



MEDIA ADVISORY

WHAT: International Youth Day celebrations at the United Nations.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Theme: “Tackling Poverty Together: Young People and the Eradication of Poverty”.
- Words of welcome and statement from **UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan** read by **Mr. Johan Schölvinnck**, Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
- An interactive panel discussion on the theme of “Tackling Poverty Together,” with testimonials on poverty and performances by New York City youth.

BACKGROUND:

- Young people constitute a significant portion of the population especially in developing countries. Estimates indicate that almost one in five young people (18 per cent of the 1,158 million 15 to 24 year olds worldwide) survive on less than US\$ 1 per day; while as many as 45 per cent live on less than US\$ 2 per day.
- These numbers take on added significance when the many dimensions of poverty are considered: hunger and malnutrition; lack of access to education and other basic services; an increase in disease and illness, homelessness or inadequate housing; unsafe environments; and a lack of participation in decision-making and socio-cultural life.

WHEN: Friday 11 August, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

WHERE: Conference Room 3, UN Headquarters, 1st Avenue & 46th Street

MEDIA ARRANGEMENTS: Journalists without UN accreditation who wish to attend the event should send a request on company letterhead signed by a supervisor to Mr. Gary Fowlie, Chief, UN Media Accreditation Unit by fax at (212) 963-4642 or call +1 (212) 963 6934. For further information, visit www.un.org/media/accreditation

For media information or interviews with participants, please contact:

UN- Department of Public Information, Oisika Chakrabarti, Tel: +1-212-963-8264,
e-mail: mediainfo@un.org

PROGRAMME FOR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2006

(For background information go to www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/iyd2006.htm)

11 August, Friday Conference Room 3

10:00 – 10:20a.m. - Statement from Secretary-General, Kofi Annan.

This will be followed by welcome addresses by:

Johan Schölvinck, Director, Division for Social Policy and Development, DESA,

Jack Lund, President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater New York, and

Mohammed Sumbundu, YMCA's Global Teens 2006

Tiffany Younger, student, Thurgood Marshall High School and youth representative on the Board of Directors of the YMCA of Greater New York

10:20 – 10:30 a.m. - “A song through signing”, performance by the West Side YMCA

10:30 – 11:50 a.m. - An interactive panel discussion on the theme of “*Tackling Poverty Together*” interspersed with a 10 minute performance by the West Side YMCA.

Panelists include:

T'neil Eссор, Teens Take the City – Dodge YMCA

Shanequa Lassiter, Teens Take the City – Harlem YMCA

Vincent Little John, Teens Take the City – Harlem YMCA

Ravi Johnson, Teens Take the City – Harlem YMCA.

Joop Theunissen, Senior Social Affairs Officer, Social Perspective on Development Branch, Division for Social Policy and Development, UN DESA

11:50 – 12:05 a.m. - Final performance by the West Side YMCA

12 August, Saturday

Citywide Basketball tournament, Robert Moses Playground

1st Avenue between 42nd & 43rd Streets,

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

A citywide Basketball tournament will be organized in cooperation with the City of New York, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Youth and Community Development, Directions for our Youth and the National Basketball Association.