



## **International Youth Day 2007**

### **Programme for event on 10 August at DHLA/UNHQ\***

#### **11.00 Introduction**

Welcome address, introduction of partners, attendees  
Secretary-General's message, Director/DSPD  
UN Programme on Youth/DSPD/DESA

#### **11.15 Step Dance Group**

Partner: Directions for our Youth  
P.L.A.Y.E.R.S. (Participating in the Lives Amongst Youth to Educate and Restore Society) Step dance, which originated in Africa as a means of communication between slaves, has become increasingly popular in the Greek community and even incorporated into many mainstream American cultural mediums. Each step tells a story, much like a scene in a musical play. Step dancing has been incorporated into New York City's after-school programming. Subjects typically deal with the experience of growing up in the Bronx and the cultural heritage of participants.

#### **11.30 Using the Internet for Youth-Led Development**

Partner: Taking IT Global  
Presenter: Kirsten Jordan  
Technologies, such as the Internet, have created innovative ways for young people to immediately connect and engage with one another. Using examples from the TakingITGlobal network, an international youth-led network empowered by technology, Kirsten will show how youth can use the Internet to take action in their local and global communities.

#### **11.45 Shoot Nations International Photo Competition**

Partner: Plan International  
Presenters: Youth members of Plan International  
Shoot Nations is a global youth photography competition to get young people to document what matters to them, what's right and what's wrong in their world and how to make a difference. Over 900 entries were received from 85 countries. A light-box art installation of 48 selected photographs will be presented.

#### **12.00 Urban Word poetry**

Partner: Directions for our Youth  
Urban Word NYC™ (UW) exists to ensure that New York City youth have a safe, supportive, dynamic and challenging community in which to discover their powerful voices - through written and spoken word - and use them to express their views, strengthen self-esteem and engage them in opportunities that address the socio-political issues that affect them.

### **12.10 Youth, Values and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

Partner: Friends of the UN: Young Leaders Initiative

Presenter: Rajiv Ramakrishnan

Rajiv, a key member of a student-led organization that mobilize universities and coordinates a national student network on the MDGs, will show how young New Yorkers can also work to achieve the MDGs. Responsibility for the world's problems must be shared, including poverty. Young people can start community-driven efforts against AIDS, and local poverty, using their high schools as hubs; take action to promote gender equality by mentoring young girls, and encouraging them to pursue science and mathematics; work towards cleaner neighbourhoods, which lead to safer neighbourhoods.

### **12.20 Young Professionals for International Cooperation (YPIC)**

Partner: Friends of the UN: Young Leaders Initiative

Presenter: Natasha Ghent-Rodriguez

Natasha is a member of the YPIC Leadership Council and WFUNA-Youth Executive Committee. Young Professionals for International Cooperation (YPIC) is a forum where youth can work locally and impact globally. It offers young people an opportunity to volunteer for development while building their own careers. YPIC and other international youth organizations help youth experience the world and be heard with a collective voice. Natasha will also cite the HERO Campaign: youth helping youth by building schools for AIDS orphans in Africa.

### **12.30 Life Sport Performance**

Partner: Directions for our Youth

Emily Venizelos and Julie Northup are hand balancers who share strength and flexibility creating a dynamic performance that is the embodiment of co-operation and friendship.

### **12.45 Inspiring Youth to Be Seen and Heard**

Partner: Friends of the UN: Young Leaders Initiative

Presenter: Rika Saionji (Japan)

Rika, will introduce the Peace Pole project and will discuss how the message “May Peace Prevail on Earth” unites and empowers young people around the world. She has been educated in Japan, the United States and Germany. She is an inspirational speaker and has spoken at various international conferences and forums.

### **12.55 Concluding remarks and closing of event**

UN Programme on Youth/DSPD/DESA

\* PLEASE NOTE: The United Nations in no way requires the purchase of any tickets or the payment of any monies for participation in the official Headquarters activities in connection with International Youth Day. Also, the views expressed by the presenters at the event do not in any way reflect those of the United Nations, its Member States or United Nations system organizations.