



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 this Youth Flash to people in your network.

World Youth Report 2005, Young people today and in 2015

On 4 October, the World Youth Report 2005 was launched.

The report takes an in-depth look at the fifteen priority areas affecting young people that were identified by the General Assembly. It also provides a review of three relatively under-researched topics: young people in poverty; the emergence of a media-driven global youth culture; and gender dimensions of youth affected by armed conflict.

The complete report can be downloaded from: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/wyr05.htm> or can be purchased for USD 60 from <https://unp.un.org/details.aspx?entry=E05WYR> or email: publications@un.org

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News from UN Headquarters

Youth in the spotlight at the United Nations

During the week of 3 to 7 October 2005, youth stood in the spotlight of the United Nations. On 6 October, the General Assembly devoted two plenary meetings to review the achievements made in the implementation of the World Programme of Action on Youth.

Among the participants were a record number of 47 youth delegates representing 29 countries, some 150 representatives of youth organizations, several Youth Ministers, and representatives of almost all UN Agencies. The meetings were opened by the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Jan Eliasson of Sweden. Deputy Secretary-General, Ms Louise Fréchette addressed the General Assembly and 22 youth delegates spoke on behalf of their country. Following the statements, the Assembly adopted a resolution on youth. More info can be found at: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/ga60.htm> See also the feature in this Youth Flash.



General Assembly adopts progressive resolution on youth

On 6 October, at the end of the plenary meetings on youth, the General Assembly adopted a new and progressive youth resolution. In this resolution, the General Assembly decided to:

- 1) Scale up investments in youth;
- 2) Urge for more youth participation on all levels, including for youth delegates to General Assembly meetings;
- 3) Urge Governments to develop integrated youth policies in consultation with youth;
- 4) Make youth employment a central objective of development strategies;
- 5) Officially adopt five new priority areas for the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth: globalization, information and communication technology, HIV/AIDS, conflict, and intergenerational relations. Recommendations to the implementation of these five issues will be formulated and added as a supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth;
- 6) Establish a set of indicators to measure progress achieved in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth.

You can read the advance version of the resolution at:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/ares60adv.pdf> (other UN languages will follow).

News from UN Agencies around the world

UNFPA: Global Youth Advisory Panel

From 28 to 30 September 2005, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) hosted an annual meeting of its Global Youth Advisory Panel in New York. The panel acts as a mechanism for open dialogue with young people to advise on best ways to recognize and promote youth rights and needs within policies and programmes, particularly related to sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and gender issues.

Young people from around the world participated in the 3-day meeting and formulated a comprehensive set of recommendations, focusing on the areas of education, services, youth participation and excluded groups. UNFPA will carefully consider the panel's recommendations in the coming months to identify adequate responses, follow up actions and potential mechanisms for implementation.

More info on the adolescent programmes of UNFPA: <http://www.unfpa.org/adolescents/>

UNESCO: Youth Forum of the 33rd General Conference of UNESCO

From 30 September to 2 October 2005, the 4th UNESCO Youth Forum was held. The Forum's theme was 'Young people and the Dialogue among Civilizations, Cultures and Peoples - Ideas for action in education, the sciences, culture and communication', and brought together 190 delegates from 129 Member States and 45 observers from youth NGOs and networks and intergovernmental organizations.

Youth delegates discussed the theme in plenary sessions and three thematic working groups related to the promotion of cultural diversity, sustainable development and peace and reconciliation. The Youth Forum Report, outlining young people's analysis, key issues and recommendations for action, was presented to Member States at the opening plenary session of the 33rd General Conference.

For the first time the Youth Report served as a background document in the discussions related to UNESCO's future programme and budget in the different Programme Commissions of the General Conference. It is available in the six official languages of UNESCO at <http://www.unesco.org/youth>.

UNESCO: New publication "World Heritage Today and Tomorrow with Young People"

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the Section for Youth of the Bureau of Strategic Planning have published a trilingual brochure (English, French, Spanish) entitled 'World Heritage Today and Tomorrow with Young People' that aims to make young people around the world aware of the need to protect world heritage.

This brochure seeks to make clear to young people that safeguarding heritage is an important and daily challenge not only because it encompasses our roots and our identities but because it is also a means of understanding others. The publication is available on-line at: <http://whc.unesco.org/pg.cfm?cid=176&l=en>.

For paper copies, please contact the Section for Youth at ucj@unesco.org.

UNICEF: Be in the Know with the MDG Learning Module

Voices of Youth has launched a new learning module for young people about the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The learning module is accompanied by a website that young people around the world can use to learn more about the MDGs and their impact, and to find out how to take action today to make the world a better place by 2015.

The site features audio and video messages from young people around the world, sample MDG project plans to help young people get involved, real life stories about Voices of Youth members who are contributing to the fight against poverty, downloadable advocacy materials, and lively discussions in English, French and Spanish about how we can all help make the MDGs a reality.

For more information visit Voices of Youth: http://www.unicef.org/voy/explore/mdg/explore_mdg.php

UNICEF: Water Alert! Interactive game

Voices of Youth is pleased to share a new interactive game, "Water Alert!". This educational game on water, environment and sanitation is intended to engage young people in an adventure of strategy and survival.

The object of the game is to ensure that the people in a drought-challenged village, who are facing the threat of a flood, have water that is safe to drink and a clean and healthy school environment.

Available in three languages, English, French and Spanish, the CD version of the game includes a field facilitator's guide with instructions for use of the game as a teaching tool. This guide highlights inter-sectoral activities for practical application and classroom activities relating to water, sanitation and hygiene education.

To check out the game, visit: http://www.unicef.org/voy/explore/wes/explore_1818.html

World Bank: Youth consultation for World Development Report 2007

The World Bank's leading annual publication, the World Development Report, will in 2007 focus on the challenges young people face in the transition to adulthood. Young people are invited to contribute their ideas, views and comments about the report.

For the next six weeks, questions will be posted on the website Youthink. The questions for this first week relate to the transition from school: 'continuing to learn beyond primary'.

You can share your thoughts and ideas with the World Bank researchers at: <http://youthink.worldbank.org/issues/development/wdr2007comments1.php>

Feature: UN General Assembly updates decade-old youth action plan to meet new challenges

Seeking to keep pace with the emerging challenges of today's world, the United Nations General Assembly, on 6 October 2005, has updated its decade-old programme of action for youth by adding measures to address globalization, information technology, HIV/AIDS, armed conflict and pressing inter-generational issues in an increasingly ageing society.

"Many young people today continue to suffer poverty, discrimination and inequality, and far too great a number still lack access to proper education and health services," General Assembly President Jan Eliasson said in his opening address to the General Assembly that gathered in plenary for the ten-year review of the World Programme of Action for Youth.

"Most of those who become infected with HIV/AIDS are in their teens or early twenties," he added. Few could have predicted the sometimes negative impact of globalization and information technologies that young people between the ages of 15 and 24 are experiencing today, he told the audience of General Assembly representatives and some 47 youth delegates of 29 countries.

The five new areas of focus endorsed by the Assembly reflect the emerging issues outlined in the Secretary-General's World Youth Report 2005, and add to the 10-point World Programme of Action for Youth adopted in 1995, which includes education, employment, hunger and poverty, health, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure time activities, girls and young women, and full and effective participation in society and in decision making.

In her opening address, Deputy Secretary-General Louise Fréchette said, "We are gathered here because we know that young people are our future. They will inherit what we create in our time, both good and bad."

She highlighted the "distressing statistics" that a quarter of all children living in the developing world are malnourished, as are half of all children in Sub-Saharan African and Southern Asia. Hundreds of millions of children are not in school, and 11 million under the age of five die each year from preventable diseases, she said.

"Many generations had the opportunity to eradicate poverty, but today's generation will be the first to succeed."

- Itzel Barrera de Diego, youth delegate of Mexico, in her statement summarizing the outcome of the round table discussion.

Noting that almost half the world's population is under the age of 25, she said they would have to deal with the challenges before them, including 200 million youth living in extreme poverty, 130 million illiterate, 88 million unemployed and 10 million living with HIV/AIDS.

The adoption of the resolution capped a day of debate in which young people stepped up to the podium and communicated their countries' positions on a range of issues. They included Itzel Barrera de Diego, youth delegate of Mexico, who summarized the outcome of the round table discussion between Member States and youth organizations held the day before, on Wednesday 5 October. Youth meant potential energy and solutions, she said, and that potential energy had to

be harnessed. "Many generations had the opportunity to eradicate poverty, but today's generation will be the first to succeed."

She brought to the Assembly some of the ideas voiced in the round table, including establishing a volunteer-based Youth Advisory Council to the United Nations, whose mandate would include bringing young delegates to participate in General Assembly sessions. Other ideas included the creation of national youth councils that would offer the perspective of young people in policy-making, and the elaboration of a United Nations convention on the rights of youth.



Ramahoona Peter Matlosa, youth delegate from Lesotho, pleaded for more attention from the international community to the HIV/AIDS crisis affecting young people. For many youth around the world, achieving the goals of the World Programme of Action for Youth was just a dream requiring many more resources, he said.

Victoria Uwonkunda, the youth representative from Norway, who was herself a refugee from Rwanda, called on the world body to recognize the need to integrate displaced children and youth in new host countries, where without government integration there was a danger of creating a new lower class.

With the effects of globalization, said Jiang Guangping, Delegate from China, his country had changed radically over the past 10 years, but some of those changes would require new government programmes for young people, including some that would focus on intergenerational problems and negative effects of globalization.

Increasing employment opportunities in her country had positive and negative consequences, said Mai Taha Mohamed Khalil, Delegate from Egypt. The negative result was an increase in illegal activities, including terrorism. Globalization did not always result in evenly distributed resources either, she said, because many had still not realized their ambition for better jobs.

Unemployment and HIV/AIDS were some of the many challenges affecting youth in Nicaragua, Secretary for Youth of the Presidency of the Republic, Treminio Rivera said. Sex education seminars would help reduce the birth rate and reduce the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. The funding for these programmes should be found by reducing external debt in cooperation with development partners, he added.

The World Programme of Action for Youth is considered the first "global blueprint" for developing effective policies for young people. The General Assembly urged governments, to consult with youth organizations in order to develop comprehensive policies based on the World Programme and to evaluate them regularly as part of follow-up action on the Programme's implementation.

For further information on the General Assembly meetings on youth, visit <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/ga60.htm>.

Calendar of Youth Events

NB: Some events are open for participation by invitation only

11-31 October 05: Theatre and HIV/AIDS in English-speaking Africa

Bukasa, Wakiso District, Uganda. About 30 young volunteers from all over Africa, and from Canada and India will come together for a three-week workshop on the use of interactive theatre in the response to HIV and AIDS in English-speaking African countries.

Organized by the EWACA (Eastern African Work Camps Association), in co-operation with the CCIYS (Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service) and UNESCO (Culture and Development Section and UNESCO/Dakar), this project aims at developing a manual on the use of interactive theatre in the response to HIV/AIDS and training young volunteers in the appropriate use of this technique.

This project was developed following the great success of a similar manual which was developed for French-speaking African countries (http://portal.unesco.org/fr/ev.php-URL_ID=17246&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html). Arabic and Spanish versions are currently being finalized. For more info, contact: h.Drobna@unesco.org

24-27 October 05: Conseil International des Jeunes de la Francophonie

Paris, France. The Conseil International des Jeunes de la Francophonie (international council of youth organizations, CIJEF) of the Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie will hold its first General Assembly meeting in the presence of 53 Member States and several international organizations, including the United Nations, UNESCO, World Bank, and Council of Europe. The CIJEF will be the channel for dialogue between young people and the Member States and Secretariat of the Francophonie. The CIJEF will also encourage the establishment of national youth councils in the Member States. For more info, visit: <http://www.jeunesse.francophonie.org/>

1-3 December 05: Habitat Jam

As part of the preparations for the 3rd World Urban Forum (held from 19-23 June 2006 in Vancouver, Canada), the Government of Canada, in partnership with UN-Habitat, is sponsoring a 72-hour internet event. The Habitat JAM will gather your input and add it to thousands of others to create actionable ideas for the Vancouver World Urban Forum agenda and influence the Forum's content. The discussions will be held in English and French at: <http://www.habitat-jam.com/>

On the Internet

One Minute Videos:

theoneminutesjr. Network is a podium, meeting point and green house for creative young people in Europe and Central-Asia who want to make themselves heard. The initiators are UNICEF, the European Cultural Foundation and the Sandberg Institute. You can view hundreds of 1 minute videos in the video archive. Visit: www.theoneminutesjr.org

TUNZA Magazine:

The latest issue (Vol.3 No.2) of the UNEP flagship magazine for young people is available. The theme is "North-South partnerships". You will find the complete magazine in English, French and Spanish on <http://www.ourplanet.com/tunza/issue0302en/pages/contents.html>

Millennium Campaign Kit:

The new Millennium Development Goals Youth Action Guide provides background information on the goals and options for taking action to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The Kit is available online in English, French and Spanish from: <http://www.millenniumcampaign.org/site/pp.asp?c=grKVL2NLE&b=260482>
Visit also the renewed MDG Youth site: <http://www.millenniumcampaign.org/youth>

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.

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