

YOUTH REPRESENTED AT UN WORLD SUMMIT

The World Summit, which took place from September 14-16 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, was attended by two youth representatives: Erik Thijs Wedershoven from the Netherlands and another from Columbia, who arrived on the last day.

World leaders met to discuss progress of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and reforms of the UN itself in this high-level plenary meeting; it's great to know that global youth had a voice in the process. Erik stressed this point in a recent interview, saying "The MDGs are really young goals; when you talk about education, about HIV/AIDS - these are youth issues! It is so important to involve youth when you talk about these issues and make decisions on policies."

It's significant to highlight that Erik and his colleagues working for youth organisations across the Netherlands had lobbied extensively to get him to the Summit. Most countries which sent youth delegates to the UN this year mainly focussed on the 10-year review of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY), which took place in the first week of October. Of course it's fair enough that this is the primary reason for having youth representation in national delegations, but in modern society every issue has its own link to young people - especially those regarding development.

By Frederick Bernas, UK



Kofi Annan and the other World Summit co-chairs.

YOUNG PEOPLE MAKE THEIR MARK AT UNGA60

Issue one of *a yoUNG view* headlined with the story that record numbers of youth delegates would be present at this year's UN General Assembly - but we could have never even optimistically expected such a vast quantity!

A total number of 30 countries were represented, with around 50 youth delegates in all - many of which made statements in the high-level Plenary meeting on October 6. As a group, the youth delegates convened daily meetings and organised a side event (see page three), in addition to the tasks many were given by their national delegations and Missions.

The presence of youth was well and truly felt - and recognised - throughout the week. Photo opportunities were arranged with Secretary General Kofi Annan (right) and General Assembly President Jan Eliasson.

In addition to these previously unseen high numbers of national youth delegates, many representatives of different NGOs from across the world were in NYC to attend the WPAY+10 review. Their main chance to have input came on October 5 at the interactive roundtable discussion on *Making Commitments Matter*, which focussed on recommendations for implementation of the WPAY. This was a hugely important session because it gave NGO reps the opportunity they deserved to use their knowledge and make valuable contributions to the review process. They had important experience in the field of youth issues and this was much appreciated by all present.

President Jan Eliasson, who hails from Sweden and chaired a section of the roundtable, commented at one stage that having such a strong presence of young people at the UN was contributing to the organisation's "rejuvenation".

By Frederick Bernas, UK



- if you have any comments, suggestions or ideas please email youthrepsnewsletter@gmail.com -

In this issue...

Reports of the roundtable and Plenary sessions, side event summaries, interview with Bob Huber, learn about two youth NGOs, more profiles of national youth reps, a final message from the 2005 youth reps

"No-one is born a good citizen, no nation is born a democracy. Rather both are processes that continue to evolve over a lifetime. Young people must be included from birth. A society that cuts itself off from its youth severs its lifeline." - Kofi Annan

THE INTERACTIVE ROUNDTABLE

The term 'interactive roundtable' can mean a lot to some people and absolutely nothing to others. In the context of the WPAY+10 review at the UN, it was the name given to one of the process's key events.

Taking place on October 5 in the impressive ECOSOC Chamber, this session differed from most others in the fact that representatives from NGOs were invited to give their views and state opinions on how the WPAY can be implemented. Since the theme of the discussion was *Making Commitments Matter*, there was a clear focus on recommendations for action.

Participation was the dominant topic, despite the fact that the meeting was designed to be split into three equal segments - one for each WPAY cluster:

'Youth in the global economy: poverty, education and employment'

'Youth in civil society: environment, leisure and participation'

'Young people at risk'

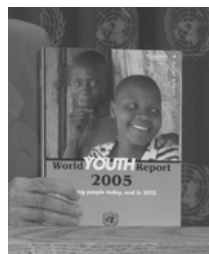
As the three different chairpersons of the session frequently acknowledged, many valuable contributions were made from NGO reps and youth delegates alike - although the meeting did get slightly pushed for time, with several states squeezing in very quick statements at the end.



Two of the session's opening keynote speakers.

WORLD YOUTH REPORT 2005 LAUNCH

October 4 saw another of the week's big events, the release of the World Youth Report 2005. Before the official launch session, in which key contributors gave presentations, many youth delegates attended the press conference. It was good to have a strong youth presence at the event and we heard all about the main findings in the book.



YOUTH REPS ADDRESS GA PLENARY

The most formal session of the WPAY+10 review took place on October 6 in the GA Plenary Hall. Delegates attending were in for the long haul, as it was over six hours in duration - several extra speakers were added late in the day. Many national youth delegates gave inspiring speeches and were often appreciated with rousing applause from onlookers. The final act of this high-level meeting was to pass the youth resolution: lengthy informal negotiations had been happening for a few days to grind out the fine details.

YOUTH RESOLUTION PASSED

The General Assembly youth resolution was prepared by Portugal, which has been responsible for the job since the WPAY was created in 1995. The first version at the beginning of September enhanced the importance of having a youth representative and the effective implementation of the programme. The final version adopted last week included most of the same points as the zero draft, but had become much longer due to extra sentences introduced by several member states. Importantly, the document also added five new priority areas to the existing ones:

- the mixed impact of globalisation on young people
- use of and access to information and communication technologies
- HIV/AIDS and similar infections
- youth in armed conflict
- intergenerational issues

Another significant new development was the creation of a set of indicators which will allow the WPAY's progress to be monitored across the globe. General talk within the UN has been praising of this resolution's progressive nature. It may have taken hours of negotiations to perfect, but the real work must start now: it is time for action!

By Antton Rönholm (Finland) and Frederick Bernas (UK)

"No-one is born a good citizen, no nation is born a democracy. Rather both are processes that continue to evolve over a lifetime. Young people must be included from birth. A society that cuts itself off from its youth severs its lifeline." - Kofi Annan

SIDE EVENT REPORTS

from national youth reps

Youth-led Development: Linking the MDGs to the WPAY

Host: GYAN / Peace Child International / other NGOs

Organised by a combination of different NGOs, this event was based around a panel of young people and moderated by a WFUNA official. Youth delegates from Tanzania and the UK were joined by representatives of NGOs as panellists to make speeches at the start and then take questions from the audience. Topics discussed included youth employment, participation and models of good practice from different countries. In addition to this interactive programme, the event also marked the official launch of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Youth's report linking youth and the Millennium Development Goals. Although first released in April, the document was only available online until this point. It explores in detail how young people can contribute to the MDGs and features case studies of how this has already happened.

By Frederick Bernas, UK

Working Breakfast: Mental Health

Host: Swiss Mission and youth delegate

Most of us agreed that mental health is a big problem which many people, especially governments, don't always see. We also talked about the problems which are actually there, problems that are a part of the whole situation: issues like anorexia/bulimia, HIV/AIDS, unemployment. All these can easily lead to major depression and most people don't take them into account. We all agreed that immediate response is needed. But how could we (as youth delegates) find ways to solve the problems associated with mental health? What could we do as individuals? Here we had great solutions. One was awareness: we can make sure this problem is no longer a taboo, get people to know it affects many and needs to be dealt with fast. The earlier the problems are discovered, the easier it would be to help and lots of money could be saved.

By Victoria Uwonkunda, Norway

WPAY New Priority Areas: a yoUNg view

Host: national youth delegates

This side event looked in detail at the five new WPAY priority areas, which have now been officially added in the youth resolution. Youth delegates first gave brief introductory talks for each, followed by attendees breaking into small groups for discussion and questions. At the end there was a brief feedback session before celebrating the WPAY's birthday in style with cake!

By Frederick Bernas, UK

'Youth Participation and Citizenship: Governments must do more!'

Host: UK youth delegates

The UK Mission organised a side event on youth well-being and participation, during which the crowded meeting room had presentations from the British youth representatives. Interesting discussion rose on participation and the ways to increase youth interest in taking an active role in their communities. It certainly is a paradox that young people in the most developed countries are nonetheless characterised by political nonchalance and many social problems not present in countries with a lower standard of living. One conclusion could be drawn: youth participation begins with encouraging parents and a high-class school system that provides children with basic knowledge of their own society and how to act in it.

By Antton Rönholm, Finland

Youth Policy: The Swedish Model

Host: Swedish Mission / LSU

The Council of Swedish Youth Organisations (LSU) co-hosted a seminar with Swedish Minister of Youth Affairs, Lena Hallengren, to show the Swedish experience of a holistic national youth policy and the role of youth organizations to make it work. Young people must have the power to decide and the right to welfare, according to Swedish youth policy. Young people are a resource, have rights, are different from one another and our self-reliance should be supported. These perspectives must be integrated in policy-making at all levels and political fields. When young people get organised we must get funding from the state without becoming a less independent organisation. Youth organisations should play an active role in the development, implementation and follow-up of the national youth policy. This side event showed that government and civil society can sit side-by-side. Although we do not always agree we can still co-operate and listen to each other, to find solutions for how to increase young people's participation in society and policy-making.

By Hanna Hallin, Sweden

Youth Media Makers / MTV Documentary

Host: UN Programme on Youth / MTV

These two evening side events took place in the Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium. The first was a series of brief video clips about youth participation followed by a general discussion on what we wanted to achieve during the youth week. In the second, visitors from MTV showed a diary documentary they made featuring Dr. Jeffrey Sachs travelling in Kenya with Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie to learn about the poverty situation. Our guests talked about the work they're doing with the Millennium Project to try and raise awareness amongst young people and it was good to hear about the success they've had with shows on MTV so far.

By Frederick Bernas, UK

The World Youth Bank Project

Host: Croatian National Youth Council / World Youth Bank Network

The Croatian side event was on the World Youth Bank system, an initiative originally suggested by Secretary Generals of ILO and the UN and the CEO of the World Bank. The idea is to create local youth councils and give them means to execute youth policies in their own area. A World Youth Bank should also be founded in order to enhance youth employment with capital provided by both public and private sector investment.

By Antton Rönholm, Finland

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A MAN BEHIND THE MAYHEM

'Youth week' at the United Nations was a frantically busy time for all involved in its Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). During the World Youth Congress in Scotland earlier this year, Frederick Bernas had the chance to meet and interview one of DESA's senior figures.

Bob Huber has possibly one of the longest job titles in the history of employment. He's in charge of the Generational Issues and Integration section of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. His department includes not only work on matters important to young people, but also topics of concern to those at the age spectrum's opposite end.

How did he get to this position? After student politics, Huber worked on the UN youth programme in Vienna in 1983, contributing to the organisation of International Youth Year 1985. Studies of social planning in developing countries at the LSE followed and he then returned to the UN to work on the 1995 World Social Summit, before taking his current post in 2002 when the section was created.

Huber attended the WYC in Stirling as a keynote speaker and when asked what he was looking forward to about the event, answered that "listening to what young people have to say" was his main priority. He added that often governments and decision-making bodies talk about what they think young people want, but the Congress was a chance to "actually meet with young people from all over the world" and converse directly.

"There's a general sense among governments about what the right thing is for young people at a rhetorical level but there's also a gap between what we want and how to get there," Huber explains. "This is something that occurs not only with youth, but all the areas of social policy I work in.

"Governments often find it much easier to talk about the 'what' than the 'how'," he explains. The 'how' has a lot to do with participation and people getting involved directly in a "very interactive" process. "People, governments and organisations need to sit in a partnership and work together.

"Increasing participation is absolutely the way forward, both for international organisations like the UN and governments at all levels" he states, continuing that "it's something which is a process - it doesn't just happen. We need to figure out the way for it to happen and make sense."

When trying to facilitate dialogue between governments and non-governmental organisations, representation is key: "Governments have a certain

legitimacy, whether you like it or not, because they are elected for the most part. When you get to a level of organisation with NGOs it's not always clear who they speak for, it's not clear who they represent." Modern technology now means that "anyone with a computer can become an organisation" and this further complicates the matter.

Currently, the inevitable topic for anyone involved with the UN is the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Huber believes that this "massive undertaking" is already a success merely because "we've achieved the member states and UN agencies co-operating and working together towards common goals." He admits that "it's easy to think 'what's the point of this?' and give up" but hastens to add "the challenge is to continue with this work and there is visible progress." He cites decreasing child mortality rates and states "life is becoming better, even if humankind won't ever achieve any kind of nirvana where everybody will be happy."

As for the role of young people in achieving the MDGs, the New Yorker believes "the qualities of youth are their optimism and idealism" and uses the metaphor "they feel like they've just got to the party." The challenge is "trying to get their voice heard," and "one important thing is for them to learn how to talk to governments and authorities."

A major aspect of his job is "encouraging young people to be more active and engaged" in achieving the MDGs and raising awareness of these targets. "It's challenging and frustrating at times, but this is something we need to do because in developed countries we have the luxury of just tuning out when we don't want to care. But it's a different situation for starving people or those in wars, they can't just take a break from everything."



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THE OTHER SIDE

When most people think about the United Nations, the images which come into their heads are of politicians and diplomats negotiating and discussing complex processes. Few remember the institution's other key collective player: non-governmental organisations. Frederick Bernas interviewed the bosses of two major NGOs and here you can read their answers.

GLOBAL YOUTH ACTION NETWORK

Benjamin Quinto, Executive Director

What does your organisation do?

The Global Youth Action Network seeks to connect the thousands of youth organizations working to improve their communities and the world. Our three-fold mission is to increase youth participation in global decision-making, facilitate collaboration among youth organizations and create support and recognition for positive youth contributions. Critical issues facing us today demand our efforts be more concerted and the collective potential we have is historic, unprecedented. United we could be the most powerful youth generation ever and end social injustice in our lifetimes. We believe that collectively young people have the power to do this, that their voices and hopes for a better tomorrow must be heard today.



What do you think about the WPAY?

It's the most significant international youth-related process I know of, apart from the Convention on the Rights of the Child, that deals directly with youth policy and participation. It sets a standard for young people's participation and the development of national youth policies, addressing pretty much every critical area.

What would you like to see in the youth resolution?

Governments finally making a common and unanimous commitment to sending youth representatives. Although calls for youth delegates have been issued for decades on end, few countries have taken up the invitation, as we know. More so than ever before, with half today's population under 30, it is of critical importance that their voices be heard in the halls that shape our future. A resolution, I hope, will not only call for that, but express the urgent call for inter-generational partnership and present tangible ways in which young people can be - and are - involved in shaping a better future.

What are your goals/objectives for the UNGA60?

Our objective had been to see a record level of official youth delegates - and amazingly that seems to have happened! As in previous years, we hope the delegates will build upon the efforts of those before them and continue to work towards the long-term impact these young leaders are poised to achieve. The continuity of our efforts is crucial to ever seeing any lasting changes in how the UN engages youth and succeeds in its goals. The role of youth reps should not only be to speak on behalf of their peers back home, but to work with other youth delegates in building sustainable forums where greater number of young people can likewise be heard.

What's your view on the likelihood of record numbers of national youth reps this year?

The prospect was very high, especially in the month or two leading up to the WPAY week. We saw countries that had never sent youth delegates do so for the first time. Perhaps this is the turning point we've all been working towards, when the positive contributions young people can bring to the table are finally realised.

PEACE CHILD INTERNATIONAL

David Woolcombe, President / Founder



What does your organisation do?

Peace Child International is a global network of youth-led organisations in 155 countries around the world. Its mission is to "empower young people" to tackle global issues - like the protection of human rights and the achievement of the MDGs. It does first by providing them with information and training on the issues, then by enabling

them to figure out how - then supporting them to implement - effective actions on their priority needs.

What do you think about the WPAY?

It is a useful framework or prism through which to assess governments' perceptions and priorities for the youth sector.

What would you like to see in the youth resolution?

Youth views! It is not for me to dictate what young people put in their resolution - but as an organisation and a network, I would love to see more emphasis on how to use 'youth as a resource' - especially in the field of development. I would love to see the appeal for "0.7% of ODA to be invested in youth-led development" to find a place within it. Mostly, though, I think young people are at their most impressive when they respond to the Kennedy dictum: "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask only what you can do for your country..."

What are your goals/objectives for the UNGA60?

I really do not have any. I just hope that at the end of it, there is greater optimism and better morale within the building for the work of the organisation - and that the current, depressing talk of the marginalisation of the UN is replaced by more confident talk of the UN taking centre stage in conflicts like Iraq, the Israel-Palestine situation, Dharfur etc.

What's your view on the likelihood of record numbers of national youth reps this year?

I just hope that they won't all be horribly bored. Myself, I find GA debates the best cure for insomnia yet invented. So my hope is always that governments who send youth to join their GA delegations will invest similar - and larger - amounts to enable their young people to do something genuinely useful, like starting schools in LDCs, or supporting local youth in sluggish economies in LDCs to start and run small businesses.

WEBSITES

Global Youth Action Network: www.youthlink.org
Peace Child International: www.peacechild.org

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a YOUNG view

issue two - week of October 17

newsletter of the UN youth reps

youthrepsnewsletter@gmail.com

who are we

Short answer: a small group of young people charged with the vital task of representing global youth at the world's most prestigious diplomatic event. Here you can find out more about us...

NORWAY

History of youth reps: Norway has been a part of this for some time (started in 1971). Each year two reps are chosen, usually a girl and a boy (equality, people, equality).

Selection process: Youth organisations are asked to submit their candidates to the National Youth Council; from there two are chosen. One represents a youth political party and the other a student/youth organisation.



Name: Torbjørn Røe Isaksen
Age: 27
Occupation: Student
Organisational Background: Norwegian Youth Council, Norwegian Young Conservatives
Email: torbjorn@hoyre.no
Website: <http://torbjorn.ungehoeyre.no/www.ungehoeyre.no>

What experience do you have of youth issues?

I have been active in youth politics for several years and was on the city council in my home city, Porsgrunn, when I was 19 years old where I worked on local youth policies.

Why did you want to be youth rep?

I wanted to learn about the UN and find out how such an organisation works from the inside.

What are your priorities for the UNGA?

For the two Norwegian youth reps to make an impact and especially for our speech in the GA to be good.



CZECH REPUBLIC

History of youth reps: First time sending a youth delegate.

Selection process: Chosen by the Czech Republic's Permanent Mission to the UN.



Name: Petra Dunne
Age: 26
Occupation: Student / Intern
Organisational Background: Czech National Youth Council / School Council
Email: pjarosova@yahoo.com

What experience do you have of youth issues?

I was President of the Czech national youth council. While in high school I worked on the governing body of my school as a vice-president attending meetings, trying to improve the conditions concerning not only my high school but the city council as well.

Why did you want to be youth rep?

It is important not only for the Czech government, but for other governments as well, to start paying more attention to us young people when it comes to decision- or policy-making.

What are your priorities for the UNGA?

Being able to listen to other youth delegates' opinions, ideas and thoughts was absolutely amazing. I think that we, the youth, can really move forward by listening to one another, learning from one another and sharing ideas.

GERMANY

History of youth reps: Nothing, Germany does not include youth representatives. We are here nonetheless.

Selection process: Application with essays about issues concerning the UN and youth, then interview on phone, afterwards another in Berlin.



Name: Anne Spiegel
Age: 24
Occupation: Student of political science, philosophy and psychology
Organisational Background: Green Youth
Email: anne.spiegel@gmx.de
Website: www.jugenddelegierte.de

What experience do you have of youth issues?

For three years I was a board member of the Green Youth in Rheinland-Pfalz and two years board member of the national Green Youth. My main topics are access to education and gender issues (situation of young women) and I was also responsible for international issues.

Why did you want to be youth rep?

I think youth participation on an international level is a very interesting and exciting thing. I am convinced it is a unique experience to be one of the youth reps this year, to work together with the other youth reps and to try to make youth matter!

What are your priorities for the UNGA?

I would like to lobby for the interests of young people, so youth participation in political decisions changes from exception to normality. So my first priority is to make the opinions of young people matter. Secondly, I would like to convince more countries to send youth representatives to the General Assembly. The more we have, the better we can make our voice heard and the better the diversity of young people's interests, problems and hopes represented! Finally, I think being a youth rep in New York is only one chapter of the job - I would like to take back as much experience and information to young people as possible.

Turn over the page for more youth rep profiles...

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a YOUNG VIEW

issue two - week of October 07

newsletter of the UN youth reps

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who are we

UNITED KINGDOM

History of youth reps: The three attending this year will be the UK's first ever youth delegates.

Selection process: Application form on the internet requesting personal information and details about youth experience. Following this, 15 of an initial 600 applicants were chosen for interviews at the Foreign Office which decided the final three.



Name: Keeley Williams
Age: 21
Occupation: Student / Youth Participation Worker
Organisational Background: UK and Newham Youth Parliaments
Email: uk.youthdelegates@unysa-uk.org
Website: www.unysa-uk.org

What experience do you have of youth issues?

I was elected to my school council aged 12. I then joined my local youth parliament and have been there for six years. In 2002 I was elected to the UK Youth Parliament. From there I got involved with an umbrella organisation named 'Your Wake Up Call' and went to the Earth Summit in South Africa. In my current role as youth participation worker I involve local young people in democratic processes by running youth forums and supporting social action projects.

Why did you want to be youth rep?

I felt that it was an amazing opportunity and wanted to be part of it. I felt that I had a lot to give and had represented young people's views fairly and constructively in the past. This was a great way for me to help put the young people of the UK's views on a global platform.

What are your priorities for the UNGA?

To represent the views of the UK's youth appropriately through my time at the UNGA and to make sure that our consultation of the World Programme of Action is heard, taken into account and responded to in a way to produce action.

DENMARK

History of youth reps: Have been sending youth delegates to the GA for the last 26 years.

Selection process: Every member organization of the Danish Youth Council can nominate a candidate. After this the board of the Danish Youth Council elects the two youth delegates. We are members of the official Danish delegation to the UN consisting of NGOs and parliamentarians.



Name: Sidse Kamille
Age: 23
Occupation: Political Science Masters Student
Organisational Background: Local youth political organisations and Save the Children Youth
Email: sidse@duf.dk
Website: www.duf.dk / www.ungeifn.nu

What experience do you have of youth issues?

My experience is primarily with promoting children's rights and emphasising the importance of youth inclusion in sustainable democracy and a better future. The last couple of years I've been focusing on communications, doing everything from meetings, campaigns and policy making to arranging events.

Why did you want to be youth rep?

Everyone has an obligation to involve themselves in whatever they believe in: if you don't, who will? Being at the UN is a unique opportunity to get a sneaky peak into an organization that sets the tone for so much future work - and getting to know it from the inside makes it more accessible later if (when) we need to change things.

What are your priorities for the UNGA?

To do things that matter. I'll try not to get caught up in meetings where I won't be able to really participate - as most youth delegates still aren't allowed to speak, only listen. I want to show it's worth listening to young people. It's time for action and youth is important. I'm going to do my best to make it happen.

NETHERLANDS

History of youth reps: One of the first countries to include a youth delegate, starting in 1970. The youth delegate will work together with the previous one and delivers a statement to the UNGA among other things.

Selection process: Open elections, for all young people aged 18-26, which have a lot of media attention. Anyone of that age can apply or vote, after a pre-selection by the Foreign Office and the Dutch National Youth Council through interviews.



Name: Erik Thijs Wedershoven
Age: 19
Occupation: Project Officer, National Commission for International Co-operation and Sustainable Development
Organisational Background: Dutch National Youth Council, Earth Charter, Need2Know, The Greens, Red Cross
Email: erikthijswedershoven@jeugdgraad.nl
Website: www.jeugdgraad.nl / www.dewereldvandevn.nl / www.erikwedershoven.nl

What experience do you have of youth issues?

I have been active in youth politics for several years and with the Red Cross for five years. Since 2004 I have been working with the Earth Charter Youth Initiative and during high school I worked in projects of the student movement Need2Know.

Why did you want to be youth rep?

I wanted to experience the policy-making side, after being active on grass-roots level for the Red Cross during high school, and bring the work of the UN/international co-operation back to peers and activate them.

What are your priorities for the UNGA?

To put the main issues concerning youth on the agenda and participate in a meaningful way during all relevant discussions. I must work on a strong follow-up after the statement I made to the UNGA during the Plenary for the 10-year review of the World Programme of Action for Youth, on youth participation and employment. Let's work on giving prospects for a brighter future to young people worldwide.

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A FINAL MESSAGE

from the national youth reps of 2005

Dear Honourable Delegations,

We, the national youth representatives to the UN General Assembly of 2005, wish to gratefully thank you for our participation.

As the young people of today, we feel the weight of the world on our shoulders. Expectations are high for a generation treated to the luxury of the best education levels yet seen.

This quality, and the many other positive attributes young people possess, can be used to make a significant difference. We believe it is our responsibility to assist in any way possible to solve global problems. From poverty to HIV/AIDS to unemployment, indeed all the international dilemmas outlined in the World Programme of Action for Youth and the Millennium Development Goals, we ask you to let us make the valuable contributions we have a proven track record of producing.

Once again, we thank you for sending us here - to the highest legislature of international governance - and humbly request the continued involvement of youth in decision-making processes on all levels.

To all member states which did not include a young person: we can only urge you once again to continue considering the possibility and, as long as the efforts are being made, warmly thank you as well.

Sincerely,

The UN Youth Representatives of 2005

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