



**Concept note on  
The launch event of the World Youth Report “Youth  
and Migration”  
14 February, 2014 (TBC)  
UN Headquarters, New York**

**Background**

The *World Youth Report* is a bi-annual flagship publication of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). The World Youth Report aims to give young people a voice and empower them to contribute to the development of strategies that give young people everywhere a real opportunity to become independent and responsible global citizens. The current report, “Youth and Migration”, is drawn upon the experiences of young people affected by migration.

Accordingly, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) will organize an event to launch the World Youth Report on 14 February, 2014 at the United Nations headquarters. The launching event of the World Youth Report is an opportunity to inform young people and others on migration, its benefits, challenges and concerns. Hence, the Focal Point on Youth plans to engage and empower young migrants through the performing arts during the launch of the report.

Performing art is a very strong medium to get messages across, raise voices and leave sustained impacts on the audience. On the occasion of the launching of the World Youth Report, UNDESA, would like to hold an event, which would depict the lives of young migrants through different art forms, including poetry, dance, acting, films and music etc.

**World Youth Report “Youth and Migration”**

The World Youth Report “Youth and Migration” offers a multidimensional account or the perspective of the life experiences of young migrants and young people affected by migration. The Report highlights some of the concerns, challenges and successes experienced by young migrants and other young people affected by migration, from their own perspectives, based on their own experiences, and in their own voices. The report focuses largely on the phenomena of international migration which increasingly has a significant impact on the origin, transit and destination countries and communities.

The outcomes of this report were informed by a number of consultative activities. These activities provided a greater qualitative understanding of the experiences of young immigrants, return migrants, and other youth affected by migration. Having direct contributions from youth has ensured that the World Youth Report is based on the perspectives of young people who continue to comprise a significant proportion of international migrants, and is enhanced by the views of those affected by migration.

As part of the process leading to the development of the report, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized a number of interactive activities, including an online survey, weekly e-consultations, a Google+ Hangout with young people and experts, and a call for artistic pieces and migration stories from youth. These activities took place via a dedicated web platform which DESA set up ([www.unworldyouthreport.org](http://www.unworldyouthreport.org)) to allow youth to contribute their personal stories and perspectives on how migration affected them, whether they were prospective migrants, immigrants, return migrants, or young people left behind by migrant parents.

Based on the contributions from young migrants and other youth affected by migration, the report:

- Examines the motivating factors behind young people’s migration decisions, the importance of information in preparing for and reducing the risks associated with migration, and the cost of migration and how it influences the choice of migration routes.
- Focuses on the factors that influence the choice of transit countries in the migration process, the features of transit migration, and the challenges and opportunities young migrants are presented with while in transit. Special attention is given to the unique vulnerabilities of certain categories of young migrants in transit and how they should be addressed.
- Offers a comprehensive account of the challenges faced by the young international and internal immigrants in finding housing, securing employment, accessing health care services, and generally adapting to life in a new locale.
- Makes the case for youth awareness and engagement on migration and provides examples of how this is being done around the world. The report

suggests that youth engagement in migration as well as in policy and programming will not only improve the situation of young migrants, but also will lead to better targeted and successful interventions.

## Objectives of the event

The objectives of the launch event of the World Youth Report are to:

- Raise awareness of the opportunities and risks associated with youth migration.
- Highlight and present critical areas of the World Youth Report “Youth and Migration” through interactive performance in various art forms.
- Emphasize the vibrancy of youth migration through visual and performing arts to offer a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities of youth migration that are discussed in the report.

## Main themes of the event

The event will shed light on the following themes related to the focus and findings of the World Youth Report:

### *Youth migration and development: opportunities and challenges*

While migration of young people can open up valuable opportunities, it can also pose risks or leads to unacceptable situations, including exploitation and discrimination. The performance will focus on key challenges and opportunities facing by young migrants in transit and in destination countries.

### *Youth perspectives*

Young people undergo various kinds of experiences throughout their migration process. To better understand the migration experiences of young people, the event will feature young performers, who will manifest their own experiences through different art forms.

## Draft scenario for the event

<i>Time</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Performer</i>
1:15- 1:20	A young DJ plays music while audience arrives at the venue. Image of World Youth Report logo and possible	I Sell the Shadow / A young DJ

	photographs of young people play on the screen.	
<i>1:20-1:23</i>	The DJ stops playing and without a formal introduction, a young poet takes the microphone.  The poet performs a poem based on the theme of the report.	I Sell the Shadow /Anthony and Savon
<i>1:23- 1:35</i>	The moderator takes the floor and formally introduce the official presentation of the report  Introductory remarks and introduction of World Youth Report and website	Moderator: <b>Lisa Russell</b> , Emmy award-winning filmmaker  Elizabeth Niland and Golam Sarwar from UNDESA will present the World Youth Report and the website.  Golam Sarwar will start the presentation and will focus on the purpose, structure and summary of the report  Elizabeth's presentation will focus on youth consultations as part of the preparation of the report as well as the basic navigations to the <i>unworldlyouthreport</i> website.
<i>1:35- 1:45</i>	Film screening	Lisa Russell
<i>1:45- 1:50</i>	Dance: Coming out undocumented through dance	Melissa Garcia Velez
<i>1:50-1:55</i>	Song on migration	I Sell the Shadow/ Tahani and Bekah
<i>1:55-2:00</i>	Live testimony of a young migrant	Ramya (Youth Poet Laurete)
<i>2:00- 2:05</i>	Theatrical performance	I Sell the Shadow/David
<i>2:05-2:15</i>	A group piece of 2-3 poets who deliver a high impact performance	Urban Word NYC
<i>2:15-2:20</i>	Introduction to the Plural+ video festival and film screening	Evelien Borgman-IOM
<i>2:20-2:25</i>	Poetry and music	I Sell the Shadow/Meridian
<i>2:25-2:40</i>	Comments from the floor on migration and youth	Elizabeth Niland
<i>2:40-2:45</i>	End of the event with music by the DJ	I Sell the Shadow /A young DJ

## **Participants**

The event will gather different actors involved in youth migration and development, including young people, representatives from youth organizations, and representatives of Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York.

## **Date and Venue**

Date: 14 February 2014

Venue: Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium, UN headquarters, New York

## **Organizers**

UN Secretariat (UNDESA) - Focal Point on Youth

## **Participating Organizations**

I Sell the Shadow, UNAOC/IOM Plural + Video Festival

## **Contact**

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