



**Declaration of the
United Nations European Youth Leadership Summit
Vienna, Austria, June 21, 2006**

“Sport, with its joys and triumphs, its pains and defeats, its emotions and challenges, is an unrivalled medium for the promotion of education, health, development and peace. I am convinced that sport helps us demonstrate, in our pursuit of the betterment of humanity, that there is more that unites us than divides us.”

- Adolf Ogi, Special Adviser to the Secretary General on Sport for Development and Peace

We, the delegates of the Vienna Youth Leadership Summit, fully acknowledge the social impact created by sport and cultural activities. If we look at the media coverage, the money and the celebrities this is only the top of the spire of power, but with this declaration we would like to draw on the whole power of sport and cultural activities. The force that is created by millions of people all over the world, who actively and passively participate in the social networks that have come into existence by the common desire of people to do sports or help people to participate in sports, is of great importance. Everybody in this arena has a vital role to play, whether it consists of hosting the FIFA World Cup or attending a local cultural festival,

Asking governments and all relevant stakeholders to make the World Programme Action for Youth a reality and to mainstream youth politics,

Determined to see our generation play its part in promoting development and peace to help make a better world. We come together with no distinction as to ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, language, religion, political opinion, nationality or social background,

Affirming our commitment to actively pursue the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) agreed upon by all member states of the United Nations at the Millennium Summit in 2000, and reaffirmed at the 2005 World Summit,

Convinced that sports and cultural activities (in all their forms from music to poetry and art) represent a powerful tool for accelerating progress towards achievement of the MDGs by 2015 by contributing to efforts to reduce poverty and promote education, health, empowerment of women and girls, and environmental sustainability,

Welcoming the declarations in support of the MDGs of our youth colleagues from other regions of the world,

Following the Vienna Summit, our focus on the spheres of: a) youth employment, b) health, c) education, d) environment and e) global partnerships are explored below, with focus on sport and culture.

General Topics

Stressing the important role that civil society and young people play in conflict prevention and peace-building policies, thus allowing for the promotion of peace, without which the attainment of the MDGs would be a more daunting task,

Committing upon return to our home countries, to maintain a continued effort ourselves and also encourage our governments to involve youth in the achievement of the MDGs and actively pursue the goals of the declaration,

Working with the organizers, policy makers, relevant stakeholders, and our regional chairs for Europe as well as other regions, as we strive towards the Global Youth Leadership Summit at the United Nations in New York this year, between the 30th October and 1st November,

Stressing the importance of raising awareness about the Millennium Development Goals among youth in Europe. This is why we ask the United Nations to make more use of the existing European youth networks to share and exchange knowledge and information about the MDGs,

Mainstreaming of knowledge about and research on the MDGs in European Schools and Universities by asking for their introduction in the curricula,

Urging all EU Member States to fulfill their pledge to contribute 0.7% of the GDP towards overall development assistance in order to provide the financial assistance, which will contribute towards the attainment of the MDGs.

A) Youth Employment, decent work, and poverty reduction

Believing that sport and cultural activities are a tool for increasing youth employment rates and reducing poverty levels in all countries,

1. We insist on the use of sport and cultural activities as effective instruments of reducing poverty by holding charitable activities and mobilizing celebrities, in the fields of sport and cultural activities, to serve as goodwill ambassadors;
2. We support youth initiatives in entrepreneurship and facilitate national and local youth entrepreneur programs;
3. We encourage the use of Physical Education (PE) in schools to nurture and inspire employable skills and hence the personal development of youth;
4. We urge civil society and governments to promote youth employment and decent work by asking youth NGOs to enhance networking at national and international levels.

B) Reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV, Malaria and other diseases

Recognizing that gender, participation and health issues can be tackled through creative initiatives and projects, we stress the necessity to engage young people in sport and cultural activities,

1. We commit to educate ourselves in order to decrease ignorance on health issues (HIV/AIDS, malaria, cholera, infancy mortality etc.) and thus be able to inform our peers on addressing misconceptions, stigma and discrimination;
2. We urge the organizations of the United Nations, governments, private sectors and all interested stakeholders to assist youth networks with the development of projects raising awareness on sexual and maternal health;
3. We encourage projects that focus on raising awareness on the concerns that women and men should have the right to equal participation in sport and cultural activities and decision-making;
4. We encourage and support our local government in their strife to attain more balanced access to antiretroviral drugs, and urge them to continue with their efforts.

C) Education, Multiculturalism and Social Integration

Being aware of the need for a European platform to share best practices on youth projects regarding sports and culture,

Encouraging the use of sports, cultural activities and education to bring together individuals and groups from different ethnic and social backgrounds, nationalities or religious creeds, and thus promote peace, cooperation, tolerance, self-esteem, confidence, and community spirit, amongst others,

1. We are committed to promoting best practices and lessons learned on how sports and cultural activities address education, multiculturalism and social integration on all levels, based on the expertise of youth organizations;
2. Furthermore, we demand each European Union Presidency to support the implementation of at least one European-wide youth project;
3. We ask the European Youth Forum and the European Non-Governmental Sports Organization (ENGSO) to actively request and monitor the implementation from each European Union Presidency of one youth project;
4. We urge all sports organizations in Europe (UEFA, European Olympic Committee, etc.) to actively participate in the implementation of projects by providing expertise, funds and support through sports representatives;
5. We support our other youth delegates, particularly in Africa, to use sport and cultural activities in order to inform on HIV/AIDS, sexual education, etc. within local communities.

D) Environmental sustainability

Recognizing that the opportunities for the use of sports and cultural activities for the acceleration of environmental sustainability are not explored sufficiently,

1. We encourage local organizations to recognize and stress the importance of environmental issues, and initiate or participate in projects aimed at addressing environmental sustainability;
2. We request the UN to function more as a focal point for stakeholders including youth NGOs and sports organizations by providing a framework for this youth summit's platform for best practices;
3. We express the hope that international institutions such as the EU and the UN will lead the way by efficiently and resourcefully controlling their internal management, such as paper usage.

E) Global partnerships and the example of the network for Youth Skills Development

Representing more than half of the world's population, and in order to achieve MDG 8 in 2015, youth should be actively involved in building a global partnership for development by promoting sport as a vehicle for development, bringing with them values such as teamwork, fair-play, cooperation and personal development,

1. We emphasize that partnerships offer structural opportunities for mutual and inter-cultural learning;
2. We request the creation of national university networks which will promote partnerships in order to fight illiteracy and gender problems. This can be achieved through co-operation in the field of education, human rights, environmental and sustainable development, communication and information, economics, public health, institution building, cultural heritage and archaeology, humanitarian affairs;
3. We must stress and urge all agents within the fields of organized youth, sports and culture, to use partnerships and networks to bridge the existing gaps of knowledge and experiences;
4. We urge all the EU Member States to send a young man and a young woman to the United Nations' Global Youth Leadership Summit. Furthermore, we recommend that EU countries sponsor a young delegate from the developing countries to participate in the UN Global Youth Leadership Summit;
5. Referring to the UN Resolution res/36/17 (1981), we urge all the EU Member States to send a youth delegate to the UN General Assembly, and sponsor a youth delegate from one developing country of the United Nations to participate in the workings of the UN's General Assembly;

6. We emphasize the importance in harnessing the motivation and vision of youth in order to work towards the realization of a global partnership for development.

This is the Declaration of the First European Youth Leadership Summit made on the 21st of June 2006 in Vienna, Austria. We, the young leaders of Europe, pledge to turn our words into actions for the betterment of our continent and the world.

This Declaration will be presented to the United Nations General Secretariat and to the next summit of the European Union.