

A yoUNg view

Youth Delegates Strengthen National Delegations

- Including young people in government delegations at the UN is an effective means of giving youth a voice in international decision-making processes, because young people will live the consequences of global decisions and policies;
- When youth are involved, youth-related policies have long-term sustainability, because young people are already integrated in the decision-making framework;
- Young people accept policies and decisions more readily if they are represented by youth delegates in the General Assembly;
- Young people are creative, passionate, energetic, and have new ideas to create positive social change;
- Youth delegates have the unique ability to reach out and communicate with their peers, raising awareness about United Nations decisions through social networks, educational institutions and emerging media technology;
- Youth can form a bridge between civil society and national delegations.

"...Having heard the impressive statements of the 2006 Youth Delegates, I recommend including youth delegates into the further work of the Third Committee. It is important to give young people the opportunity to bring in their inspiring views about the future of the world here in our work at the United Nations..."

(H.E. Dr. Hamid Al Bayati, Chairman of the Third Committee, Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations)

"...Young people are more than half of the world's population. By embracing youth delegates a country broadens its horizons and keeps young people involved..."

(Ms. Hedda Samson, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations)



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Being a youth delegate is not about a trip to New York or just about listening to important people. It's about showing that we have our opinions and views, and that if we are integrated into the framework of progress in the world, this will surely be more sustainable. I commend all governments that have sent youth delegates for their decision, and hope that more countries – from both North and South – will recognize the benefits of having youth delegates in their national delegations.

(Christine M. Cassar, Youth Delegate of Malta to the 61st GA)

Someone said once that the height of a man is measured by the height of his ideas and in the eternal struggle of not exchanging an ideal for a mediocre alternative. That's the true meaning of being of a youth delegate. It's not only the chance to make your voice heard; it is the chance of speaking on behalf of those without voice (silenced by violence, intolerance and discrimination). It is an opportunity of helping others understand the true meaning of being at the United Nations.

(Miguel Angel Carreon, Youth Delegate of Mexico to the 61st GA)

It is important to involve young people in (youth-related) policy and decision-making processes; when young people are empowered, they act on issues that are important now, and they will keep striving for solidarity and equality within the coming decades.

(Wilco Otte, Youth Delegate of the Netherlands to the 61st GA)

Youth Delegates Needed - 2007

Member states should follow the invitation to send Youth Delegates repeatedly expressed in General Assembly Resolutions and do so at the Commission for Social Development in February 2007 and at the General Assembly 2007.

In the Commission for Social Development, the resolution on youth and on the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) will be drafted and youth delegates can bring in their input in this process. In 2007, the issues of Globalization, Information- and Communication Technologies, HIV/AIDS, Armed Conflicts and Intergenerational Issues will be added as five new priority areas to the WPAY.

Youth Delegates, as they are experts in youth issues, can give the best input to make the WPAY and its five new priority areas a strong and influential resolution on how to improve the living conditions of youth worldwide. Involving young people into resolution and policy making strengthens the existing channels for their implementation. Only then, young people can participate actively in their societies and contribute to the development of their nations and the world.