

UN YOUTH FLASH

Service of the United Nations Programme on Youth

11 March 2005

WELCOME to the UN Youth Flash, a service of the UN 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. Below you will read more on:

- News from UN Headquarters in New York
- News from UN Agencies around the world
- Feature: The Intergovernmental Agency of La Francophonie and Youth
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News from UN Headquarters in New York

>> Findings of two consultative meetings with youth organizations <<
To contribute to the review of the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) by the General Assembly in October 2005, the UN Programme on Youth organized two consultative meetings with youth organizations and youth representatives. The meetings reviewed achievements made since the adoption of WPAY in 1995. The first meeting was hosted by the Government of Portugal, The Portuguese National Youth Council and the Municipality of Coimbra from 31 January to 4 February 2005 and the second meeting took place at the UN Secretariat in New York from 14 February to 17 February 2005. The outcome documents will be used, together with the national evaluations received in response to the Toolkit (see next item), to draft a supplement to the Secretary-General's World Youth Report 2005. This supplement report will be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session.
Summary reports of the discussions and recommendations from the meetings are available at: www.un.org/youth

>> 30 April 2005: Deadline to submit national evaluations <<
All young people are encouraged to participate in the review of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY). Inputs received before 30 April 2005 on the progress made by governments and civil society in the implementation of WPAY will be summarized in a report that is submitted to the General Assembly.
The Toolkit "Making Commitments Matter" is developed to support youth in this review process. You can download the Toolkit for free in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese on www.un.org/youth
You can send your inputs via email to youth@un.org or via fax to +1 212 963 3062.

>> The Commission for Social Development convenes a panel on Youth <<
On 14 February 2005, the Commission for Social Development discussed the linkages between the World Programme of Action for Youth and the Millennium

Development Goals (MDGs). The panel consisted of Johan Schölvinn (Director, Division for Social Policy and Development, DESA), Joao Salviano (Bureau member European Youth Forum and participant to the consultative meeting in Coimbra), Renata Florentino (Co-coordinator, Brazil Youth Voices and participant to the consultative meeting in New York) and Guido Schmidt-Traub (Policy Adviser, the Millennium Project). After the presentations, a discussion was held with representatives of UN Member States.

You can read the summary of this panel at:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/panelcsocd43sum.pdf>

>> UNESCO: Launch of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development <<
On 1 March 2005, UNESCO Director General Koïchiro Matsuura launched the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) at UN Headquarters in New York. The Decade encourages governments, civil society and the private sector to integrate the concept of sustainable development into their education policies and into all aspects of learning. Young people will be important partners and key advocates in the promotion and implementation of the Decade's goals and objectives. In addition, the decade will provide an opportunity for youth to have their concerns, needs and visions addressed in educational approaches.

To learn more about the decade, visit:

http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=27234&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

>> 28 Feb. - 11 March 05: "Commission on the Status of Women"

UN Headquarters, New York. The Commission focused on two thematic issues as outlined in its multi-year programme of work: 1) Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"; and 2) Current challenges and forward looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls. For more info:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/49sess.htm>

On March 09 2005 the Commission convened a panel discussion on "Future perspectives on the promotion of gender equality: through the eyes of young women and men". To watch the panel on UN Webcast, go to:

<http://www.un.org/webcast/2005.html>

News from UN Agencies around the world

>> UN Environment Programme (UNEP): TUNZA Global Youth Retreat <<
16-18 February 05, Nairobi, Kenya. The fourth TUNZA Global Youth Retreat was held prior to the Global Civil Society Forum and the 23rd session of the UNEP Governing Council. During these meetings, young people presented their recommendations to Environment Ministers and civil society leaders. You can read their official statement in PDF format at:

www.unep.org/GC/GC23/documents/GC23-INF27.pdf.

The UNEP Global Youth Retreat is a biennial event. It provides a forum for youth representatives to examine how UNEP is working with young people both globally and regionally. During the Retreat, members of the TUNZA Youth Advisory Council are elected.

For more info, visit:

http://www.unep.org/Tunza/youth/Conferences_Events/GYR05/index.asp

>> UN-HABITAT - Call for nominations to Youth Committee <<

UN-HABITAT is calling for nominations for people who are between the ages of 15-24 as of April 2005 to help form a committee that will advise the Agency on the formation of its interim youth consultative mechanism, as part of the implementation of the strategy for youth engagement. Nominations are sought by those who have demonstrated a commitment to improving the lives of their community through the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals, including Goal 7 Target 11, which targets significant improvement in the lives of at-least 100 million slum dwellers. The committee will comprise of 12 young people selected from all the regions of the world, based on the nominations received. All nominations must be submitted by 31 March 2005. For more information on these guidelines or to submit a nomination, please contact Ms. Mutinta Munyati, Partners and Youth Section, UN-HABITAT, at: mutinta.munyati@unhabitat.org and copy to murugi.maina@unhabitat.org

>> UNFPA: Release of a HIV Compendium <<

The United Nations Populations Fund and Margaret Sanger Center International (MSCI) have just released a new Compendium of youth-focused HIV prevention tools for programme planners and managers. This Compendium is the result of a comprehensive mapping effort of programme-planning materials and training resources for HIV prevention among young people. Curricula, training manuals, guidelines, toolkits, reports and other resources are catalogued in this Compendium, with information on where these resources can be found. The Compendium is available in printed format, CD Rom, as well as on the UNFPA website www.unfpa.org/publications
For more info, visit: www.unfpa.org/hiv

>> UNESCO: Youth Visioning for Island Living <<

The unique and diverse challenges facing small island developing states (SIDS) has prompted the international community to exchange ideas and experiences and to formulate plans of action to enact positive change for sustainable development. From 7 to 12 January 2005, a Youth Visioning meeting was held - bringing together 94 youth from 37 islands - to feed into the United Nations meeting to review the Programme of Action for SIDS. Discussions culminated in the drafting of the Youth Visioning Declaration, which articulated the priorities for young islanders concerning the development of their islands and their commitment to play a key role in addressing these issues. This declaration was presented at the main International Meeting. The youth have now returned to their islands to begin implementing their commitments with follow-up projects and activities.
For more info on the Youth Visioning Declaration, visit: www.islandyouth.org.

Feature: The Intergovernmental Agency of La Francophonie and Youth

This Youth Flash's feature is an interview with Michel Denis Richard, Project Officer for the Intergovernmental Agency of La Francophonie's Youth Unit.

To begin, what is the Intergovernmental Agency of La Francophonie (AIF)?

The Intergovernmental Agency of La Francophonie (AIF) (<http://agence.francophonie.org>) creates programmes for development in the areas of education, culture, the media, the economy and good governance, in cooperation with 50 States and member governments across five continents, all of which share the French language.

Its principle mission is to support developing countries in acquiring the means to determine their process of development and to conceive of their own path to human and social development that is sustainable and equitable.

What is the aim of the Youth Unit within the AIF?

The Youth Unit aims to manage, facilitate and promote the various services of the youth sites of the Intergovernmental Agency of La Francophonie. Thanks to the portal (<http://jeunesse.francophonie.org>), young people benefit from a whole range of information and services that relate directly to the multilateral programmes and projects that are created for them. Additionally, the portal encourages the setting up of partnerships between young people to create opportunities for international exchanges. The diversity of collected resources on the site aims to satisfy a whole range of different expectations and needs. The portal also offers communication tools, such as discussion forums and list-serves under the link to @francophonie.net.

The Youth Unit of the Intergovernmental Agency of La Francophonie, including the Programme for Youth Mobility, is located in Moncton, New Brunswick (Canada). Three other satellite offices are located in the Agency's regional offices in Libreville (Gabon), Hanoi (Vietnam), and Lomé (Togo).

The Agency's Youth Unit also has a distribution list that allows it to reach over 30 000 supporters!

What is the Programme for Youth Mobility in the French-speaking world?

The Programme for Youth Mobility in the French-speaking world (<http://pmj.francophonie.org>) is a valuable tool for the Intergovernmental Agency of La Francophonie, as it allows young francophones to engage in exchanges by promoting opportunities for mobility. It aims to establish regular communication between young people to foster reflections from francophone youth on current issues. The objective of the programme is to promote meaningful international meetings and virtual exchanges between young francophones on specific themes.

The three themes identified for 2005 are: 1) The contribution of youth organizations to awareness-raising and the promotion of gender equality, 2) Young people in the information and communication society and 3) Sport for development and peace.

Why did the Programme for Youth Mobility decide to launch a contest to encourage evaluation of the United Nations' World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY)?

Anxious to involve francophone youth in this process of the United Nations, the Intergovernmental Agency of La Francophonie launched, under the banner of the Programme for Youth Mobility, a contest to identify youth organizations capable of undertaking an evaluation of the results achieved in their

countries regarding the implementation of the World programme of Action for Youth. A meeting organized by the Agency's Youth Unit will take place in May 2005, in Tunisia, in order to collect the contributions of young people in the French-speaking world to deliver them to the United Nations.

Calendar of Youth Events

NB: Some events are open for participation by invitation only

>> 4-8 April 05: "UN-HABITAT Governing Council Meeting"
Nairobi, Kenya. The draft report "UN-HABITAT and Youth: Strategy for Enhanced Engagement" will be discussed by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT, during its 20th session. Twelve young people will participate in the discussions and help to form a committee that will advise the Agency on the formation of its interim youth consultative mechanism.

For more details on the Habitat Agenda, visit:

www.unhabitat.org/unchs/english/hagenda To read the draft Youth Strategy, visit:

www.unhabitat.org/ngo/documents/ConceptHabitatYouthStrategy%20v2b%20_2_.pdf

>> 15-17 April 05: "Global Youth Service Day"
Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) is an annual global event led by Youth Service America with the Global Youth Action Network. The goals of GYSD are: to build the capacity of organizations to promote youth participation, service, and learning; to educate the public, the media, and policy-makers about the year-round contributions of youth around the world; to mobilize youth and adults to meet the needs of their communities through volunteering; and to share effective practices in youth service and civic engagement. On Global Youth Service Day, millions of young people in countries everywhere highlight and carry out thousands of community improvement projects. Visit: <http://www.GYSD.org>

>> 30 April 05: "Deadline submissions review WPAY"

In 2005, the United Nations General Assembly will review the achievements made in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY), ten years after its adoption. Your input will be considered! Reviews received from young people before 30 April 2005 will be summarized into a report that will be submitted to the General Assembly. To assist you in this review, the United Nations Programme on Youth has developed the booklet "Making Commitments Matter, a toolkit for young people to evaluate national youth policy". You can download this toolkit from <http://www.un.org/youth>

>> 15-19 June 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.

>> 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. Anyone between the ages of 18 and 25 can apply and attendance is free! For more information, please visit <http://www.scotland2005.org>

>> October 05: "Evaluation of the World Programme of Action for Youth"
UN Headquarters, New York. The UN World Programme of Action for Youth will be evaluated by the General Assembly during two plenary meetings. More information can be found at: <http://www.un.org/youth>

Interesting websites

As a part of the Development Gateway, the Youth for Development page is an online community, a collaborative space where development practitioners and youth can share knowledge, best practices and research about youth and development related issues, such as the Environment, Youth in Conflict or HIV/AIDS, Youth Employment, Children's issues, etc. If you want to learn more about Development, connect with young people from around the world, and contribute to policy dialogues -- then this is the place for you. The website can be found at: <http://topics.developmentgateway.org/youth>

In March 2005, YouthActionNet in collaboration with the Alliance for African Youth Employability celebrates young people in Africa who are helping themselves and other young men and women to build and enhance their own employability. Featured on this month's website are a new youth employability toolkit, articles from youth writers in the field of youth employability, special profiles and projects, and a new youth employability quiz. The website can be accessed at: http://www.youthactionnet.org/youth_employability/index.cfm

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), Sylvie Pailier (Administrative Assistant) and Eyyub Hajiyev (intern).

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

>>>>>>>>>> VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT <http://www.un.org/youth> <<<<<<<<<<<<