that address the specific realities of marginalized young people. As a next step, the results of the World Café discussions will be incorporated into the Implementation Guidance for the Youth-SWAP by the IANYD.

“The highlight for me is that UN agencies are trying to implement this System-Wide Action Plan with the input of young people. That's a step forward for all of us that work in youth development. It's important that as youth organizations, we give good inputs to implement the Youth-SWAP properly.”

– Christopher Dekki, Pax Romana
III. MAKING PARTICIPATION SUSTAINABLE

The objective of this discussion was to think about the UN and youth-led organizations can interact more sustainably – at the global level but also regionally and in countries – and how to link the mechanisms for participation at the political level to programming – within the framework of the Youth-SWAP and beyond. The discussion began with an overview of some existing mechanisms for youth participation in the UN system.

Organizing partners from the Major Group on Children and Youth (MGCY) described their work as a constituency made up of national youth-led organizations and individuals who want to engage with the UN. They try to ensure governments and decision makers are aware of issues impacting young people everywhere in the world – focusing on those issues that need to be lobbied for at a UN level. At a regional level, the MGCY tries to make information accessible and engage with the regional groups and influence the policy making at that level and take part in consultations and processes in their governments of that region. At the national level, the MGCY builds information, skills and capacities of youth participants, organizes consultations and provides support to involve local organizations in sustainable development.

“Our role is to hold governments accountable and to keep transparency. We are a handful of very active youth. The big challenge is to make sure we remain open and inclusive. We don't want to be gatekeepers. We want everyone to contribute.”

– Saba Loftus, Major Group on Children and Youth

The Youth Delegate Programme brings young people to the General Assembly and the commission such as the Commission for Social Development and other high-level governmental meetings as a part of their government delegations. There are somewhere between 27-30 countries participating in the programme. A lot of people have been active in lobbying their countries to include young people in their delegation. The selection process for the Youth Delegate Program varies from country to country. Some countries work with their national youth council in identifying delegates and it can be a highly competitive process. However, what actual role delegates play in negotiations and decision-making varies from country to country.

“We are involved in the Youth Delegate Program. We have to be frank. Both are not adequate. They are both woefully inadequate in terms of participation. It's tokenistic in the major group. They are not mainstreamed in the negotiations to a full extent.”

– Lloyd Russell Moyle, European Youth Forum

An interesting discussion also pointed out that a limitation of the existing structure was that there was no formal avenue for youth participation in the area of peace and security. There is reluctance from member states to discuss youth when discussing peace and security because young people are perceived as troublemakers. There is a lot of space to strategize how to engage with the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. A great challenge is in reaching out to the young people who live in conflict affected states and humanitarian settings
with structural issues and lack of access. How do we bring these voices into the discussions on peace and security so young people are seen as agents of peace and not a threat?

Looking forward, there was strong support for the idea of a Permanent Forum on Youth. This discussion was inspired by the “Youth 21” report of UN-HABITAT, which called for its establishment. The objective would be to have an intergenerational platform to bring both youth-led organizations and other stakeholders like academia, media, private sector, to bring this discussion together at a global level. This recommendation in the report aims to create bottom-up processes from the national level, through the regional level, to the global level. Yet, there were many questions that needed to be discussed. Which body should such a forum report to? Will its outcomes be presented to the General Assembly, the Third Committee, the Security Council or the Human Rights Council? Could a forum move from one region to another rather than being based in New York? Could it have an online component?

“We had an internal discussion that the permanent forum on youth would be similar to the indigenous people forum. That is already a precedent in the UN. You have our support. The Europeans are working to achieve this.”

— Peter Majastic, President, European Youth Forum

The SG’s Envoy on Youth, Ahmad Alhendawi, reaffirmed his support for the creation of structured mechanisms for youth participation in the UN. He highlighted the announcement made by the Secretary-General on August 5th that the UN will work to establish coordination mechanisms at all levels starting with the youth advisory boards at the national level, regional forums with youth, etc. At the national level, the UN is targeting 15 countries this year in which coordination mechanisms will be set up between the UN agencies with 15 Youth Advisory Boards at the national level.

“Tell us how this should work. What are the quality criteria? What do we do with youth councils? Should we find another way? How do we ensure it is inclusive?”

— Ahmad Alhendawi, SG’s Envoy on Youth

The importance of communication in promoting participation was clearly pointed out.

“Since yesterday we have been told that youth organizations should talk to the UN. I have been thinking about how this can be done. Where do we have the contacts and UN focal points working with Youth-SWAP? Do you have a website with that information? When we walk up to the country offices, how do they engage with youth organizations? One thing to come out of this meeting should be guidelines to country offices and what to do. Those are easy things done with a minimal budget.”

— İrem Tümer, European Youth Parliament

It was observed that on issues of participation, youth organizations have become accustomed to having extremely low expectations. There is some progress made in being able to advise or influence how the UN organizations and programs work – through advisory panels or youth forums. But considering that the UN is playing a smaller role compared to other big bilateral and multi-literal programs in the world, this is not enough. From a political perspective, the interest expressed is in the UN being a forum that connects young people to national decision
making processes on policies, programmes, budgets and governance. This should be borne in mind while developing any mechanism for youth participation.

“How to make youth participation sustainable in the UN is simple. It cannot be on an ad hoc basis. One way to do that easily is that SWAP has to be mainstreamed at the regional and national level. We’re tired of running around corridors to force ourselves in meetings. The second step is we have to go home and go into politics where decisions are made in the national parliament and make our voices heard. Last but not least, I think this whole process of the Inter-Agency Network should go towards having a specialized UN youth organization. If not, it will continue to be an ad hoc business. UNWOMEN have been fighting for that for 30 years. They got it. We have organizations for many groups. This one needs to happen, too. I am passionate about this. Let’s push it forward!”

– Ibrahim Ceesay, African Youth Panel

Following this discussion, participants formed working groups to develop concrete recommendations on each area that was highlighted from plenary discussions. These areas included: the Permanent Forum on Youth, Youth Advisory Board, Communications, Selection Criteria for Youth Representatives, WPAY Monitoring Mechanisms and Shadow Reports. These recommendations, summarized below, were submitted to the IANYD for discussion in its upcoming meetings to determine how they can be implemented.
A. PERMANENT FORUM ON YOUTH

MANDATE
1. To be a representative body of youth, promoting youth advocacy and youth empowerment
2. Permanent Youth Forum to be the focal point for UN agencies to work with youth
3. Permanent Youth Forum has an advisory role to the UN and member states: young people have access to consultation and decision making processes, especially in intergenerational decisions
4. Monitoring progress and implementation; report and evaluate the supporting documents which seek to promote youth development, such as Youth SWAP, on national, regional,
5. To influence policy affecting young people
6. To promote capacity building of young people: of youth delegates to the UN GA; as well as young people’s participation in decision making and civic on national and regional level
7. To work with all stakeholders, such as governments, UN agencies, civil society in promoting the youth development agenda
8. To network and integrate young people, promoting inclusion and cultural diversity (work with indigenous people, key affected populations, youth with disabilities, LGBTQI, and other underrepresented and marginalized groups)
9. To promote and protect the rights and interest of young people

STRUCTURE
10. To endorse the Youth 21 Report 2 (see Annex 1) structure adding representation to Human Rights and Security Council (in existing UN GA, ECOSOC)
11. Should promote gender balance, inclusion, democracy.

NEXT STEPS
1. To establish a permanent working group that will:
   a. explore communication and strategy (social media campaign - petition, mailing group, define subcommittees)
   b. outreach and consultation with other youth organization to support the establishment of the permanent youth forum (starting with ICMYO
   c. Systematic strategy approach to get member governments to support the idea (Third Committee, Commonwealth heads of governments meeting, World Youth Conference)
2. Establishing a legal framework for the Permanent Youth Forum (constitution, handbook, ToR)
3. Working with the international steering committee of the WYC to reinforce the idea of establishment of the Permanent Youth Forum
4. Create a strategic action plan for the establishment of the Permanent Youth Forum
**B. YOUTH ADVISORY BOARDS**

This working group brainstormed on the creation of UN Youth Advisory Boards, specifically focused on the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SWAP programme at two levels:

1. **Geographic (global/HQ, regional and national offices);**
2. **Agency (Inter-Agency and independent agency level).** It is noted that some UN Agencies already have Youth Advisory Boards.

Given the current time limitation, the group focused on discussing the creation of a Youth Advisory Board at the Inter-Agency level. This Advisory Board will however aim to ensure that every UN agency/body have their own Youth Advisory Boards (if they don’t have it already).

**Structure of the Inter-Agency Youth Advisory Board**

- Two representatives per region [for example using the UN regions – Asia Pacific, Caribbean, East & Southern Africa, Eastern Europe & Central Asia, Latin America, Middle East & North Africa, North America & Western Europe, West & Central Africa]. This is flexible and should take into account specific regions such as Small Island Developing States.
- Two representatives of NGO’s that represent minority groups [for example Indigenous groups, Disabled, etc.]
- The composition of the Board should have gender parity
- Include representatives of existing UN Youth Advisory Boards.

**Mandate of the Inter-Agency Youth Advisory Board**

- Two-year mandate, preferably elected by young people during some sort of General Assembly.
- Rotations – 50% of the Advisory Board stays (staggered rotations to ensure continuity in working towards goals and to facilitate forward debate)
- To advise on the inter-agency network and the envoy, with special emphasis on the SWAP program.
- To support the Youth Envoy upon their mandates
- Facilitate youth involvement at all levels [vital]
- Accountability to UN Envoy and vice versa
- Establish connections with existing UN Youth Advisory Boards.

**Guiding Principles / Selection Process**

- Priority is to review existing structures and mechanisms of existing youth advisory boards and selection criteria / process – creation of a taskforce to do the mapping.
- 1 year research period to investigate on regional needs, active organisations, etc.
- Less Bureaucratic – balance between young people who might not necessarily be affiliated to major youth-led organisations (but are still well connected and active in their regions), and between youth representatives of youth-led organisations.
- Making the Advisory Board accessible to minority groups and young people with
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language barriers, physical and mental disability, etc.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Breaking Down Barriers to engage with UN and its mandates</td>
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<tr>
<td>- The selection board could also include external specialists.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Some criteria for youth advisory board: stable internet connection, English speaker, at least 80% (?) responsiveness to emails (national advisory boards can take up of representing young people who speak other languages)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Have a Secretariat to the youth advisory board / a Resource Person at the UN to act as liaison and ensure follow up.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**UN mandate / responsibility**

| - Clear level of what the influence and power of the advisory board is in terms of activities, policies, monitoring and evaluation |
| - Interference of UN should be limited |
| - Commitment of UN to be flexible to young people schedules |
| - Funding to support the Youth Advisory Board. |

**Conclusion**

| - Priority is to review existing structures and mechanisms of existing youth advisory boards and selection criteria / process – creating of taskforce to do the mapping – creation of a youth advisory around the envoy. |
| - 1 year research period to investigate on regional needs, organisations, etc. |
| - We want the youth participants to be involved in the follow-up of the above recommendations, potentially through nomination of a Lead Person. |
C. COMMUNICATION

Problems that we identified:

- A clear key message that should come out of the Youth-SWAP, that targets youth organizations/networks etc. does not exist.

Concrete suggestion: Volunteers from the open meeting should work with the communications sub-group in the upcoming months to create a communication strategy and a clear website that is integrated with other social platforms.

Website:

There should be a single website where all the youth-related information of UN is presented in a user-friendly and simple manner. This will be a hub that redirects youth to relevant webpages of UN entities through links. We are not trying to gather already-existing information in one page.

This is a website that will put the message out there. (With the Inter-Agency Network, UN is prioritizing working with youth. Now is the time to work with the UN.?)

Instead of containing a lot of information, this will simply map out UN’s work and direct to other websites etc.

Homepage:

We don’t want big words, we want clear key messages.

Did you know that for the first time ever the United Nations system has a common plan to work with and for youth? Youth have been consulted in developing the plan and youth now should be full partners in the implementation. The United Nations’ main coordination mechanism on youth development, the UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (which includes 40 entities within the United Nations system) will organize a joint meeting with young people to share progress and identify opportunities for youth participation in implementing this ambitious plan.

‘For the first time, the United Nations system has a common plan to work with and for youth. Be part of it.’

Links:

- Get more information about the Youth-SWAP
- Meet Ahmad, the Youth-Envoy
- Get Involved (Links to opportunities for youth, could also link to the volunteer programme)

On the homepage, have the twitter feed, Instagram feed, calendar, like etc. social buttons.
1) Content:
* First priority is to connect interested youth to the UN, therefore the Contact page, and the search that will direct to a person.
* However you search, you should get to a person instead of a general institution e-mail address.
* Secondary priorities would be further assistance like the Resource Centre and other features.
* Third priority would be to connect interested youth on a common platform. (See the next steps section for this.)
  - **UN Entities Scope of Work on Youth**

What do we have?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UN Entities Scope of Work</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF: The United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNODC: Alliance of Civilizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Suggestion: To the top of the page, have a simple search with simple criteria:
- e.g. Women Issues/ MENA/ Go:
  - UNWOMEN, UNAIDS etc.

For the Inter-Agency Network, instead of listing the agencies that are involved, have their logos+ create a map that visualizes their working areas if possible.
  - **UN Programmes on Youth**

What do we have?
Suggestion: Update it so that (at least the agencies that are part of the Inter-Agency Network) present their programmes in the following format:

- What is being done?
- How can youth take part/follow?
- Contact information (e.g. UNFPA website)

For this, a template for the agencies etc. to fill in could be sent with an official letter by Ahmed.

- Opportunities for Youth

What do we have?

Suggestion: These should be organized in a calendar format, that is also shown on the homepage of the website.

Example:
How to Increase Traffic on the Website?

We think that the priority should be to reach other youth-led organizations that are not informed about the UN.

For this,

The website should be search-engine optimized.

Ideally, it should come up on searches like: ‘youth organization toolkit.’ ‘civic engagement youth’ ‘political inclusion youth’ (in other words, the Youth-SWAP priority areas.)

Suggestion:

Having a resource center with toolkits for youth organizations. This could feed from documents prepared by organizations that UN already works with. For example, Y-Peer, the Women Deliver documents that are part of the 100 Young Leaders Prep Programme.

Contact Us:

A clear list of contact information for Inter-Agency Network focal points at the country-level should be made available here.

Explore:

A brief gallery with thumbnails of different UN agency websites for further exploration.
Further Development:
With time, interactive elements like web-chat could be introduced.
Some sort of notification board where all organizations could post their events/projects could be built. Until then, a well-functioning FB page could serve as a platform bringing together these organizations and interested individuals.

2) Properties:
- Mobile Version should be made available.
- Should be available in different languages. (This is where the organizations at this meeting could perhaps step in.)
- Should be accessible to people with disabilities.

4) Social Media and Other Platforms
D. SELECTION CRITERIA FOR YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

1) Youth should be involved in the selection process

2) Candidates should be involved in an organization, network or movement in order to be able to follow up within local, national and international networks

3) Young people should be engaged not just as tokens, but in full representation of their size and diversity.

4) The systems established should acknowledge and actively confront privilege

To facilitate this process and to ensure it can be inclusive, equitable and open, we request that the UN and Youth Envoy undertake a transparent mapping and registry of youth issues, outside and parallel to ECOSOC status, to be facilitated through a mapping of youth orgs and networks, movements and councils via Regional and National forums. This process should be conducted in concert with UN agency field offices, youth platforms, networks and councils who have these thematic contacts already.

Part of this process should include the creation of toolkits and support about existing application to the least privileged organizations. Criteria should also involve take into account previously existing criteria for other meetings, and synthesize the best ideas into a cohesive set of criteria.

There are special considerations at play in environments where youth organizing is persecuted and there is a need to differentiate between representatives of an organization and subject matter experts within a field.

We expect the Inter Agency Network to:

- Fulfil their commitment to transparency by making available their membership details and contacts, and establish clear and transparent youth contacts at all levels of the UN.

- To develop with youth here and otherwise guidelines and toolkits on UN mechanisms designed to support youth organisations to better navigate the UN system

- To follow the guidelines we have outlined above in their work

- To support the work of youth organisations which are already engaged on the thematic areas of the SWAP and the SWAP mechanism and avoid duplication or replication of efforts

- To develop new methodologies and mechanisms of partnership with young people and youth organisations which challenge existing structures of privilege
E. WPAY MONITORING MECHANISMS

The World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) should be at the center of the IANYD’s youth development activities. As a result, it is critical that the WPAY is enshrined as the core of the work of the IANYD at the global, regional, and local level. It is the IANYD, in collaboration with youth-led organizations that should be the primary entity that promotes the effective implementation and monitoring of WPAY.

- The IANYD should form a subcommittee to carry out the following the tasks.
- Youth-led organisations should be permanently integrated into the works of the IANYD at all levels in regards to the implementation and monitoring of the WPAY.
- The IANYD should monitor and hold accountable the entities mandated to oversee the implementation of WPAY.
- IANYD should ensure the development of indicators for the remaining priority areas of the WPAY.
- The IANYD should use as a model the recently released Commonwealth Youth Development Index as a starting point for the measurement and reporting of the implementation of the WPAY.
- Establish regional and national mechanisms for the monitoring of the WPAY work of the IANYD
  - Having the appointment of regional and national youth focal points
  - Include national and regional youth councils/platforms at the meetings of the IANYD.
  - Encouraging better coordination among governmental bodies, for instance foreign affairs and youth ministries/secretaries.
- IANYD assess the implementation of the WPAY to be done by member states.
  - Encourage more member states to report on progress.
  - Encourage more civil society youth to produce their reports.
- Secretariat to provide adequate framework to support Member States and civil society to do their monitoring. This framework should harmonise all priorities, goals, targets and indicators relating to the WPAY.
- Adequate resources should be allocated for the work of the Inter-Agency at national and regional levels.
F. SHADOW REPORTS

What is our goal?

To hold governments and the UN accountable for the "lack" of progress or "difficulties" in the implementation of the Youth SWAP.

Why do we want this?

Shadow Reports can be a relevant mechanism, if used correctly, to hold governments accountable and to measure the progress of any given country in specific fields. The Human Rights System relies on shadow reporting to get the real picture of the situation on-the-ground. However, for shadow reports to work efficiently, mechanisms have to be put in place to channel concerns. It is mandatory for Shadow Reports to be published and accessible to everyone.

How will we contribute?

The concrete mechanisms to channel shadow reports are:

1. Link Shadow Reports Section to the Communications section. A shadow reports section should be included in any communications initiatives related to the Youth SWAP (webpage, social media, printed material, etc.)
2. Enhance mechanisms for shadow reports to actively taken into account. A yearly report of the totality of shadow reports received from around the world should be drafted and published.
3. Include guidelines on how to draft shadow reports. To avoid the psychological aversion that might arise to the idea of shadow reporting, different wording can be used. Instead of "shadow reports", the section can be called "tell us what is happening in your country in youth development". An online form with several fields (what is going in health? what is going on in employment? what is going on in education?) can be created for online users to fill out.
4. Promote shadow reporting actively. Youth Networks and Youth Organizations should actively promote shadow reporting.
5. Create a reception point within the UN system and youth organizations at the national level. A UN Focal Point and a youth organization at the national level should be the reception points to analyze the data and draft a national report. This report should be sent to the UN and the network of youth organizations that belong to the IANYD. A world report, drafted by Youth Organizations and the UN, should originate from the national reports.
6. Who is this for? Youth Organizations and the UN should be responsible of drafting, channeling and publishing shadow reports.
III. CONCLUSIONS

A. NEXT STEPS

1. The IANYD will incorporate the outcomes of the World Café as recommendations to strengthen the Guidance to Implement the System-Wide Action Plan on Youth.

2. The IANYD will review the recommendations of the Working Group at its next meeting and will determine how to take steps to implement them.

3. The IANYD will take into account recommendations on communications while developing the website for the Youth-SWAP – and invite 2-3 members to join its communications sub-working group.

4. The SG’s Envoy on Youth will invite five representatives of youth-led organizations to join a media advisory group.

5. The SG’s Envoy on Youth will take recommendations developed to inform his advocacy on youth advisory panels.

6. Youth organizations will set up a working group to advocate for a Permanent Forum on Youth. The IANYD will offer technical support as may be requested.

7. Youth organizations will submit names for proposed inclusion in sub-working groups of the IANYD. The moderators of the break-out sessions are primary contacts for each Youth-SWAP sub-working group.

8. The sub-working group to organize the open meeting will organize a phone call one month after the open meeting to review any follow up actions.

9. The IANYD will publish on its website a list of its members.

10. The IANYD will develop guidance for UN country offices on how to engage with youth-led organizations.

11. The IANYD will circulate a report and a participant’s list for this meeting.

12. An open interaction with youth-led organizations should become a regular part of IANYD meetings.

“We are looking forward to the next concrete steps that we agreed upon. This is going to determine how fruitful the meeting really was.”

— Aimee Ghanem, Centre Universitaire de Santé Familiale, Lebanon
ANNEX 1

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF SUB-WORKING GROUP TO ORGANIZE OPEN MEETING

OBJECTIVE

The sub-group will plan and lead the organization of the open meeting of the IANYD with young people tentatively to take place in September 2013 in New York following on the decision taken at the Annual Meeting of the IANYD.

MEMBERSHIP

The sub-group includes the Alliance of Civilizations (UN-AOC), UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and UN Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT). In the first meeting of the sub-group, it was decided that youth-led organizations and networks would be invited to be a part of this sub-group from the initial stages. It was agreed that organizations invited to be members of the sub-working group would include major platforms as well as dedicated networks representing marginalized groups. Therefore, the Major Group on Children and Youth (MGCY), the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) representing and consulting with the International Coordinating Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO), the Indigenous Youth Caucus (IYC), the African Network of Youth with Disabilities (ANYD), the Youth Peer Education Network (YPEER) were invited to be members of this sub-working group.

METHODS OF WORKING

UNFPA is co-chairing the sub-working group. A co-chair may be chosen from amongst youth-led networks at its first meeting. The working group will work in English through email or teleconferences. Arrangements will be made to ensure that this does not present a barrier to participation for any members.

TERM

The sub-working group established in June 2013 will be dissolved following the Open Meeting in September 2013, unless otherwise agreed.

VOLUNTARY NON-REMUNERATED

Membership in the sub-working group is voluntary and non-remunerated.

REPORTING

The sub-working group will keep a record of its proceedings and report regularly to the IANYD.
AGENDA OF THE MEETING

The objectives of this meeting are to:

1. **Establish an open dialogue between the IANYD and young people,**
2. **Share progress made in implementing the priorities of the Secretary-General on working with and for young people,**
3. **Identify concrete proposals for partnerships between youth-led organizations, networks and movements and United Nations entities implementing the System-Wide Action Plan on Youth,**
4. **Establish mechanisms for accountability, increased participation and to ensure that programmes reach the most marginalized.**

WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2013

*Orange Café, UNFPA Headquarters, 605 Third Avenue, New York*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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</table>
| 9:00-10:00 | **WELCOME**  
Daniela Bas, UN-DESA and Laura Laski, UNFPA |
| 10:00-11:30 | **INTRODUCTION**  
Nicola Shepherd, UN-DESA and Prateek Awasthi, UNFPA  
Alex Surace, Global Young Greens/ICMYO  
This session will introduce the two co-chairs, the SG’s Envoy and participants and reflect on the context of this meeting, set out expectations and identify priorities. |
| 10:00-11:30 | **OPENING REMARKS**  
Ahmad Alhendawi, UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth  
**DELIVERING AS ONE FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE**  
“The UN System-Wide Action Plan on Youth (Youth-SWAP)” – Noëlla Richard, UNDP  
“The UN Youth Volunteer Strategy” – UNV  
Moderated by Alex Surace, Global Young Greens  
This session will introduce the three initiatives of the Secretary-General on youth and how the United Nations is working together to implement them effectively in countries through short presentations. |
| 11:45-1:00 | **WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH YOUNG PEOPLE**  
“Youth participation in the Youth-SWAP” – Elizabeth Niland, UN-DESA |
**“How young people engage with the Youth-SWAP” – Samuel Diaz Fernandez, Irem Tumer, Karuna Rana, Chernor Bah and Mike Kalmus Eliasz**

Moderated by Moritz Weigel, UNFCCC

This session will seek to identify opportunities for engaging young people in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Youth-SWAP from the perspectives of the UN and youth-led organizations. It will be in a “talk-show” format.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>1:00-2:00</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00-3:30</td>
<td>BREAK OUT SESSION: AVENUES FOR PARTNERSHIPS</td>
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In this session, participants will have a discussion with UN entities working on each thematic area to identify one concrete proposal for each thematic area of the Youth-SWAP for partnership between youth-led organizations and the UN.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment and Entrepreneurship</th>
<th>Protection of Rights and Civic Engagement</th>
<th>Political Inclusion</th>
<th>Education Incl. on Sexuality</th>
<th>Health</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNDP, UNODC, ILO and Samuel Diaz Fernandez, Colombia, YMCA</td>
<td>UNDP, UN-HABITAT, UNESCO, OHCHR, and Irem Tumer, European Youth Parliament, Turkey</td>
<td>UNDP, UN-WOMEN, and Karuna Rana, One Young World</td>
<td>UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA, Chernor Bah, Education First Steering Committee</td>
<td>UNFPA and Mike Kalmus Eliasz, IFMSA</td>
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<tr>
<th>3:30-5:00</th>
<th>WORLD CAFÉ</th>
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</table>

GENDER: Muriel Kahane, UN-WOMEN and Michelle Lopez Alvarez, WAGGGS

INDIGENOUS: Broddi Sigurdarson, UNPFII and Lorena Terrazas, Center of Indigenous Women of La Paz

KEY POPULATIONS: Sevuloni Ratu, Y-PEER

DISABILITY: James Aniyamuzala Lwampigi, President of African Youth with Disabilities Network

URBANIZATION AND LAND ISSUES: UN-HABITAT

MEASURING PROGRESS AND DEMONSTRATING IMPACT - Elizabeth Niland, UN-DESA and Lloyd Russell-Moyle, EYF

Participants will discuss in small groups cross-cutting themes relating to the implementation of the Youth-SWAP and ensuring that we reach the most
marginalized.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5:00-5:30</th>
<th>SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director, UNFPA</td>
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THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2013

At 9:15am, all participants are requested to convene at the corner of 47th Street and 1st Avenue to receive special passes to attend the “Roundtable Dialogue on Investing in Young People”. The event will take place in Conference Room 1 of the Conference Building, UN headquarters from 10:15am-12:30pm. After the event, the Open Meeting will continue at the Orange Café, UNFPA Headquarters, 605 Third Avenue, New York.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1:00-2:00</th>
<th>LUNCH</th>
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<tr>
<th>2:00-3:30</th>
<th>MAKING PARTICIPATION IN THE UN SYSTEM SUSTAINABLE</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(In Orange Café, UNFPA Headquarters, 605 Third Avenue, New York)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ahmad Alhendawi, UN SG’s Envoy on Youth</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ravi Karkara, UN-HABITAT</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joao Scarpelini, Major Group of Children and Youth</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ivana Savić, Major Group of Children and Youth</td>
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<td>Jerry Den Haan, European Youth Forum</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sabá Loftus, Major Group of Children and Youth</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Moderated by Nicola Shepherd, UN-DESA</td>
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In this session, the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth will present a proposal for systematic engagement of youth-led organizations, networks and movements with the United Nations system at the regional and country levels. The discussion will provide feedback on this proposal and brainstorm on ways to move forward.

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<tr>
<th>3:45-5:00</th>
<th>WORKING GROUPS</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Nicola Shepherd, UN-DESA and Prateek Awasthi, UNFPA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mike Kalmus, IFMSA and Dareen Abu Lail, Y-PEER</td>
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</table>

Participants will set up working groups on specific tasks and recommendations that need to be further developed. In groups, participants will identify next steps, timelines and follow-up mechanisms to build on the agreements in the meeting.
5:30 onwards

**RECEPTION**

“Strengthening Partnership on Youth Voices in Post-2015” - MTV and IANYD
1515 Broadway (at W. 45th Street) 8th Floor (Contact: Ravi Karkara)

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**FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2013**

*Orange Café, UNFPA Headquarters, 605 Third Avenue, New York*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9:00-10:00</th>
<th><strong>REPORT BACK TO PLENARY</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nicola Shepherd, Permanent Co-Chair, IANYD – UN-DESA</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prateek Awasthi, Rotating Co-Chair, IANYD – UNFPA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Ochieng, Africa Network of Youth with Disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anush Aghabalyan, WAGGS</td>
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This session will consolidate the highlights of the previous day, hear reports from working groups and set the stage for the last day of the meeting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10:15-11:45</th>
<th><strong>WORKING GROUPS TO FINALIZE OUTCOMES</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Kalmus, IFMSA and Dareen Abu Lail, Y-PEER</td>
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In working groups, participants will finalize next steps, timelines and follow-up mechanisms to build on the agreements in the meeting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11:45-1:00</th>
<th><strong>FINALIZING AGREEMENTS</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Nicola Shepherd, UN-DESA and Prateek Awasthi, UNFPA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Kalmus, IFMSA and Dareen Abu Lail, Y-PEER</td>
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**CLOSING REMARKS** - Ahmad Alhendawi, UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth
CONCEPT NOTE: ROUNDTABLE DIALOGUE ON INVESTING IN YOUNG PEOPLE

There are over 1.8 billion young people in the world today, most of whom live in developing countries. The global youth unemployment rate, estimated at 12.6 per cent is a record high, with 73 million youth aged 15-24 estimated to be unemployed globally. Many more young people are trapped in informal employment unable to make transitions to decent work. The economic, social and political costs of long term unemployment, under-employment and poor quality jobs are high – with the potential to undermine global economic recovery and growth. While notable progress has been made, many young people, particularly adolescent girls, lack the investments and opportunities that they require to realize their full potential. In low and middle income countries, over 200 million young people aged 15-24 have not completed primary education and need a second chance to acquire basic skills for work. Girls and young women still lag behind and are often unable to fully contribute to the development of their societies. In the least developed countries, 30 per cent of women aged 15 to 19 are married or in union due often to forced marriage.

Given the opportunities and capabilities, young people have the potential for breaking the inter-generational cycle of poverty. In Kenya, for example, if all 1.6 million adolescent girls complete secondary school and all 220,000 adolescent mothers were not prevented from employment due to early or unintended pregnancies, the cumulative effect would add USD 3.4 billion to the gross national income every year. Globally 43% of the world’s population is under the age of 25 and this percentage reaches 60% in the least developed countries. Countries with young populations have a historic opportunity to reap a demographic bonus for their nation’s development, resilience and sustainability.

The time for investment is now. The demands of the new global economy are more rigorous and less and there will soon be more young people making the transition to adulthood than ever before. In the next thirty years, an estimated 425 million young women and men will join the labour force, which means the world will need about half a billion jobs by then. In the next fifty years, the youth population of Africa is set to double – from 204 million in 2010 to over 436 million in 2050. The requirements for their success economically will be stricter and greater. These trends together pose difficult challenges but also present unprecedented opportunities, presented in young people themselves. Entrepreneurship can be a part of the solution by transforming unemployed young people into major employers, provided they have access to finance, mentorship and training programmes, and an enabling environment.

In 2011, during the International Year of Youth, the United Nations recognized that the ways in which young people are able to address their aspirations and challenges and fulfil their potential will influence current social and economic conditions and the well-being and livelihood of future generations. Member States committed to address the high rates of youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment and informal employment by developing and implementing targeted and integrated national youth employment policies for inclusive job creation; improved employability; skill development and vocational training; and increased entrepreneurship. In this context, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon declared “working with and for young people” as one of the five generational imperatives to be addressed by the
United Nations, requiring the mobilization of all its available human, financial and political resources. To do this the Secretary-General requested the United Nations Volunteers to create a youth volunteer programme and for the first time ever appointed an Envoy on Youth. The Secretary-General also tasked the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD), which includes 40 entities within the United Nations system, to develop and implement a System-wide Action Plan on Youth that focuses on five thematic areas: employment and entrepreneurship, protection of rights, civic engagement and political inclusion, education, including comprehensive sexuality education, and health.

Guided by the World Programme of Action for Youth and developed in partnership with young people themselves, the System-Wide Action Plan is a comprehensive and adaptable framework for joint programmes at the regional and country levels. The System-Wide Action Plan presents an opportunity to address global priorities allowing for adaptation to the country level. It builds on existing joint programmes and looks at young people’s lives in totality rather than in fragments. In this context, the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth and the IANYD are hosting a dialogue to call for partnerships and investments in young people, specifically in joint programmes within the framework of the System-Wide Action Plan. The Executive Coordinator of UNV will also launch the UNV Youth Strategy during this event.

The dialogue will feature the release of a documentary “PODER” by award-winning film-maker Lisa Russell narrating the story of two indigenous girls from Guatemala and demonstrating that when you invest in girls and you let girls lead, you are helping to transform communities, countries and the world. The in person audience will be composed of around 100 youth led organizations, members of the United Nation’s Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD) and United Nations Member States. The roundtable will be webcast live on UN Television. The Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, Ahmad Alhendawi moderated the discussion, which included the following participants:

- Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary General, DESA
- Bruce B. Campbell, Director, Technical Division, UNFPA
- Stephen Pursey, Director for Multilateral Cooperation, ILO
- Ambassador Geir O. Pedersen, Permanent Representative of Norway to the UN
- Ambassador Dr. Palitha Kohona, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the UN
- Jamshed Kazi, Practice Manager (Democratic Governance Group), UNDP
- Alejo Ramírez, Executive Secretary of the Ibero-American Youth Organization
- Peter Majastic, President of the European Youth Forum
- Bruno Vanhoni of the Brazilian National Youth Secretariat
- Akhtar Badshah, Senior Director, Citizenship and Public Affairs, Microsoft
- William Reese, President of the International Youth Foundation,
- Sara Sladen, Alliance of Youth Development
- Nicole Golden, Center for Strategic and International Studies
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR OPEN MEETING

BACKGROUND. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has made working with and for young people a priority in his Five Year Action Agenda. In addition to the appointment of an Envoy on Youth and the creation of a UN Youth Volunteer Programme, the Secretary General has also called for the development of a UN System-wide Action Plan on Youth (Youth SWAP), which aims to strengthen programming and policies on adolescents and youth in regions and countries on five thematic areas: employment, entrepreneurship, political inclusion, civic engagement and protection of rights, education - including comprehensive sexual education, and health.

THE IANYD. The Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, which includes 40 entities within the United Nations system, has been tasked by the Secretary-General to coordinate support for the implementation of his priorities. The IANYD has been working in consultation with young people, and in order to strengthen partnerships, it will host an open meeting with youth networks, organizations and movements.

OBJECTIVES. The meeting will be an opportunity to share progress made so far on these initiatives, to identify ways in which young people can participate in implementing them, holding the UN accountable and jointly calling for increased investments in young people. You can participate online or in-person in the meeting, taking place at UN Headquarters on 18-20 September 2013.

ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible, you must be:

- Aged between 15-29 years
- Affiliated with, and endorsed by, a youth-led or youth-focused organisation, network or movement
- Able to prepare for the meeting by reading relevant background materials
- Able to clearly demonstrate a multiplier effect of participating in the meeting
- Willing and able to continue engagement and participation after the meeting

FUNDING. Participants are encouraged to cover their own costs for participation. Limited funding is available to ensure that youth from under-represented and marginalised groups can meaningfully participate in the meeting.


DEADLINE. Applications that require funding must be sent by 20 August at the latest. All other applications should be sent by 15 September.
ANNEX 5

YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES ACCESSIBILITY CHECKLIST

The United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities calls for inclusion of youth with disabilities in all development and decision making processes, programmes, policies and laws to achieve persons with disabilities equality. It seeks to ensure that women and men with or without disabilities have equitable access to, and benefit from, society’s resources and opportunities. Given that persons with disabilities’ needs especially those of youth with disabilities have not been fully addressed and sometimes they are put in a disadvantaged position in many aspects, the checklist seeks to rectify the disadvantaged position of youth with disabilities in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the UN systems wider action plan at all levels. Increased awareness is also required to create understanding as to why the measures to improve accessibility for youth with disabilities contribute youth with disabilities participation. The accessibility needs of youth with disabilities are different. A description is provided below of the requirements for accessibility related to various disabilities.

A. Youth with Impaired mobility capacity: Accessibility for youth with impaired mobility capacity primarily means that it should be possible to move around independently and securely in the around environment.

1) A precondition for this is that the surface is even and firm, that it is possible to move ahead without crossing or using steep slopes, stairs, high thresholds, narrow passages and heavy doors.

2) One should not be compelled to take long detours. Handles and controls must be easy to operate and located within reach, even for people using wheelchairs and who perhaps also have impaired arm or hand function. Handrails to hold onto are necessary for people with impaired walking capacity, primarily beside stairs and ramps.

3) Accessibility also means that spaces are sufficiently spacious to allow one to be able to manoeuvre with a wheelchair or walker. There should for example be sufficiently large toilets. Fittings and equipment should be designed and placed where they are usable, for example heights of reception desks, exhibition cases, shelves, signs and displays should be appropriate for people using wheelchairs or of short stature. Those who use wheelchairs should also be able to sit at tables and workbenches.

B. Youth with Impaired vision: Accessibility for Youth with impaired vision means that it should be possible to orientate and move around without being exposed to unnecessary safety risks.

1) Route indication markers that can be followed by a person using a technical cane, a white cane, and contrast marking are examples of means that can be applied to achieve this. Accessibility also means that it should be easy to discern controls and distinguish them from each other.
2) Access to personal service, for example in the form of an escort often represents a precondition for an unknown environment to become accessible.

3) Information of various kinds must be presented in an accessible way. The layout should provide the best possible readability and information should be available in alternative formats. Websites should be structured according to accepted norms so that they are accessible and can be read with a speech synthesis program. Visual relay must be supplemented with relay that can be perceived by other senses.

C. Youth with Reduced hearing, Deafness and Deafblindness: Accessibility for Youth with reduced hearing, deaf or deafblind means that it should be possible to communicate with other people, gain access to information and also perceive alarms.

1) A good noise environment, access to auditory technical equipment – for example an induction loop –, Communication Access realtime translation services (CART) helps Hard of Hearing youth to access information.

2) Visual information and information in sign language often represent a precondition for good accessibility for Deaf Youth. One important aspect is that sign language is a first language for many people. Accessibility for this group means that one obtains information in sign language and access to a sign language interpreter.

3) For youth who are deaf blind, tactile sign language represents a precondition for communication.

D. Youth with Impaired cognitive capacity; Cognition means the capacity to remember, orientate oneself in time and space, capacity to resolve problems, numerical capacity, linguistic capacity, and more. Youth with impaired cognitive capacity are a heterogeneous group. Accessibility can mean very different things for different individuals;

1) For many people with impaired cognitive capacity, accessibility in the physical environment means that it is possible to orientate oneself and use the environment without being exposed to unnecessary safety risks. Fittings and equipment should be designed so that they are easy to understand. User instructions should be concrete and have a clear layout.

2) It should be possible to get information of various kinds in a simplified form that is clear, concrete, brief and unambiguous, for example translated into easy-to-read format. Information signs should be easy to understand, which can be achieved through the use of symbols.

3) The help of a tutor or an assistant may be necessary in connection with communication and operations involving the relay of information. For a conference this may for example mean that the tutor should have the possibility of stopping a presentation in order to have time to explain what has been said.
E. Youth with difficulties with respiratory organs, allergies or hypersensitivity for certain food substances; people with difficulties with respiratory organs and allergies, accessibility means that it should be possible to stay in an environment without being adversely affected by allergic reactions or difficulties with respiratory passages;

1) The air quality in buildings must be good, that it is possible to avoid substances, material, plants and scents that can cause allergic reactions or cause problems for people with hypersensitivity.

2) On courses and conferences, it should be possible to obtain information about the food to be served. If necessary, there should be alternatives for people with food allergies.

F. Youth with Illnesses and other functional impairments in the digestive tract or incontinence. For Youth with these kinds of disabilities, accessibility involves having access to appropriately designed toilets;

1) The possibility of gaining access to and participating in the operation is to a large extent dependent on how it is planned and implemented. Accessibility means that there is access to toilets that times specified are kept, that work is in short passes and that there are regular breaks. There should also be access to adapted food.

G. Youth with mental illness: For Youth with disability owing to mental illness the preconditions for accessibility can vary greatly from individual to individual. Mental illness can in certain cases result in impaired cognitive capacity;

1) It is particularly important that the environment is calm and harmonious, that element of disruption, for example disruption from light and noise, is minimised and that there is access to rest rooms and privacy if required.

H. Youth with Impaired voice and speech function: Youth with impaired voice and speech function may find it difficult to communicate, for example via telephone.

1) A precondition for communication being accessible is therefore that alternative means of communication, such as Total Conversation or special solutions such as Taltjänst (Speech service), Teletal (Speech interpretation service) and text telephones are used. For educational operations, it is important that tests of knowledge are designed so that examinees can demonstrate their knowledge.

I. Youth with Reading and writing difficulties: For youth with disability owing to reading and writing difficulties, it is the formulation of the information that often causes difficulties.

1) It must be possible to obtain information in alternative formats such as audio cassettes and Daisy audio books.

2) It should also be possible to get electronic information read out with the aid of speech synthesis. The layout should provide the best possible readability, and the structure of the text should be facilitative for the
reader. In educational contexts, it is important that tests of knowledge are
designed so that everyone has an equal opportunity of demonstrating
their knowledge. It can also be important to be able to get assistance with
reading in literature.

J. **Youth with Other disabilities:** There are Youth with other disabilities that can result in
other requirements regarding premises, operations and information than the former
requirements. Examples include people who are particularly susceptible to injury, for
example caused by brittle bones or haemophilia, people who are especially vulnerable
to injury, for example owing to epilepsy and people who are particularly sensitive to
cold and heat;

1) There are also youth with sicknesses or conditions that can result in special
requirements on the area environment, for example needs for extra storage
spaces. Examples of such illnesses are cystic fibrosis and kidney disease.

2) For Youth with disabilities owing to electromagnetic hypersensitivity, one
precondition for accessibility of the physical environment is that the level of
electrical and magnetic fields is low. It is also important that it is possible to
gain access to information in a format that does not cause difficulties. A
precondition for this is that information is available in printed form and not
only in electronic form.

3) Another example is Youth who are particularly dependent on nutrition and
medicine within specific time intervals. Accessibility to education, courses and
conferences means then that the programme and teaching are structured so
that there are regular breaks.

Many individuals have several disabilities and therefore special needs. Accessibility needs
should be handed case by case.
ANNEX 6

REMARKS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL’S ENVOY ON YOUTH

I thank you very much for accepting our invitations and coming to the United Nations. Please accept my apology for not being here this morning. Today is the International Day of Peace. We had hundreds of young people coming to the United Nations today to celebrate with the Secretary General.

Today is a different meeting. I told them I’d be leaving the room to join you all. It’s young people who are here too. But I would say, you are a bit more experienced! That’s why I may find myself sharing some more in-depth reflections on where we stand today, and where we can go together.

Welcome. Thank you for accepting our invitation. We need this time, with the greater challenges facing us now. Youth unemployment is there. And more countries are joining the lists.

Many countries face greater costs in education. Young people face lack of decent opportunities. They face serious challenges in accessing their rights.

It’s true; more investment has been made in health in general. Yet what is needed, to make it so people can live with decent health standards?

Young women and girls are still in their fight for equality. Stories like that of Malala put things in perspective.

Youth are suffering from conflicts, and many young refugees live with no prospects for a future, and Syria is on our minds.

Young people suffer from systematic exclusion. Many live under the constant threat of violence and organized crime.

As we meet today, we realize it’s not time for youth work as usual, or business as usual.

I will not tell you -- especially this audience here -- what you already know. 1.2 billion people constitute the largest generation of young people in the world. Millions are unemployed. You know these facts by heart.

We want to talk to you today as one UN system. We want to talk to you today about how we can collectively understand and respond to these challenges.

We want to talk today about a roadmap for action, initiated by the Secretary General’s agenda, you have kindly responded to.

You have heard the UNV strategy. It is a major step forward. You have also heard the SWAP, the System-Wide Action Plan.

I’d like to go back to 2011. At the UN General Assembly, there was the High Level Meeting for Youth. I called for a greater role for the United Nations to support young people. I called for greater support mechanisms at all levels. I demanded the UN and member states to prioritize youth issues.
We cannot afford not to invest in this population.

Many of you share this dream. And most, if not all, of you have carried tirelessly the task of advocating for young people.

It's thanks to you that we are meeting here today. It is part of the longer track of commitment by the UN. We never had one coordinated plan for youth issues. Thank you all for partnering with the United Nations, and for being with us today.

I am proud of you all, and thankful for all the commitment you've given to this process. Because of you, because of the general interest of the United Nations Secretary General to make youth a top priority, and because of very committed colleagues and members of the inter-agency network on youth development, we are here today.

And because of all this, the UN is finally doing more for youth.

I joined the system in February. In March, the Secretary General of the UN has fully endorsed my work plan, based on four key principles: participation, partnership, advocacy, and harmonization for the UN system.

My plan in this sense is aimed at making sure we centre the UN responsibility on the needs of youth around the world. With the establishment of this office, the youth agenda gained higher representation at the global level.

As we progressed, we developed good relationships with states around the world and significant UN memberships.

As his envoy, the Secretary General gave me clear mandates. First, to act as a harmonizer for youth issues, using this convening power to all mechanisms of the United Nations. Second, to advocate for a stronger youth agenda, and bring it to a higher level than ever before.

That is why this is a unique opportunity for us all. "Us" means all of us who are committed to youth work. Experts, practitioners, etc.

Let's seize this opportunity and continue working to move this agenda forward. I'm committed to working closely with youth organizations. In fact, in my first meeting with the inter-agency network last month, I said we need to convene this meeting.

Many committed colleagues and their inter-agency network worked hard to make this possible. It's with their support we're able to prove that we are working with and for young people.

I am committed to supporting my colleagues in the UN system, to amplify their work, and expedite our responses to the needs of young people.

I do this by engaging the political leadership of government organizations, along with the working levels, to consolidate the UN and member states' support for youth.

With a System-Wide Action Plan and other programs, we are aware that we do not lack the tools for our work.

We are meeting with you today to discuss moving the proposed mechanisms for youth participation forward. We work to develop concrete ideas for actions.
My colleagues from the UN agencies in my office will be here attending, listening, and engaging with you. I personally will attend as much as I can, at the busiest time of the UN, the General Assembly. We do have the General Assembly for youth as well. It’s very important to prove we can come up with concrete ideas for action.

As the System-Wide Action Plan enters into the implementation phase, working with youth will be extended to different areas. Of course we aim to also include youth in the implementation of the System-Wide Action Plan.

We will continue making sure the mandate of all UN agencies to invest in young people. With more joint programs being developed and better coordination mechanisms at all levels, we will work hard to make sure we have that.

This meeting is also important, because it will establish a new tradition in the UN system: to bring young people together to advise the system. We hope this will spill over to the inter-governmental processes too.

I want to assure you that you have an ally in the UN system. You have an office at the UN to build your voice and protect your interest as young people, and to keep you informed as well.

To do this, we need you to be better organizers. The stronger the youth organizations are, the more instruments and attention youth attention will get globally.

That's why you have my unlimited support. You can bring about a global movement of youth organizations.

In the past six months I worked with colleagues in the UN system to pave the way for more major progress this year.

It might be true that the UN has a limited capacity for what it can offer, especially under serious budget constraints.

But we have proven our unlimited capacity to continue triggering changing norms and standards, to inspire people about our universal values, and to advocate strongly for this cause. And to give voice especially for those who until recently have been voiceless.

We will continue providing support for member states, and to lead by example that quality youth policies are needed.

My call to you today is, let’s join forces. It’s time for our fellow youth around the world not only to survive, but to thrive. I so much look forward to the next few days. These are very close to my heart, and to those in the UN system. By having this assembly here, let’s mark a new beginning for the UN organizations.

I apologize for the format of my statements. But I look forward to a more interactive discussion. Thank you very much
NOTE FOR FACILITATORS OF BREAK OUT SESSIONS

1. The objective of this session is to identify at least one concrete proposal for partnerships between youth-led organizations, networks and movements and United Nations entities implementing the System-Wide Action Plan on Youth.

2. In this session, participants will have an interactive and informal discussion to develop a better understanding of their programmes and priorities and exploring avenues for partnership between youth-led organizations and the UN as well as amongst youth organizations themselves.

3. Facilitators should introduce themselves and explain the objectives of the session.

4. Facilitators should start the discussion with reviewing the main elements of the Youth-SWAP in this thematic area. Reference should be made to the “Youth SWAP Outline” which has been provided to all participants.

5. Facilitators and participants working for UN entities that are members of the IANYD can follow this with an overview and examples of what the UN is doing or planning to do to implement commitments in this area.

6. This can be followed by interventions by youth organizations, networks and movements can share what they are doing or planning to do at the global and regional level that can contribute to these areas.

7. It is important to ensure that this discussion remains relevant to the theme, restricted to global and regional initiatives as far as possible.

8. Finally there can be an exploration on the opportunities for collaboration and partnerships.

9. Facilitators and participants can record any agreements during the session or afterwards.

10. If needed, an approach that can be used is to invite participants to use Post-It notes – on which they write what their organization can offer or what their organization needs – (just one on each Post-It note) and stick it on a flip-chart / the wall to create a partnership map.

11. Looking at the map, it is easier to make linkages.

12. One copy of the full System-Wide Action Plan on Youth (SWAP) will be provided to every Working Group.

13. One rapporteur should be identified who can use the following format for recording the results of this group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Synergy (or Opportunities for collaboration)</th>
<th>Actors/Participants/Changemakers</th>
<th>Next Step (if any)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>
ANNEX 8

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WORLD CAFÉ FACILITATORS

1. The purpose of this session is to ensure that programmes that implement the Youth-SWAP (outline attached) reach the most marginalized by taking into account issues of gender, disability, discrimination on the basis of indigenous/ethnic identity, sexual orientation and gender identity, drug use, sex work, etc - and also to think about ways to effectively monitor and report on the SWAP. All recommendations emerging from this session will go towards strengthening the "Implementation Guidance for the Youth-SWAP" (also attached).

2. This session will take the format of a World Café, which seeks to foster an environment that facilitates natural conversations to share ideas in a relaxed, informal and creative atmosphere. We will open with introducing the objectives of the session and the methodology. We will introduce all of you and give you 1-2 minutes to briefly introduce yourselves and your theme. Think of it as an advertisement that invites people to join your conversation.

3. Following that, each facilitator takes their coffee/tea and goes to a corner of the room marked by a sign with the name of the topic. Participants will be advised that they can take their coffee/tea and go join any conversation they like based on their interest - and they are encouraged to move from one conversation to another to allow for mixing of ideas. Facilitators will stay on the same table, host the conversation by explaining the objectives of the session and as needed, explain to newcomers what had already been discussed. Facilitators can ask questions to move the conversation towards getting recommendations and encourage participants who have not yet spoken up to do so. There will be approximately 50 minutes available for these conversations.

4. During the discussion, there is no need to take notes. We just ask that after the discussion, the facilitators sit together and record the three most interesting / innovative / actionable ideas that came from all the conversations they hosted and write them down on the sheet attached in detail.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORLD CAFÉ THEME</th>
<th>FACILITATOR NAMES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recommendation 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendation 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendation 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. In the last 30 minutes, we will ask each facilitator to share the main ideas from these discussions and we will have a discussion in plenary on how to consolidate these into recommendations that become a part of the implementation guidance for the Youth-SWAP.