



Youth at the United Nations

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July 2005

Welcome to the United Nations YouthFlash, a service of the United Nations Programme on Youth, keeping you up to date on the youth agenda of the UN and partnering youth organizations around the world. We encourage you to forward this Youth Flash to people in your network.

News from UN Headquarters

An update on youth delegates to the General Assembly

This year there will be an increased number of youth delegates on national delegations to the General Assembly. Countries that confirmed they will have youth delegates include: Australia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. For more information about the process to have a national youth delegate from your country, or to learn more about the role and work of youth delegates from previous years, please visit: www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/youthrep.htm

Last call for International Youth Day

On 12 August, youth around the world will celebrate International Youth Day, make sure you join them! This year's theme is Making Commitments Matter, referring to the review by the General Assembly later this year of the implementation of both the Millennium Development Goals and the World Programme of Action for Youth. To read more about the themes and various celebrations around the world, visit: www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/iyouthday.htm

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Secretary-General's report "Making Commitments Matter" available

The advanced unedited version of the Secretary-General's report "Making Commitments Matter -Young People's inputs to the ten-year review of the World Programme of Action for Youth" is available on the website of the UN Programme on Youth. It provides a summary based on the reports of youth organizations around the world on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth in their country. This report should be read in conjunction with the Secretary General's World Youth Report 2005 (A/60/61). Both documents will be submitted to the sixtieth session of the General Assembly. The full reports of the youth organizations that gave permission to publicly share their submissions are available on the website as well. Please visit: www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/youthspeak.htm

Launch of the exhibit Chasing the Dream

On International Youth Day, 12 August, the executive director of UNFPA, Ms Thoraya Obaid, will open the exhibition "Chasing the Dream, Youth Faces of the Millennium Development Goals" (MDGs) at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The exhibition contains photos and stories of eight young people from around the world, one per MDG. After several months in New York, the exhibition will start its journey around the world. Chasing the Dream is an interagency initiative, supported by DESA, ECA, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Millennium Campaign, World Bank, and the Secretary-General's Youth Employment Network, and funded by the Government of Finland. Please visit the website www.chasingdream.org (to be launched on 12 August).

Workshops on Arab Youth and the MDGs

The Regional Bureau for Arab States of UNDP and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized three workshops in the Arab region, between May and July this year, in Bahrain, Sana'a and Rabat, focusing on four main broad themes under the MDG umbrella, that have particular relevance to young men and women in the Arab world. These four themes were: globalization and inclusion; employment and the labour market; governance and freedoms; and gender and family. A publication with the conclusions and recommendations of the discussions is scheduled to be launched in New York in early October. For more information on the workshops, please visit: www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/workshops.htm To read an article posted in the Daily Star on 1 June 2005 on the workshop: www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_ID=10&article_ID=15528&categ_id=5#

Contact information

UN Youth Flash is a free service of the UN Programme on Youth, of the Division for Social Policy and Development, within the Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) at the United Nations Secretariat in New York.

Currently working with the programme are Joop Theunissen (Focal Point on Youth), Fred Doulton (Associate Social Affairs Officer), Julie Larsen (Associate Social Affairs Officer), Charlotte van Hees (Associate Expert on Youth Policies and Programmes) and Sylvie Pailler (Administrative Assistant).

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To subscribe/unsubscribe to the email information service, please send an email to: youth@un.org, with 'subscribe' or 'unsubscribe' as the subject line.

News from UN Agencies around the world

UNFPA: youth participation during the Special Session on HIV/AIDS

From 1 to 3 June 2005, young leaders working on issues related to HIV/AIDS from around the world participated in the Roundtable Review of the 'United Nations General Assembly Special Session Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS' (UNGASS DoC), adopted in 2001. Participants spoke with delegates, ambassadors, ministers of health, and high level UN staff about the need to drastically scale up HIV/AIDS interventions for young people, who make up over 50 per cent of people infected with HIV each year.

Also, the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS and the Global Youth Partners launched their new report, published with the support of UNFPA, entitled "Our Voice, Our Future: Young People Report on Progress Made on the UNGASS Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS."

For more info or to download the report, please visit: www.unfpa.org/news/news.cfm?ID=623, or contact joya@youthaidscoalition.org

UNICEF & Commonwealth: "How to? - Participation Guides and CD"

UNICEF's Adolescent Development and Participation Unit and the Commonwealth Youth Programme have produced a series of four booklets and an interactive CD-ROM, which contain practical models and tools for achieving meaningful participation of adolescents in the research, planning, implementation

and monitoring of a development project. The series is designed for programme staff of development agencies, teachers, policy-makers, adolescents and young people. The booklets can be downloaded from:

www.thecommonwealth.org/Templates/CYPInternal.asp?NodeID=38420

Hard copies can be obtained from: Mr. Victor Karunan, UNICEF Adolescent Development and Participation Unit, via: vkaranan@unicef.org

UNICEF: Voices of Hope: Adolescents and the Tsunami publication

The Adolescent Development and Participation Unit is also producing an advocacy document on adolescent participation in Tsunami long-term reconstruction and development, to be launched in September 2005. The purpose of this publication is to raise awareness among decision-makers of the issues and concerns facing adolescent tsunami survivors and others, and keep this focus alive in the recovery phase and long-term reconstruction.

On the web

MDG website for kids in 13 languages

United Nations Millennium Campaign has launched in collaboration with Nickelodeon, a website for kids on the Millennium Development Goals in 13 different languages. Check it out at www.Nick2015.com

Feature: Youth participation in Ukraine

Oleksiy Kuzmenko is a 22-year old student in journalism from Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, who is involved in various youth-led and youth-oriented projects. He is the regional youth web-editor of the UN Millennium Campaign and TakingITGlobal, participates in a UNFPA project on HIV/AIDS prevention in Ukraine, and was part of the organizing committee of the 'All-Ukrainian UN Youth Summit', held from 1-3 July 2005, on the theme "effective and efficient national youth policy in the context of the Ukrainian Millennium Development Goals".

Oleksiy says about his participation in the UN Youth Summit: "When I joined TakingITGlobal in the spring of 2004, I realized how inter-connected and global the problems are that youth are facing around the globe. I realized that the global youth movement is able to offer solutions to the world's toughest problems, while working together with international bodies and Governments. With that outlook in mind, I applied for the All-Ukrainian UN Youth Summit 2004."

The UN Youth Summits have been held in Ukraine since 2002 and yearly gather more than 200 young people. The Summit has evolved from "being an information campaign in 2002, to providing an opportunity to develop the National Youth Policy together with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and UNDP in 2005. In the past four years, a thousand participants learnt about the MDGs and passed on the word to many more youth. It is estimated that the Summits reached out to at least 50 thousand active youths in Ukraine - now think what impact this sort of youth involvement could have on the global level!"

This year's Summit tried to bridge the gap between the MDGs and national youth policy. "The current draft text of the national youth policy deals with the social challenges that

youth face in Ukraine. Unfortunately, it ignores important issues like using the media to empower young people to participate in decision making processes. I believe that access to information is the key to participation. As a journalist and human rights activist, I made youth media empowerment my major goal, and I attempted to contribute this during the Summit's discussions on the youth policy."

It is anticipated that the Ministry of Youth and Sports, headed by the 28-year old Minister Yuriy Pavlenko, will include the Summit outcomes into other stages of National Youth Policy Development.

Last June, Oleksiy also participated in the United Nations General Assembly Hearings with Civil Society in preparation for the Millennium+5 Summit in September 2005. "The Civil Society Hearings were a unique event, as NGOs were able to speak on the agenda of Governments. Still, I was discouraged to see how little attention certain Governments paid to the Hearings. I invited my own government to the Hearings, in which I was more successful than in my attempt to have a say during the Hearings' meetings. It was not emphasized enough that achieving the MDGs depends on political will. Nonetheless, I was really encouraged to learn that change is on the agenda of young people, providing a good chance to reach the MDGs."

More information about the All-Ukrainian UN Youth Summit is available in Ukrainian at www.mdg.org.ua and in English at www.un.kiev.ua/en/youthsummit/index.php

You can contact Oleksiy directly via okuzmenko@ukr.net

Other youth events

(NB: Some events are open for participation by invitation only)

30 July - 08 August 05: 3rd World Youth Congress

Stirling, Scotland. Peace Child International (PCI), together with its worldwide network of some 700 partner groups in 155 countries, will organize a third World Youth Congress on the theme: "Young people working for a sustainable world community". The first Congress was held in Hawaii in 1999 and the second in Morocco in 2003. The Congress series provides a forum for young people who are active in development/poverty eradication, to meet and develop their network. Registration has been closed.

For more information, visit www.scotland2005.org

12 August 05: International Youth Day

This year's theme will be: "Making Commitments Matter - the tenth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth". Youth around the world are encouraged to celebrate their role in society and to review what their countries have achieved in youth development in the past ten years. The Website of the Programme on Youth will list various events taking place that day. To add your event, send an email to youth@un.org.

More info on: www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/iyouthday.htm

26-28 Aug. 05: Prep meeting of youth delegates to UNGA60

Uppsala, Sweden. LSU, the National Council of Swedish Youth Organizations, organizes an Informal Preparatory Gathering for National Youth Representatives to the sixtieth session of the United Nations General Assembly. For more information, please contact: hanna.hallin@lsu.se or visit: www.lsu.se

5-6 Sept. 05: Helsinki Youth Conference

Helsinki, Finland. The Finnish Youth Co-operation Allianssi organises, with support of the Finnish Ministry of Education, a Global Youth meeting to promote youth participation in global governance and ownership by young people of global issues. More concretely, it will focus on strategies for implementing the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) and prepare youth delegates to the 60th session of the UN General Assembly. The meeting is organized in close relation to the Helsinki Conference (www.helsinki.fi/process), held from 7-9 September, which aims to mobilize political will towards the UN General Assembly and find new solutions on global governance. For more info, contact: riikka.jalonen@alli.fi or visit www.alli.fi/global/hyc (available soon).

19-23 Sept 05: UNICEF ADAP Global Networking Meeting

UNICEF, New York. The Adolescent Development and Participation Unit (ADAP) will convene its first Global Networking Meeting. The meeting will bring together over 40 regional and country-level advisors and senior programme staff working in UNICEF's range of programme areas and priorities for adolescent/youth development, including health, education, HIV/AIDS, child protection and social policy. The meeting will also be attended by representatives from UN agencies' adolescent/youth focal points, external resource persons and experts and senior staff from UNICEF's Headquarters.

30 Sept-2 Oct 05: Fourth UNESCO Youth Forum

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris. The theme of the fourth UNESCO Youth Forum is "Young People and the Dialogue among Civilizations, Cultures and Peoples - Ideas for action in education, the sciences, culture and communication". The Forum will form an integral part of the 33rd UNESCO General Conference - the highest decision-making body of the organi-

zation. The Youth Forum will be a unique opportunity for young people to express and exchange their ideas, make their voices heard and ensure their views are integrated in UNESCO's programmes and policies. More info: www.unesco.org/youth

3-7 October 2005: Review of the World Programme of Action for Youth

UN Headquarters, New York. Several events will take place during this week to mark the ten-year review of the World Programme of Action for Youth. On 6 October 2005, the General Assembly will devote two plenary meetings, morning and afternoon, to an evaluation of the progress made in the implementation of the World Programme. The day prior to the plenary meeting there will be an informal, interactive round-table discussion on the theme "Young people: Making Commitments Matter", which will be open to the participation of Member States, observers, organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental youth organizations. Further information related to these events, including the confirmation of official youth delegates, side events and registration information will be made available at: www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/ga60.htm

12-18 October 05: Tunza International Youth Conference

UNEP, Bangalore. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in conjunction with the Centre for Environment Education (CEE), India, is hosting the second TUNZA International Youth Conference. The Conference is one of the key activities under UNEP's TUNZA long-term strategy for engaging and involving young people in environmental activities and in the work of UNEP. The Conference will bring together 150-250 youth, between 15-24 years, from around the world to discuss their role in environmental decision-making. The main theme of the conference is "The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and cooperation among youth organizations". For more info, visit: www.sayen.org/tunza.htm or contact tunza@ceeindia.org

20-23 October 05: African Global Hip-Hop Summit and Concert

Johannesburg, South Africa. The African Global Hip-Hop Summit and Concert, organized by UN-HABITAT and Native Rhythms Productions, form part of a global initiative called the "Messengers of Truth Project" that brings together socially committed Hip-Hop artists, youth representatives, the media and the private sector to help raise youth awareness of the Millennium Development Goals, and to support youth empowerment and local youth development initiatives. The Summit represents the African follow up to the first Global Hip-Hop Summit, held in Barcelona, Spain, in 2004, and it will prepare for the second Global Summit to be held in Vancouver in 2006. For more information, contact: Native Rythms Productions: siphos@gallo.co.za, or UN-HABITAT : bestpractices@unhabitat.org

31 Oct. - 3 Nov. 05: African Development Forum V devoted to youth issues

UNCC, Addis Ababa. The UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) brings together stakeholders in Africa's development - including heads of state, ministers, heads of international organizations, civil society leaders, research institutes and Nobel Laureates - to debate and discuss policy alternatives and emerging strategic issues for Africa's development. In order to put the issue of youth on the African development agenda, the fifth African Development Forum will be devoted to youth development issues. For more information, please contact: Kwabia Boateng, Office of Policy and Programme Coordination, UN ECA, kboateng@uneca.org.