

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

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FEATURE: Intergenerational solidarity under pressure in a globalizing world

Intergenerational solidarity can be understood as a social contract based on reciprocity across generations. This exchange is valuable to all age groups at both the family and community level and helps to pass on the uniqueness of culture and invaluable knowledge, while contributing to social progress. The majority of people in all cultures maintain close intergenerational relations throughout their lives and the benefits of these relationships flow in both directions. Younger persons benefit from the financial support and the knowledge and guidance provided by older members, and younger adults likewise contribute greatly to the care and well-being of older generations.

To explore and address increasing intergenerational challenges, an expert group meeting, entitled “Intergenerational Solidarity: Strengthening Economic and Social Ties”, was recently convened at United Nations Headquarters. During the meeting the experts agreed that an intergenerational approach to social development is necessary to promote stable, just, and harmonious societies.

Relationships between generations are dynamic and ever changing, and the evolving social realities resulting from present demographic shifts and changing family structures affect people of all ages. The increase in lifespan occurring in a great number of countries means that many adults are living longer lives. However, trends in globalization and development, particularly those related to employment and migration, threaten the maintenance of intergenerational ties. Older and younger people are increasingly living apart from one another and in many developing countries and countries with economies in transition, much of the ageing population is found in rural areas where social supports are often weaker, owing to the exodus of young adults in search of educational and economic opportunities. Older persons may be left behind without the traditional support of families and even without adequate financial resources.

While older persons lose opportunities to receive support from younger members of families, younger persons also lose opportunities to benefit from the knowledge and guidance of older members of their families. At the meeting, experts acknowledged that in numerous ways the well-being of one age group of the population is tied to the wellbeing of the others, just as the problems affecting one generation are often transmitted to future generations. The support that each generation provides for the others is critical for the

development of society as a whole. Policies need not reward one generation at the expense of another as the older and younger generations share many of the same concerns, such as, quality healthcare and greater access to education and decent employment.

The experts agreed that an on-going public discourse on the reciprocity between generations should be advanced. To facilitate the transmission of knowledge and understanding, generations needed greater opportunities to interact. Initiatives such as mentoring programmes of youth by adults and adults by youth should be promoted. Education curricula must also include learning about life-course issues. Programmes and policies that support intergenerational transmission of culture and values are also needed. The experts noted that, because culture and tradition are passed on from generation to generation, attention must be paid to adapting them to a modern world and to each particular cultural setting.

Annexed to the recently formulated General Assembly resolution on youth is the supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth, which presents “Intergenerational Issues” as an additional priority area needing urgent attention by Governments. The Supplement states that it is incumbent upon Governments to renew or restore intergenerational solidarity by fostering partnerships that promote beneficial intergenerational relationships.

The outcome and recommendations of the meeting will be published in a forthcoming publication of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. For more information on the expert group meeting please see http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/egm_unhq_oct07.htm.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM UN HEADQUARTERS

New 2007 Report on the World Social Situation launched

The “Report on the World Social Situation 2007: The Employment Imperative” focuses on the key role of productive employment and decent work in reducing poverty and promoting social development. The report states that in countries that have profited from globalization, adaptable and mobile young people have benefited. However, for countless others in Africa, South Asia and Latin America, globalization has not created many real opportunities. The report urges governments to place productive employment for all, rather than economic growth, or even simply creating jobs, at the centre of economic and social policy making. For more information, please see <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/social/rwss/index.html#2007>.

Human Development Report 2007/2008 launched

The new Human Development Report (HDR), entitled “Fighting climate change: Human Solidarity in a Divided World”, says that climate change is the greatest challenge facing humanity at the start of the 21st century. Failure to meet that challenge raises the spectre of unprecedented reversals in human development. The world's poorest countries and its poorest people will bear the brunt. The 2007/2008 on-line global Report will feature interactive tools with which to calculate your carbon footprint, as well as that of regions and countries all around the world using data contained in the latest Report. For more information, please see <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2007-2008>.

UN Student Conference to recognize the rights of indigenous peoples

10th Annual United Nations Student Conference on Human Rights (UNSCHR) will take place from 5-7 December 2007 at United Nations Headquarters. The theme of this year's

Conference, “Recognising the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”, will support the goals of the Second International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People, which aims to strengthen cooperation for finding solutions to problems faced by indigenous peoples. The participants of the Conference will work to raise awareness about indigenous people and their contributions to society globally, highlighting the significance of this action towards achieving a just and non-discriminatory international human rights policy. They will work to encourage Member States to implement the recently adopted Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the national level. For more information on the Conference please see <http://www.cyberschoolbus.un.org/student/2007/about.asp>.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM UN AGENCIES AROUND THE WORLD

UNESCO Resources on School Science and Technology education on CD-ROM

UNESCO has released a new CD-ROM featuring a collection of its documents on several aspects of science and technology education at the secondary school level, such as gender equity, policy planning and partnerships. Documents on the CD-ROM include “Guidelines for Policy-making in Secondary School Science and Technology Education”, “Girls and Science : A training module on motivating girls to embark on science and technology careers”, “Technology-based training of marginalized girls”, “Partnerships for relevant science and technology education” and “Technology Education Guide”. For more information, please contact j.heiss@unesco.org

UNESCO Education for All: Global Monitoring Report 2008 just released

The number of children starting primary school has increased sharply since 2000, there are more girls in school than ever before and spending on education and aid has risen. That’s the good news, but on the down side, poor quality education, the high cost of schooling and persisting high levels of adult illiteracy are undermining the chances of achieving education for all by 2015. The report shows that primary school enrolment increased by 36% in sub-Saharan Africa and 22% in South and West Asia between 1999 and 2005. Governments in 14 countries abolished primary school tuition fees, a measure that has increased access for the most disadvantaged. Worldwide, the number of out-of-school children dropped sharply from 96 million in 1999 to 72 million in 2005. For more information and to download a copy of the report, please visit <http://www.efareport.unesco.org>.

UNESCO Policy Paper on Peer-Group Monitoring and Evaluation

Providing adolescent girls with the learning opportunities they need to develop their full potential was the fundamental motivation for the launch of the 2002 UNESCO pilot project “Breaking the Poverty Cycle of Women”. From its early stages, the project addressed the multidimensional nature of poverty through its broad-based capacity-building programme and work with young people as peer monitors and evaluators. Based on the experience of the peer-group monitoring and evaluation component of the project, the UNESCO Section for Youth, Sport and Physical Education has just published a policy paper on Peer Group Monitoring and Evaluation entitled “Assessing Youth Empowerment through Peer-Group Monitoring and Evaluation: lessons learned and Perspectives for Replication”. For more information, please contact: ucj@unesco.org

UNFPA 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) launched its second annual “16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence” campaign by spotlighting five stories – involving

domestic violence, sex slavery, self-immolation, gender-based violence and HIV and “compensation” marriages. UNFPA notes that these topics that are often neglected deserve more global media attention. The 16 days run from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, until 10 December, International Human Rights Day. For more information, please see <http://www.unfpa.org/16days>.

UNFPA-UNAIDS Encouraging youth to join the global action against HIV/AIDS

The Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA), a UNFPA and UNAIDS supported international network of 3,500 young leaders fighting the spread of HIV/AIDS in 150 Countries Worldwide. GYCA is currently recruiting twelve Regional Focal Points (RFPs) for 2008. This is a call for all young people interested in taking a fundamental role in GYCA's development and in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The principle function of the RFPs is to be pro-active in implementing GYCA projects and effectively engaging GYCA members in their region. The deadline for applications is **3 December 2007**. For more information, please email info@youthaidscoalition.org or visit <http://www.youthaidscoalition.org/>.

UNFPA's “Chasing the Dream” photo exhibition in Germany

The German version of UNFPA exhibition “Chasing the Dream-Youth Faces of the MDGs” was held at the IFA, Berlin, one of the largest electronics trade shows worldwide. 13 young students from all over Germany joined the opening ceremony and promoted the "Stand up" event of the UN Millennium Campaign, which took place on 17 October 2007. The exhibition was also launched in Bonn, Germany at the Music Fair “Popkomm”, the international business platform for the music and entertainment industry. At the opening, an MTV presenter introduced the German hip-hop band “Culcha Candela” which was followed by an opening speech by Karen Heisecke, Programme coordination and Liaison Specialist at UNFPA's Brussels Office who spoke on behalf of UNFPA. Both Events in Berlin and Bonn were supported by Lifestylebrand Esprit, Germany.

UN Interagency Task Force on Adolescent Girls

From 28-29 November, the UN Interagency Task Force on Adolescent Girls convened a meeting at UNFPA to discuss three main objectives: (1) formalizing the task force and reaching agreement on its purpose and modalities for working together; (2) developing a joint programming framework for reaching marginalized adolescent girls; and (3) planning for joint programming through fundraising and partnership opportunities. During the meeting, the Task Force defined the essential elements for the joint programming framework and brainstormed on the potential for leveraging and driving resources for more targeted, strategic efforts aimed at marginalized girls as part of national development plans. Additionally, the Coalition for Adolescent Girls, a public-private initiative spearheaded by the UN Foundation and Nike Foundation to create lasting change in the developing world by driving investments to adolescent girls, launched a draft version of its Impact Girls Report. This seminal report is the first of its kind that brings together the evidence base from the economics and social sciences perspectives and makes the case for the key role adolescent girls play in development. For more information, please see <http://www.coalitionforadolescentgirls.org>.

UNICEF-VOY Radio Drama Competition

The Unite for Child Survival Radio Drama Competition is an opportunity to help people pay attention, get involved, take creative action and unite to help children in their communities

survive and thrive. Young people are invited to send in a written script for a radio drama. Radio scripts will be reviewed by an international panel who will select eight finalists, one from each region, and one winner, who will be featured on the UNICEF website. The winning script will be produced and broadcast on UNICEF radio. Please send your radio script, personal information and plot summary before **15 December 2007** to the Voices of Youth Mailbox: voy@unicef.org or for more information, please see http://www.unicef.org/voy/takeaction/takeaction_4002.html.

UNODC Family skills training to prevent substance abuse

This October, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) invited researchers, practitioners and programme managers from 12 countries to a Technical Consultation Meeting to identify guidelines and principles of effective implementation of family skills training programmes to prevent substance abuse and promote health among youth. These guidelines will be published early 2008 to assist policy makers and programme managers to implement evidence-based programmes. UNODC is currently looking for information on family skills training programmes around the world to identify as many examples as possible of evidence-based programmes. Please visit the UNODC website for more information including updates on activities related to family skills training: http://www.unodc.org/youthnet/youthnet_action.html

WFP Hunger Bytes!

The World Food Programme (WFP) calls on students and others to use their creativity towards raising awareness about hunger through a unique, international competition called "Hunger Bytes" by making a short video about "byting" global hunger. For more information, please see <http://www.wfp.org/english/?ModuleID=137&Key=2698>.

WHO FBOs discuss male circumcision for young people

In response to the growing involvement of Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) in male circumcision programmes, the Catholic Medical Mission Board organized a consultative meeting on Adolescent Male Circumcision for HIV Prevention and as an Entry Point for Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health in Limuru, Kenya. The meeting was supported with funding and technical assistance from WHO's Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development (CAH) and in collaboration with UNFPA and UNICEF. Participants included representatives of FBOs from Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It also provided an opportunity to share experiences of efforts by FBOs and to strengthen their effectiveness in the region. The consultation in Kenya was a follow-up to an informal brainstorming meeting organized by WHO's CAH and HIV Departments held earlier this year. In addition to clarifying priority follow-up activities, a statement was prepared to mobilize and engage FBOs in the region.

WHO-CAH Preventing HIV and improving adolescent SRH in Ghana

The Ghana Health Service (GHS) organized a workshop in Accra to orient regional programme managers working on reducing HIV transmission and improving adolescent sexual and reproductive health (SRH). The workshop was timed with the release of new surveillance data indicating an increase in the incidence of new HIV infections among the 15-19 and 20-24 year age group in Ghana. The focus of the workshop was on improving programme design and monitoring, using approaches developed by WHO's Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development (CAH). These are the "Mapping Adolescent Programming and Measurement" framework and the "4-S" strategic approach to

strengthening the health sector's response to adolescent health: gathering and using Strategic information, developing Supportive evidence-based policies, scaling up health Service provision and utilization, and strengthening action in other Sectors (such as education and the media). The workshop's recommendations include delivering both adolescent sexual and reproductive health and HIV testing and counselling in facilities that provide Youth Friendly Health Services (YFHS). They also call for the finalization of GHS's Strategic Plan for Adolescent Health and Development and the development of National Standards for YFHS by the end of 2008. For more information, please contact lawedavieso@who.int or visit <http://www.who.int/child-adolescent-health>.

CALENDAR OF YOUTH EVENTS

>> 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.youthaidscoalition.org/pages.html?page=wad>.

>> 3 December: International Day of Disabled Persons

This year's International Day of Disabled Persons focuses on how to ensure decent work for persons with disabilities and on ways to tap into the abilities of this marginalized talent pool. The recently adopted Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recognizes in Article 27 the rights of persons with disabilities to employment on an equal basis with others. For more information, please see <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/disability.htm>.

>> 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-1-volunteer-day.html>.

>>10 December, International Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December. It commemorates the day in 1948 the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. For more information, please see <http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/education/training/udhr.htm>.

>> 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>. The events also provide an opportunity to take action and get involved; please visit UNICEF's Voices of Youth website to find out how: http://www.unicef.org/voy/takeaction/takeaction_3978.html.

14-16 January 2008 Alliance of Civilisations Annual Forum, Spain

The AoC Annual Forum (<http://www.unaoc.org>) is a high-level event that will bring together key stakeholders to explore ways to promote cross-cultural understanding globally.

Youth participation is critical to help frame the discussion, identify solutions in order to achieve greater understanding and tolerance between cultures and to carry the work forward after the forum. A pre-forum orientation session will be arranged on January 14, 2008, for youth participants to get to know each other and to better understand the forum's objectives. From 15-16 January, youth will have the opportunity to engage in an interactive dialogue with noted world leaders during parallel working sessions. For more information, please see <http://groups.takingitglobal.org/development/messages/?view=msg&id=175311>.

17-21 June 2008: Tunza International Children's Conference on the Environment

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in collaboration with the Young Agenda 21 Foundation of Norway will host the 2008 Tunza International Children's Conference on the Environment in Stavanger, Norway. For more information, please see http://www.unep.org/tunza/children/events/icc_2008.

3-8 August 2008: XVII International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2008)

The AIDS 2008 Conference will be held in México City, México and will be the first International AIDS Conference ever held in Latin America. Do you want to participate in AIDS 2008? Starting 13 December, visit the Global Village, Skills Building, Youth or Cultural Programme pages of the conference website to learn how to submit a session or workshop proposal. <http://www.aids2008.org>

>> 10-21 August 2008: 4th World Youth Congress

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! For more information, please see <http://www.wyc2008.qc.ca>.

ON THE INTERNET

MDG Monitor to track national progress on MDGs

The MDG Monitor is designed as a web-based tool for policymakers, development practitioners, journalists, students and others to track countries progress through interactive maps and country-specific profiles. It aims to support organizations in their work to achieve the MDGs. For more information, please see <http://www.mdgmonitor.org>.

Francophone volunteer opportunity

The Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) launched its volunteer project that targets young francophones between the ages of 21 and 35 years old. The twenty one (21) volunteers selected will offer their services for 12 months to benefit projects in 9 countries being implemented by the OIF, the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (Universities' Agency), the Association Internationale des Maires Francophones (Mayors' Association) and the partners of the Francophonie. The project also strongly encourages South-South cooperation. The deadline for the submission of proposals is **7 December 2007**. For more information, please see <http://www.francophonie.org/volontariat.cfm>.

Latin American on-line Forum to fight HIV/AIDS

The E-Forum will be held from 5-17 December 2007 and will enable the sharing of experiences and lessons learned by organizations and groups dealing with health, including the public sector and other organizations working on HIV/AIDS. The Forum is organized by

ALCACJ - CELAJU - INLATINA and RELAJUR, with the support of UNESCO in observance of the World AIDS Day. The Forum will focus on leadership in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Latin America. The deadline for registration is 3 December 2007. For more information, please email gestion@joveneslac.org or visit <http://www.joveneslac.org/portal>.

Measuring youth

The MEASURE DHS website “Youth Corner” highlights findings about youth and features in-depth profiles of young adults ages 15-24 from more than 30 countries worldwide. The data comes from demographic and health surveys conducted in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe since 2000. DHS has interviewed thousands of young people and gathered valuable information about their education, employment, media exposure, nutrition, sexual activity, fertility, unions, and general reproductive health, including HIV prevalence. Find out more at <http://www.measuredhs.com/topics/youth/start.cfm>.

Youth policy database

USAID Youth-policy.com is an online resource on youth reproductive health (YRH) and HIV/AIDS policy worldwide. This site features a searchable database containing more than 100 full-text policies addressing YRH from over 40 countries. Also, read the insightful interviews with policy practitioners in the field. For more information, please see <http://www.youth-policy.com>.

UNESCO’s MOST social science research tool

UNESCO has launched a new tool to support policy-making based on research results from international social and human sciences. Designed and developed under the aegis of the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, this service will provide customized access to policy-relevant material (case studies) according to specific locations (city, country, and region) and/or themes related to social transformations (urbanization, migration, human rights, sustainable development, etc.). The tool is currently available in English, French and Spanish, and will soon be extended to the other United Nations official languages. For more information, please visit <http://www.unesco.org/shs/most/tool>.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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