

## **UN YOUTH FLASH**

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WELCOME to the UN Youth Flash, a service of the United Nations Programme on Youth to keep you informed about the work of the UN on youth issues. We encourage you to forward the UN Youth Flash to people in your network.

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UN Youth Flash can be read on-line at: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/flash.htm>

### **FEATURE: Youth issues at the 62nd session of the General Assembly**

Youth and social development are discussed in the General Assembly's Third Committee, which addresses social, humanitarian and cultural issues. In his opening statement to the Third Committee, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development, which includes the UN Programme on Youth, stated that the young people of today have new opportunities that co-exist with a myriad of challenges; nevertheless, youth are increasingly proving to be essential to the development process. The full and effective participation of young people and youth-led organizations is important for the realization of the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the promotion and implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY). He called on Member States to encourage the participation of young as active agents in decision-making processes and for positive change and development in society.

The Report of the Secretary-General on youth entitled "Follow-up to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond," was presented to the Third Committee along with other youth-related documents. The report contains a review of the progress made and the constraints that young people face in relation to their participation in the global economy. It highlights issues pertinent to globalization, employment, education, poverty and hunger – all critical determinants of whether youth succeed in the global economy or not. The report also proposes a set of indicators for measuring youth development and puts forward specific recommendations geared to integrating and protecting youth in the global economy, and includes a progress report on the Secretary-General's Youth Employment Network. An addendum to the report elaborates on goals and targets for monitoring the progress of youth in the global economy.

The Committee also has before it the supplement to the WPAY that elaborates on the five additional areas, namely globalization, information and communications technology, HIV/AIDS, armed conflict, and intergenerational issues and presents proposals for action by Governments.

Twenty four youth delegates were included in the official delegations of 18 countries. Although, presentations at Third Committee meetings made by youth delegates primarily focused on youth-related topics, their direct and passionate statements also included a range of global concerns, such as climate change and the MDGs. Ben Groom, the youth delegate from Australia spoke about the preparations he made for his task at the UN. He told about his 33,000 mile journey of consultation with over 4,000 young people from around his country, bringing their concerns to the General Assembly. Marah Köberle, one of two youth delegates from Germany, stated that young people clearly had the capacity to address local and global issues and what was needed was the commitment of Governments to provide the necessary opportunities – equally and fairly. The youth delegate from the Netherlands spoke out for young people facing poverty, insecurity and inequality, giving them a voice at the United Nations. After making their speeches, some youth delegates received applause, an occurrence quite uncommon at General Assembly meetings.

The Committee is currently deliberating on a draft resolution that highlights the role of youth participation in development and the addresses the mixed impact of globalization on the lives of young people around the world. The resolution aims to improve the ability of young people, especially those living in poverty, to participate more fully in the global economy through greater inclusion, education, training, and employment policies. It calls upon Governments to keep their commitments made in the MDGs and to act to achieve them through national development strategies with the increased involvement of young people. Youth delegates from several Member States made significant contributions to the text of resolution and actively participated in deliberations.

To find out more about the youth delegates or to review youth-related documents, including the final General Assembly resolution on youth, please visit <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/ga62.htm>.

## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM UN HEADQUARTERS**

### **>> Youth Week at United Nations Headquarters**

Youth issues were highlighted at UN Headquarters during what is now informally known as, Youth Week. The following were key side-events held at United Nations Headquarters during Youth Week:

#### **> Briefing for Youth Delegates**

The United Nations Programme on Youth organized this briefing for Youth Delegates prior to the opening of the Third Committee. The event provided an opportunity to highlight the work of the United Nations on Youth and discuss documents that were before the General Assembly. It allowed youth delegates to present themselves and network with youth delegates from other countries, as well as with representatives of the NGO Committee on Youth. For information on how youth can represent their countries at UN meetings, please see <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/youthrep.htm>.

#### **> Empowering Youth in the Global Economy**

This seminar was organized by the youth delegates to the 62nd session of the General Assembly at German House – the Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN. Keynote speakers included Audrey Cordera, the young founder of Youth Works Inc (<http://www.youthmicrofinance.com>), a youth-led, fully incorporated non-profit

organization providing microfinance loans and a virtual marketplace to underprivileged and grassroots youth entrepreneurs. Yamina Djacta, of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT) presented information on an innovative microcredit project for urban youth in the slums of Nairobi that provides loans to aspiring entrepreneurs (<http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=531>).

### **> Youth participation for development: assessing experiences of youth participation in policymaking**

The Secretary-General's Youth Employment Network (YEN) organized this event that included an official launch of the new publication, "Joining Forces with Young People: A Practical Guide to Collaboration for Youth Employment". This publication was produced by the Youth Consultative Group (YCG) that comprises of youth representatives from major international and regional youth organizations. The event also included a moderated panel discussion that showcased of the work of the YEN core partners (ILO, World Bank, United Nations) in engaging with young people on employment issues. To download a copy of the publication, please visit

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/strat/yen/download/yendraft.pdf>.

### **> Youth participation in fighting HIV/AIDS**

This event was organized by the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA), the NGO Committee on Youth and the UN Programme on Youth. The event included the screening of YouthForce: Delivering a Message on HIV/AIDS, a video documentary of the 2006 XVI International AIDS Conference in Toronto, where over 1,000 youth delegates from around the world came together to make their voices heard. Following the screening, a panel discussed current YouthForce preparations for the 2008 Mexico International AIDS Conference and presented information on how to get involved in youth HIV/AIDS interventions worldwide. The panelists included Joya Banerjee and Aleza Summit from the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS, Harinder Janjua from the UNFPA HIV/AIDS Branch, and Sandra van Beest, youth delegate from the Netherlands.

### **> Empowering vulnerable and marginalized youth in employment and education**

The Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations organized this event to discuss issues surrounding disadvantaged youth and to highlight national policies to address the issue. Presentations included the UN's "Tackling Poverty Together" project (<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/TPT.htm>) by Julie Larsen, "Empowerment of Young Roma" by Jonathan Mack, youth delegate of Germany, "Empower Youth with non-formal education in Sweden and Africa" by Gabriel Ehrling, the youth delegate from Sweden and "Erase Discrimination and Empower Migrants" by Adina Rom, the youth delegate from Switzerland.

### **>> STAND UP! SPEAK OUT! Poverty Eradication Day at the United Nations**

On 16-17 October, over 43 million people from around the world stood up and spoke out, breaking last year's record of 23.5 million, to demand a more urgent political response to the growing crisis of global poverty and inequality. They called on their world leaders to keep their commitments made in the Millennium Development Goals. United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon led the stand-up event at UN Headquarters in New York. A pledge was read by the Secretary-General and Adina Rom, the Swiss youth delegate to the 62nd session of the General Assembly, along with the President of the General Assembly and a young person living in poverty and hundreds of people who had assembled on the North

Lawn at UN Headquarters. For more information, please see <http://www.standagainstopoverty.org/>.

**>> Expert Group Meeting on Intergenerational Solidarity held at UN Headquarters**

The meeting entitled “Strengthening Economic and Social Ties” was held from 23-25 October at UN Headquarters. Intergenerational solidarity can be understood as a sense of mutual dependence between people, arising from shared or common interests that generate any number of positive social outcomes. Within the broad objective of developing specific strategies to promote social inclusion and enhance solidarity between generations, this meeting was geared at exploring essential elements of solidarity at all levels - in families, communities and countries. The experts discussed ways to promote mutual support among generations, especially between older persons and youth and what could be done to avoid conflicts among generations, as well as ways to address the specific needs of various socio-demographic groups in this context. For more information, please see [http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/egm\\_unhq\\_oct07.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/egm_unhq_oct07.htm).

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM UN AGENCIES AROUND THE WORLD**

**>> ILO Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM), 5th edition**

This fifth edition of the KILM provides more insight and new measurements on what the International Labour Organization (ILO) calls “decent work deficits” worldwide. Decent work is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, as well as allowing people to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives. The publication also presents an indicator on youth that consists of four distinct measurements, each representing a different aspect of the youth unemployment problem. The four measurements are: (a) youth unemployment rate (youth unemployment as a percentage of the youth labour force); (b) ratio of the youth unemployment rate to the adult unemployment rate; (c) youth unemployment as a proportion of total unemployment; and (d) youth unemployment as a proportion of the youth population. To download this edition of the KILM, go to <http://www.ilo.org/kilm/>.

**>> UN-GAID Global Forum on Youth and ICT for Development**

At the three-day Forum held in Geneva from 24-26 September, young people from around the world proposed measures for addressing the impact of ICT on their lives by adopting a manifesto, “A Declaration to and for the Youth of the World”, stating young people’s commitment to eradicate poverty through the use of innovative technology. More than 600 participants from youth organizations, Government, the private sector, civil society and the technology community attended the Forum’s plenary sessions and workshops, panels and roundtables. A marketplace featured several events and exhibits that showcased young people’s innovations in the use of technology. For more information, please visit <http://www.un-gaid.org/gfyouth>.

**>> UNESCAP Training workshop in Viet Nam on drug abuse counselling**

The UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), in collaboration with the Department for Social Evils Prevention, Viet Nam, conducted a training workshop on drug treatment and rehabilitation and relapse prevention for young drug users in Vinh, Viet Nam from 3-5 October. Present at the workshop were community representatives and other stakeholders, including Government officials and people from the Youth Union, health centres and drug treatment and rehabilitation centres. Workshop sessions served to, enhance

counselling skills, raise awareness of the risks associated with drug use, emphasize the need for greater community linkages and advocate policies that encourage greater community participation in treatment. For more information, please contact [roncarati@un.org](mailto:roncarati@un.org)

### **>> UNESCO Youth Forum**

More than 300 young people from all over the world came together at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris for the fifth UNESCO Youth Forum. The 2007 Youth Forum examined the results and recommendations from a series of Regional UNESCO Youth Forums held in 2006 and 2007 on the theme of 'Young People and the Dialogue among Civilizations, Cultures and Peoples'. The young delegates worked together in plenary sessions and working groups to produce a final report that included their views, concerns and recommendations, which was presented at the opening plenary session of the General Conference, UNESCO's highest decision-making body. For the first time, young people directly contributed to the work of two ministerial round tables on "Education and Economic development" and "Science and Technology for sustainable development - the role of UNESCO". To read the final report of the UNESCO General Conference Youth Forum, please see <http://www.unesco.org/youth> or email [ucj@unesco.org](mailto:ucj@unesco.org)

### **>> UNFPA launches publication on adolescent pregnancies**

On 19 October 2007, UNFPA launched its new youth publication, "Giving Girls Today and Tomorrow: Breaking the Cycle of Adolescent Pregnancy" at the Women Deliver Conference, a global conference that took place from 18-20 October 2007 in London, UK to mark the 20th anniversary of the global Safe Motherhood Initiative and to create political will to save the lives and improve the health of women, mothers, and newborns worldwide. The publication highlights the issue of adolescent pregnancy among married and unmarried girls aged 10-19 years old, with special attention to those living in poverty. It further underscores how strategic investments help to prevent pregnancy and child marriage can yield huge returns, while building the socio-economic assets of girls. For more information, please visit the UNFPA website at <http://www.unfpa.org>

### **>> UNFPA supported documentary "Child Brides: Stolen Lives"**

On October 12, the American public television news journalism series NOW on PBS premiered a special documentary, "Child Brides: Stolen Lives". The hour-long special travelled around the world for a revealing exploration of child marriage in developing countries, and how people can act locally and globally to address this harmful practice. An estimated 100 million girls will be married over the next 10 years and the documentary puts a human face on the issue, taking viewers on a journey of sorrow, healing and hope. Countries visited include Niger, India and Guatemala. For more information, please visit: <http://www.pbs.org/now/shows/341/index.html>.

### **>> UNFPA Global Youth Advisory Panel**

The annual UNFPA Global Youth Advisory Panel meeting will be held from 19 to 21 November. It will bring together 20 to 25 young representatives aged 15 to 24, who represent a wide variety of national, regional and international youth networks to give advice on promoting the rights and needs of youth within UNFPA. Panel members make comprehensive recommendations on planning, policymaking and programming and also share ideas with UNFPA throughout the year via an e-forum. For the 2007 meeting the Global Youth Advisory Panel will focus on developing a guide for UNFPA Country Offices on youth participation and youth-adult partnerships, including recommendations on the

establishment of country-level Youth Advisory Panels. For more information, please see <http://www.unfpa.org/adolescents/initiatives.htm>.

**>> UNICEF Participate! Comment! Share your experiences on what works!**

Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child stresses the importance of children's right to express their views in all matters affecting them. UNICEF is providing young people with an opportunity to tell the world how to better implement this important Article. The opportunity also includes an invitation to send in ideas, case studies and experiences that could be included in the forthcoming "Handbook for Governments on Implementing the General Comment". The Handbook will provide a space for drawing on the many examples of good child participation practice from around the world to show what works and why. The deadline for submission is October 31, 2007. For more information, please see [http://www.unicef.org/voy/takeaction/takeaction\\_3923.html](http://www.unicef.org/voy/takeaction/takeaction_3923.html).

**>> UNICEF Graca Machel 10 Year Review - Voices of Youth Survey**

"Will you listen? – Young voices from conflict zones", the youth report of the Machel Study 10-year strategic review was launched by young people on 17 October at the UN. This report brought together the voices of children and young people from Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, Haiti, Iraq, Liberia, Nepal, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan and many other areas affected by war. It includes first-hand accounts of how these youth experience violence, displacement, sexual violence, interruption of education, malnutrition and lack of health care, and trauma. UNICEF and UNFPA facilitated the participation of 1700 youth from 92 countries in this process through focus group discussions and an online survey. Now through an online petition, they are asking other youth to join with them and endorse the demands made in the report. To sign the petition, please go to <http://petitions.takingitglobal.org/machel>.

**>> UNICEF Speak out on disability rights**

UNICEF is calling all on young people to contribute their ideas to the child-friendly text of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This online discussion will provide young people with the opportunity to comment on the child-friendly text that will help put the Convention into the hands of children and young people. This way they will know what Governments have promised to do to make sure that every child with disability has what it needs to grow, play, participate and go to school, and to reach its full potential as others. To contribute your ideas, please visit [http://www.unicef.org/voy/takeaction/takeaction\\_cfc\\_questionnaire.php](http://www.unicef.org/voy/takeaction/takeaction_cfc_questionnaire.php).

**>> WHO Developing an integrated approach to adolescent health**

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a treasure-trove of useful guidance on individual and public health, but is it organized in a fashion to address adolescent health issues in countries? This was the challenge that WHO's Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development (CAH) rose to meet over the summer. While many departments within the organization work with "children" (defined as under 18), they do not necessarily specify actions for adolescents. The aim of the initiative was to provide better, more comprehensive support to countries by developing a portal to the breadth of resources that WHO has to offer on adolescents' health. CAH will use this as a basis to explore how WHO country offices can use such technical resources to address the health of adolescents in a more integrated manner.

### **>> WHO Review of Global Fund Proposals**

The Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) provides an unprecedented opportunity to coordinate and increase funds for HIV programmes in countries. But have the available resources been used for activities to prevent HIV among young people, who are estimated to account for more than 40% of all new infections? The Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development (CAH) of the World Health Organization reviewed 163 funded and not-yet-funded proposals for youth activity from the GFATM website. The results were disturbing: 45 of the proposals didn't seem to have any activities focused on young people; about 50% had some activity, although these varied widely; and only about 4% of the proposals were focused specifically on young people as a major target. Further review of the type of the proposals indicated that providing information and building life skills were the most predominant types of activity. Little attention was directed to improving health services for young people - a CAH priority - or targeting particularly vulnerable young people. Following this review, an article is being drafted which is envisaged as the basis for advocacy and for the development of tools to assist countries in increasing the attention being paid to young people. For more details, please contact [lawedavieso@who.int](mailto:lawedavieso@who.int) or visit <http://www.who.int/child-adolescent-health>

## **CALENDAR OF YOUTH EVENTS**

### **>> 2 - 4 November Asian Youth Forum 2007**

The Asian Youth Council in collaboration with the All China Youth Federation will organize the Asian Youth Forum (AYF) 2007 in Beijing, China. The chosen theme for 2007 is Dynamic Asia: Entrepreneurial Youth. For more information, please see <http://www.asiayouth.org>

### **>> 5 - 8 November: Peace in the Oceans Conference**

A global interactive conference on ocean sustainability, climate change, women and youth will be hosted by the International Ocean Institute (IOI), IOC-UNESCO, and the Government of Malta. For more information, please see <http://www.thewavesofchange.org>

### **>> 10 - 17 November: ASEM Youth Dialogue**

The dialogue provides a valuable challenge through which youth can exchange perspectives on priority themes in the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) agenda. The Conference in Mindoro, Philippines, will examine "Conscious Choices for Equitable Development. For more information, please see <http://www.asef.org>

### **>> 14 - 19 November: Third World Congress on Children and Adolescent's Rights**

The Third World Congress will be held in Barcelona, Spain. Children and adolescents will present their concerns and offer solutions to issues that affect them. The aim of this Congress is to set guidelines towards attaining "a world fit for children". For more information, please see <http://www.iiicongresomundialdeinfancia.org>

### **>> 19 - 22 November: Commonwealth Youth Forum**

The Youth Forum will be held prior to the opening of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Entebbe, Uganda. The theme of the Forum is "Breaking barriers; unleashing young people's potentials for development" and will aim at identifying successful strategies and models in fostering youth sustainable development, conflict

resolution and combating HIV/AIDS. For more information, please see <http://www.chogm2007.ug/>

**>> 4 - 7 December: Africa-Europe Youth Summit**

The North-South Centre of the Council of Europe is facilitating a youth-led process to hold an Africa-Europe Youth Summit in Lisbon. The aim of the Summit is to reinforce youth work and increase youth participation in Africa and Europe influencing the youth policy in Euro-African Cooperation. For more information, please see <http://europafrika.org/2007/05/23/africa-europe-youth-summit>.

**>> 14 November - United Nations observes World Diabetes Day**

In 2006, the General Assembly of the United Nations passed a resolution recognizing diabetes as a chronic, debilitating and costly disease and designated 14 November as World Diabetes Day to be observed every year starting in 2007. The theme of this year's Day is Diabetes in Children and Adolescents. For more information, please see <http://www.worlddiabetesday.org/>

**>> 1 December - World AIDS Day**

This year's theme is "leadership", which provides an opportunity to highlight youth leadership through a wide range of community activities. The Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA) is partnering with World AIDS Campaign to coordinate youth-led events worldwide. For more information, please see <http://www.worldaidscampaign.info>.

**>> 5 December: International Volunteer Day**

The Day offers an opportunity for volunteer organizations and individuals to highlight their contributions to achieve the MDGs at local, national and international levels. For more information, please see <http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/int-l-volunteer-day.html>.

**>> 9 - 12 December: UN Special Session/World Fit for Children + 5**

The year 2007 marks the mid decade point for the Plan of Action of the "A World Fit for Children". The main events include the Children's Forum on 9 - 10 December, the commemorative high level plenary meeting of the General Assembly and Roundtable discussions on 11 and 12 December 2007 in New York. For more information, please see <http://www.unicef.org/worldfitforchildren>. In the meantime it is your opportunity to take action and get involved. Visit UNICEF's Voices of Youth website to find out how: [http://www.unicef.org/voy/takeaction/takeaction\\_3978.html](http://www.unicef.org/voy/takeaction/takeaction_3978.html)

**>> 14 - 30 June 2008: International Summer Work Camp in Palestine**

"Hope for Tomorrow" at Zajel Youth Exchange Program, An-Najah National University, Nablus-Palestine. The camp invites young people from around the world interested in helping create a better world, specifically youth working with youth-led organizations addressing humanitarian issues and social justice. For more information, please see [http://youth.zajel.org/summer\\_camps/summer\\_camp\\_2008/announcing.htm](http://youth.zajel.org/summer_camps/summer_camp_2008/announcing.htm).

**>> 10 - 21 August 2008: 4th World Youth Congress on Youth and Development**

Regeneration 2008 - Quebec City, the 4th World Youth Congress, designed to promote and celebrate youth-led development, will bring together 600 young people from over 100 countries to Québec City in August 2008. Find out more and be part of this worldwide Youth Action Event! If you are an active young person (15 – 30), also passionate about

making poverty history in a sustainable way, register to participate at <http://www.wyc2008.qc.ca> by 31 October.

## **ON THE INTERNET**

### **>> CRC@18**

This fall, the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) is celebrating its 18th Anniversary, and as part of the activities to commemorate this historic event Voices of Youth will create an online art exhibit with contributions from young people. The deadline for submissions is November 20. For more details, please see [http://www.unicef.org/voy/takeaction/takeaction\\_3866.html](http://www.unicef.org/voy/takeaction/takeaction_3866.html) or contact [voy@unicef.org](mailto:voy@unicef.org).

### **>> Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity**

This fall, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will publish the second edition of its youth newsletter, "Gincaniño", featuring the theme of biodiversity and climate change. Visit the Children and Youth section of the CBD website to download the newsletter and find out how your biodiversity initiatives can be shared with youth around the world. Please see <http://www.cbd.int/youth/>.

### **>> The Laws of Life Essay Contest**

The Laws of Life Essay Contest challenges young people of all ages to discover for themselves the values that will guide them throughout life. The contest enables community members to partner with their schools and make a difference in the lives of young people. For more information, please see <http://www.lawsoflife.org/contest>.

### **>>Virtual fair for rural youth from Latin America**

This fair in cyberspace will take place from October to December 2007. The fair is organized by RELAJUR and TakingITGlobal.org, along with support from IADB Youth, and presents novel ways to include the participation of rural youth in the region. Visit the fair at <http://jovenesrurales.tigblog.org>.

### **>> New magazine launched by IYF**

YOUth, the new flagship magazine from the International Youth Foundation's (IYF), offers interviews, personal stories, and essays focused on youth development around the world. Published by IYF twice a year, the magazine seeks to celebrate the power and promise of young people to change the world, while incorporating the varied voices and perspectives from those in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. To read the first issue, visit <http://www.iyfnet.org/section.cfm/31/286>.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

UN Youth Flash is a service of the UN Programme on Youth, of the Division for Social Policy and Development, within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) at the United Nations Secretariat in New York. The UN Youth Flash can be read on-line at: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/flash.htm>.

To subscribe and unsubscribe to the UN Youth Flash, please send an Email to: [youth@un.org](mailto:youth@un.org), with "subscribe" or "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

For more information about Youth at the United Nations, please visit:

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