



Youth at the United Nations

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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

World Youth Report 2005

The UN Programme on Youth is currently drafting the comprehensive version of the World Youth Report 2005. The report will describe the global situation of young people regarding all 10 areas of concern identified in the World Programme of Action for Youth and the five emerging issues, and it will highlight three areas more in-depth.

The first area on young people in poverty looks at the dimensions and policy implications of youth in extreme poverty; presents estimates of the number of young people living in poverty; describes efforts by countries to overcome poverty among youth; and analyzes the inter-generational transmission of poverty.

The second topic concerns the emergence of a global media-driven youth culture, focusing on three aspects: the influence of media on socialization processes of young people, the changing nature of global media and its impact on youth cultures, and the influence of ICT on global youth activism.

The third topic deals with the roles and position of youth in all stages of armed conflict and makes an analysis of its gender dimensions.

The launch of the report is expected on 6 October 2005 around the plenary meetings of the General Assembly.

This month's feature

Youth Against Landmines
Jonathan Greenacre

175 youth organizations submit reviews of WPAY

The Programme on Youth was very pleased to receive 175 inputs of youth organizations around the world reviewing the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth in their countries. Together with the results from two consultative meetings that were held in February with youth organizations, the toolkit submissions will be compiled into an accurate and resourceful submission to the General Assembly meetings on 6 October 2005. The deadline to send submissions expired on 30 April 05.

After receiving permission of the youth organizations, the submissions will be posted in due time on <http://www.un.org/youth> in full length. For more information, contact: youth@un.org.

6 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. Youth organizations are not able to participate, but can attend if they have an entrance pass to the UN building. The day before the plenary meetings, an informal interactive round-table discussion will be organized on the theme "Young people: making commitments matter", which will be open to participation by non-governmental youth organizations. A summary of this round-table will be presented by a youth representative from a Member State to the General Assembly at the beginning of the plenary meetings the next day.

More information can be found at: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/ga60.htm>

The UN and World Scouts work together for the MDGs

The World Organization of the Scout Movement and the United Nations Millennium Campaign entered into a long-term partnership that seeks to motivate the Scout's 28 million members worldwide to combine their voices and demand an end to global poverty by 2015.

In collaboration with Scout's Youth of the World programme, the Millennium Campaign will support educational outreach to young people to learn about the Millennium Development Goals, and aid in the development of youth driven media to inform and mobilize other young people.

A Youth for Development prize will also be jointly presented to creative youth-led programmes that raise awareness and mobilize young people who are actively campaigning for the Millennium Development Goals.

For more information:
<http://www.youthoftheworld.net>
<http://www.millenniumcampaign.org/youth>

International Youth Day

12 August 05

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 at: <http://www.un.org/youth>

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YEN Partnership Office Opens in Beijing

On 20 May, the joint UN-ILO-World Bank Youth Employment Network (YEN) will open its first country partner office, in Beijing, China. In collaboration with the All-China Youth Federation, the YEN Partnership Office will coordinate substantive issues related to youth employment in China.

The office will be opened on the occasion of the fourth meeting of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel of the YEN. The meeting will review a global analysis and evaluation report of national action plans on youth employment. To date, 36 countries have submitted plans, or progress reports towards the development of plans, to the United Nations. The report will be submitted to the General Assembly at its 60th session later this year.

This meeting will also include a discussion of Private-Public Partnerships for youth employment and a second session will also seek to determine linkages between the issues of youth employment and collective security. These discussions will be followed by a two-day study visit to youth employment activities in Shandong Province.

A youth consultative group, established in September 2004, comprising representatives of international and regional youth organizations, will provide inputs to the global analysis report as well as being active participants for the duration of the meeting. For more information, visit: <http://www.ilo.org/yen>

Workshops on Arab Youth and the MDGs

Young people in the Arab world are standing at the crossroads of major changes in their countries. The current generation of young Arab men and women is the most and possibly also the best-educated ever. Yet, many face enormous challenges in finding decent employment and in participating in democratic decision-making processes.

In a joint initiative of the Regional Bureau for Arab States of UNDP and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (of which the UN Programme on Youth forms part), three workshops will be held in the region to address these concerns in light of the Millennium Development Goals.

The workshops will cover four main broad themes under the MDG umbrella, that have particular relevance to young men and women in the Arab world, namely: globalization and inclusion; employment and the labour market; governance and freedoms; and gender and family.

The activities constitute an exploration of a possible UNDP youth programme for the Arab region, and contribute to mainstreaming youth concerns into ongoing Arab regional programmes. In addition, the workshops will result in a publication on 'Arab Youth Strategizing for the MDGs', in time for the upcoming Millennium Summit in September, which will feed into ongoing work for the upcoming Arab Human Development Report.

Feature: Youth against landmines

Jonathan Greenacre is the founder and president of The Australian Youth Against Landmines Association (TAYALA) and founder and international director of The International Network of Youth Against Landmines (INYAL). Jonathan lives and studies in Sydney, Australia.

Jonathan has been involved in the fight against landmines since early 2003, after he visited a landmine aid centre in Cambodia. This visit changed his life: "We were driving along the dusty roads common throughout Cambodia, with some of the other landmine aid workers. The truck stopped and, like the others, I got out to go to the toilet. I began to venture off the side of the road. The other passengers could not speak English and so could only scream 'boom' at me. I realized that there were landmines just off the side of the road - if they didn't warn me, I might have had a leg blown up. Then I went to the landmine aid centre and saw the effects of landmines myself. I met people who suffered blindness, amputation or brain injury because of landmines. I realized that these landmine casualties had not had a chance in life and I resolved to help them upon my return to Australia. The memory of the horror of these sights has driven me since."

In 2004, Jonathan participated in the "International Youth Symposium on a Mine-Free World" held in Nairobi, Kenya, in which 39 committed young people from 25 countries gathered to meet and discuss how to take landmine action forward. The Youth Symposium was held alongside the "Nairobi Summit 2004 for a Mine Free World", the first governmental review conference of the Mine Ban Treaty. The youth participants joined some of the main conference sessions, and they created a statement that was issued to the main landmine conference, affirming their commitment to a mine-free world. The general message of the Nairobi Summit was that while much progress has been made against landmines a new generation of young people is needed to carry on this fight in the future.

"Last year, I realized that there were probably many young people like me, working against landmines and that we should seek to unify our efforts. I contacted other youth organizations and together we started the International Network of Youth Against Landmines. At the International Youth Symposium, we decided to design a body that will establish permanent links of communication between us, to learn from each other and unite our efforts in the future. I am currently working on setting up regional dialogues. We have a relatively well-established arm in Africa and are working on another in Southeast Asia."

The effects of landmines to the lives of young people are not mentioned in the World Programme of Action for Youth, the blueprint for youth policies and programmes of the United Nations. Jonathan aims to lobby for the inclusion of landmines in this document. "With 200 million landmines in over 82 countries, landmines are an issue, which truly requires ongoing international co-operation to defeat. We need another generation of young people to work towards eradicating this weapon of war. It needs to happen fast: every 22 minutes a person is maimed or killed by a landmine. Further, landmines have a special relevance for young people. After hearing the stories of young people in Cambodia, I realized that at an age when we were all running around full of energy, thousands of children will be consigned to a hospital bed. Many more will not survive the explosion."

Jonathan encourages anyone who would like to become part of the International Network to contact him at antilandmines@mail2president.com

For more information on the International Network of Youth Against Landmines (INYAL): <http://www.aplaceof.info/inyl>.

UNEP: TUNZA Magazine "MDGs making a world of difference"

The latest issue (Vol.2 No.4) of the UNEP flagship magazine for young people TUNZA is available online. It is devoted to the Millennium Development Goals and how young people can be involved in the implementation of the MDGs. You can easily download, view or browse through the pages at <http://www.ourplanet.com/tunza/issue0204en/pages/contents.html>

UNODC: "Value yourself...make healthy choices"

On 26 June, the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Drug Trafficking is celebrated on the theme "value yourself ... make healthy choices". With this campaign, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) intends to send out a message of self-respect to young people around the world. It calls on youth to consider the health-related reasons why they should stay away from drugs or stop using them. 'Healthy choices' is not only about saying "no" to drugs but also about choosing healthy lifestyles: sports, music, school, civil service, and other positive activities. For more information: http://www.unodc.org/unodc/event_2005-06-26_1.html

Other youth events

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

29 July - 06 August 05 6th Annual Young General Assembly Session

Blantyre, Malawi. Participants to this session will write a booklet of project plans to implement the Millennium Development Goals, A World Fit for Children targets and Convention on the Rights of the Child articles as well as prepare a statement for the 60th United Nations General Assembly Session 10-year Review of the World Programme of Action for Youth. For more info, contact: [Peaceways-Young General Assembly Secretariat](mailto:Peaceways-Young General Assembly Secretariat@igc.org) peaceways@igc.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. Registration has been closed. For more information, visit <http://www.scotland2005.org>

30 Sept-2 Oct 05 Fourth UNESCO Youth Forum

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris. The fourth UNESCO Youth Forum will form an integral part of the 33rd UNESCO General Conference - the highest decision-making body of the Organization. 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: <http://www.unesco.org/youth>

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.

On the web

Young Peacebuilders are surveying youth peace practice

The United Network of Young Peacebuilders started the project 'Youth in Peacebuilding: Developing criteria to identify good practices' to find out how youth peacebuilding practices can be evaluated. All youth organizations and youth activists are asked to contribute to this research, by answering a short survey at <http://www.unoy.org/downloads/11001.doc>. The results of the research will be shared among youth organizations, researchers and donor agencies, and among all those who contributed.

Youth Representation at the UN: Tips for the South

Leon Castellanos Jankiewicz has been lobbying for a Mexican youth delegate to the United Nations General Assembly meetings. He published an article with tips for young people in developing countries to lobby for a youth delegate to United Nations meetings. His motto: "live to lobby". To read his article, visit: <http://www.takingitglobal.org/panorama/article.html?ContentID=5495>

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).

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

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