

UN YOUTH FLASH

Service of the United Nations Programme on Youth

19 November 2004

WELCOME to the UN Youth Flash, a service of the UN Programme on Youth, keeping you up to date on the youth agenda of the UN and partnering youth organizations around the world. We encourage you to forward Youth Flash to people in your network. Below you will read more on:

- News from UN Headquarters in New York
- News from UN Agencies around the world
- Feature: Toolkit report from the Democratic Republic of the Congo
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News from UN Headquarters in New York

>> The General Assembly devotes 2 plenary meetings to Youth! <<
On 28 October, the Third Committee of the General Assembly unanimously adopted the draft resolution "Policies and programmes involving youth: tenth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond", with explicit support from 95 member states. The resolution needs to be adopted by the plenary of the General Assembly to become definite.

Some highlights:

- 1) In 2005, two plenary meetings of the General Assembly will be devoted to review the situation of youth and achievements attained in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth.
- 2) Prior to the plenary meetings, an informal, interactive round-table discussion will be held on the theme "Young people: making commitments matter", which will be open to the participation of Member States, observers, organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental youth organizations.
- 3) Member States are urged to consider being represented by youth representatives to address the plenary on this occasion, as well as in the above mentioned informal round-table discussion.
- 4) The Secretary-General is asked to provide an overview of the input by youth organizations to the review of the World Programme of Action for Youth. The full text of the draft resolution is available at:
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/ares59118rev1.pdf>

>> Deadline to submit WPAY reviews extended to April 2005 <<
The deadline for youth organizations, to hand in their review of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) is extended to 30 April 2005. This became possible as the newly adopted resolution (see previous news item) allows the UN Secretariat to present the inputs from youth organizations in a separate report. Submissions can be sent to the Programme on Youth via email: youth@un.org, or post: DESA/DSPD/YOUTH, DC2-1318, 2 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA.

>> Additional printed copies of the Toolkit "Making Commitments Matter" available <<

The printed versions of the guide "Making Commitments Matter: a toolkit to evaluate national youth policy" are available again. This toolkit offers young people support in evaluating their country's progress towards the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY).

The toolkits can be ordered for free in English, Spanish and French, by sending your name, full postal address, the preferred language and the number of copies (5 maximum) to: youth@un.org. For more info, see also: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/wyr/index.html#toolkit>

>> UN Youth Delegates at work <<

This year, 11 countries sent youth delegates to the General Assembly session: Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Denmark, El Salvador, Fiji, Finland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. They participated in the activities of the Third Committee, where they lobbied to put youth high on the agenda. Their main focus was to increase the number of youth delegates to future UN meetings. Most of them made official statements on behalf of their countries. The way youth delegates are nominated, their tasks and the issues they bring to the table differ in all countries.

If you wish to read more about their experiences, visit:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/news/youthdelegates04.htm>

>> World Youth Report 2005 <<

The report of the Secretary-General, called "World Youth Report 2005", will be presented at the Commission for Social Development in February 2005. This report will contain an overview of the achievements made in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) since its adoption in 1995. Besides achievements in the implementation of the ten priority areas of the WPAY, progress towards the five new issues will be presented. After this report is discussed by the Commission for Social Development, it will be presented to the General Assembly in October 2005. The report should be available on-line by early January 2005.

Visit <http://www.un.org/youth>

>> 2005: International Year for Sports <<

On 5 November, the UN Secretary General launched the International Year for Sports, celebrated in 2005. Kofi Annan said in his speech that "Sport is a universal language. At its best it can bring people together, no matter what their origin, background, religious beliefs or economic status". Roger Federer, tennis player, and Margaret Okayo, New York Marathon winner 2004, are two of the ambassadors, who will reach out with this message, particularly to the young people of the world.

More information can be found at: <http://www.un.org/themes/sport>

News from UN Agencies around the world

>> UNDP: Young leaders receive the 2004 Poverty Eradication Award <<

On 22 October, during the 8th Poverty Eradication Awards ceremony, UNDP honoured five young leaders from developing countries for their outstanding

contributions to the eradication of poverty in their communities and countries. The five 2004 award winners are:

- Samuel Magassosso, Association Leader Chekwaedzera Farmers Association, Mozambique;
- Bader Zama'rah, Project Coordinator, Sharek Youth Forum, the occupied Palestinian territory;
- Edith Castillo Nuñez, Director Youth Policy, Ministry of Youth, Women, Childhood and Family, Consejo Nacional de la Juventud (National Youth Council), Panama;
- Bessie Maruia, Counseling Trainer Supervisor, National AIDS Council of Papua New Guinea;
- Mirzokhaydar Isoev, Deputy Chairperson, District Development Committee of Isfara District, Tajikistan.

You can read more about their work and the Poverty Eradication Awards at:
<http://www.undp.org/idep>

>> UNDP: Results of the Pan-Asian Youth Leadership Summit

From 19-22 September 2004, young leaders from some 30 Asian and Pacific countries gathered in Hiroshima, Japan, for the Pan-Asian Youth Leadership Summit. They discussed possible ways to work together to tackle urgent challenges facing their region, including poverty, HIV/AIDS, and environmental degradation. The Summit was organized by UNDP, the Global Peace Initiative for Women and the UN Millennium Development Campaign. For more information and the adopted declaration, visit:

<http://www.asiapacific2015.org>

>> ILO/YEN: Subscribe to the YEN newsletter <<

The Youth Employment Network (YEN) is a partnership under the leadership of the United Nations, the World Bank and the International Labour Organization, which aims to tackle the issue of youth employment at the global, national and local levels.

You can keep updated on YEN news by subscribing to its bi-monthly newsletter that is sent out by email. To subscribe, send an email to Justin Sykes:
sykes@ilo.org

More info on the YEN: <http://www.ilo.org/yen>

Feature: putting the toolkit to use!

The African Center for Interdisciplinary Studies (Centre Africain de recherche interdisciplinaire, CARI), of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, has submitted its contribution to the review of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) by using various sections of the Making Commitments Matter toolkit.

The Center used the Toolkit to specifically evaluate the three priority areas of Education, Girls and Young Women, and HIV/AIDS, while noting that the entire Programme is very relevant to the situation of young people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In its evaluation, CARI examines the contributions of both the Government and of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the realization of WPAY and recognizes several reasons why the Programme has not been fully implemented in the country. These include: lack

of resources, conflict and regional instability, the burden of foreign debt, and the lack of participation of young people in the development of the programmes and policies that affect them most.

Within the priority area of education, CARI notes that this subject has received the attention of both Governments and civil society. Each has been working with UNESCO to raise awareness and provide training around the goal of education for all. There has also been substantial rehabilitation of schools which were built during the colonial period. Legislation has been passed to ensure free pre-school and primary education and to make the professional training of teachers a priority. Yet, these changes have yet to take place on the ground for various reasons. Currently parents are charged for schooling, causing exclusion of children whose parents cannot pay. Poverty causes many families to send only boys to school, accentuating the higher prevalence of illiteracy among girls.

CARI reports that the priority area of girls and young women lacks specific programming support in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Young women particularly suffer unequal access in the economy, including access to employment and equal remuneration. The submission also notes that there is a void both in governmental and NGO activity around programmes that protect girls and young women from all forms of violence, exploitation and infanticide, and provide access to sexual and reproductive health services.

CARI notes that there exists a national programme and financial planning for fighting HIV/AIDS and that young people are an integral part of this work. There is political commitment to this plan and it consists of both prevention and treatment for HIV/AIDS. Government services tend to concentrate on schools, while NGOs run projects that target the most vulnerable children who do not attend school. CARI recommends that youth and youth organizations be more included in the planning and implementation of HIV/AIDS programmes and notes that conflict is the largest threat to the gain made in reducing the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate to an estimated 5%.

The UN Youth Programme will review submissions received from youth organizations and representatives using the Making Commitments Matter toolkit and summarize the findings in a report to the next session of the United Nations General Assembly in the fall of 2005. Submissions can be sent until 31 April 2005 via email: youth@un.org , or post: DESA/DSPD/YOUTH, DC2-1318, 2 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA.

Calendar of Youth Events

NB: Some events are open for participation by invitation only

>> 9-18 February 05: "Commission for Social Development"
UN Headquarters, New York. The ECOSOC Commission for Social Development will meet for its 43rd session in February 2005. The review of the World Programme of Action for Youth will be on the agenda, as the Commission will discuss the Secretary-General's World Youth Report 2005, before it is submitted to the

General Assembly in the fall of 2005. It is expected that a panel discussion on the global situation of youth will be held on Monday 14 February 2005. To keep updated on their schedule:
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/csod2005.htm>

>> 15-19 June 05: "African Development Forum V devoted to youth issues" UNCC, Addis Ababa. The UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) brings together stakeholders in Africa's development - including heads of state, ministers, heads of international organizations, civil society leaders, research institutes and Nobel Laureates - to debate and discuss policy alternatives and emerging strategic issues for Africa's development. In order to put the issue of youth on the African development agenda, the fifth African Development Forum will be devoted to youth development issues. For more information, please contact: Kwabia Boateng, Office of Policy and Programme Coordination, UN ECA, tel. 251-1-443571 ext 33571; kboateng@uneca.org.

>> 30 July - 08 August 05: "3rd World Youth Congress" Stirling, Scotland. Peace Child International (PCI), together with its worldwide network of some 700 partner groups in 155 countries, will organize a third World Youth Congress on the theme: "Young people working for a sustainable world community". The first Congress was held in Hawaii in 1999 and the second in Morocco in 2003. The Congress series provides a forum for young people who are active in development/poverty eradication, to meet and develop their network. Anyone between the ages of 18 and 25 can apply and attendance is free!
For more information, please visit <http://www.scotland2005.org/>

>> October 05: "Evaluation of the World Programme of Action for Youth" UN Headquarters, New York. The UN World Programme of Action for Youth will be evaluated by the General Assembly during two plenary meetings. More information can be found at: <http://www.un.org/youth>.

Interesting websites

>> Journal of a Vietnamese youth advocate for the MDGs <<
Nguyen Thi Tuyet Mai is 23 years old and travels through Vietnam to bring the message about poverty reduction to young people. Mai is the winner of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) contest in Vietnam, a youth initiative to promote volunteerism for the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). With her prize she could sponsor her 3-month trip.
Follow Mai's travels and adventures on her website:
<http://www.un.org.vn/mai/indexe.htm>

>> The Global Youth Network against drugs and crime <<
The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has updated the site of its Global Youth Network. On the site, you will find various tools, such as: Coaches' Guide for Using Sport to Teach Healthy Life Skills (6 languages); and Let's Talk about AIDS (in Farsi). Under the link "Good Practices", you will find Good practices on monitoring and evaluating substance abuse prevention among youth.

Please visit: <http://www.unodc.org/youthnet/index.html>

Contact information

UN Youth Flash is a free service of the UN Programme on Youth, of the Division for Social Policy and Development, within the Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) at the United Nations Secretariat in New York.

Currently working with the programme are Joop Theunissen (Focal Point on Youth), Fred Doulton (Associate Social Affairs Officer), Julie Larsen (Associate Social Affairs Officer), Charlotte van Hees (Associate Expert on Youth Policies and Programmes) and Eyyub Hajiyev (intern).

To subscribe and unsubscribe to the information service, please send an email to: youth@un.org, with 'subscribe' or 'unsubscribe' as the subject line.

>>>>>>>>>> VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT <http://www.un.org/youth> <<<<<<<<<<<<