



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

30 June 2011

Excellency,

The General Assembly, by its resolution 64/134 of 18 December 2009, decided to organize under the auspices of the United Nations a world youth conference as the highlight of the International Year of Youth. In its resolution 65/267 of 11 March 2011, the Assembly decided that the world youth conference shall take the form of a High level Meeting of the General Assembly, to be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 25 and 26 July 2011.

The General Assembly, in paragraph 12 of the resolution, requested “the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to finalize the organizational arrangements of the meetings, taking into account the length of the meetings, the identification of the eminent person and the youth representative to speak at the opening plenary meeting and the identification of Chairs for the round tables, bearing in mind the level of representation as well as equitable geographical representation”.

In this regard, I have the honour to transmit herewith the first information note on the organizational arrangements for the High-Level Meeting on Youth.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deiss', written in a cursive style.

Joseph Deiss

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Organizational arrangements for the 2011 High-level Meeting on Youth (25-26 July 2011, New York)

Information Note (No. 1)

Introduction

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 64/134 of 18 December 2009, decided to organize under the auspices of the United Nations a world youth conference as the highlight of the International Year of Youth. In its resolution 65/267 of 11 March 2011, the Assembly decided that the world youth conference shall take the form of a High level Meeting of the General Assembly, to be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 25 and 26 July 2011.
2. The General Assembly, in paragraph 12 of the resolution, requested “the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to finalize the organizational arrangements of the meetings, taking into account the length of the meetings, the identification of the eminent person and the youth representative to speak at the opening plenary meeting and the identification of Chairs for the round tables, bearing in mind the level of representation as well as equitable geographical representation”.

Participation

3. Participation in the High-level Meeting will be in accordance with paragraphs 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of General Assembly resolution 65/267.
4. It is expected that the High-level Meeting will be attended by a number of Heads of State and Government and will have a significant level of ministerial participation. In letters dated 25 May 2011, the Secretary-General extended an invitation to all Heads of State and Government to participate in the High-level Meeting. It is expected that all five regional groups will be represented at the highest level.
5. In accordance with paragraph 10 of resolution 65/267, the consolidated list of non-ECOSOC accredited civil society representatives that need accreditation to participate in the High-level Meeting, including the thematic panel discussions, will be submitted to Member States for consideration on a non-objection basis.
6. Pursuant to paragraph 8 of resolution 65/267, Member States are called upon to consider including in their delegation to the High-level Meeting young people who suitably and broadly represent youth in their countries, bearing in mind the principles of gender balance and non-discrimination.

Provisional Programme of the High-level Meeting

7. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution 65/267, the High-level Meeting will comprise plenary meetings and two thematic panel discussions. The provisional programme of the High-level Meeting is contained in Annex A. Additional explanatory details are provided below.

Plenary meetings

8. The opening plenary meeting is scheduled on 25 July 2011 from 10 to 11 a.m. In accordance with paragraph 4(b) of resolution 65/267, it will feature statements by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, an eminent person actively engaged in youth issues, and a youth representative of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

9. The formal plenary meetings are scheduled on 26 July 2011 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 5 p.m. To enable maximum participation within the limited time available, statements in formal plenary meetings should not exceed three minutes when speaking in the national capacity and five minutes when speaking on behalf of a group. A list of speakers will be open for inscription at the General Assembly Affairs Branch at the end of June (room IN613A. tel. (212) 963-5063; fax. (212) 963-3783; or email: heddachem@un.org).

10. Speaking order will follow the established protocol order. Accordingly, precedence will be accorded to the Heads of State or Government, Ministers and, as appropriate, Heads of Delegations.

11. The closing plenary meeting is scheduled on 26 July 2011 from 5 to 6 p.m. It will feature the Co-chairs' summary of the thematic panel discussions, the adoption of the declaration and concluding remarks by the President of the General Assembly.

Thematic panel discussions

12. It is expected that the two thematic panel discussions will be held in the General Assembly Hall on Monday 25 July from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m. The thematic panel discussions will provide an opportunity to have in-depth discussions on the themes identified in resolution 65/267 and will also make reference to the content of the draft declaration to be adopted by the General Assembly on 26 July. To promote interactive, free-flowing discussions, participants will be invited to make very brief remarks, not to exceed three minutes, to raise questions and to respond to other speakers.

13. It is envisaged that each panel will be comprised of two co-chairs and up to four panellists with a thorough knowledge and expertise of the subject. They will include national, United Nations and civil society representatives. It is envisaged that background papers, prepared by the Secretariat or the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, for each panel discussion will be provided.

14. The thematic panel discussions will be open to Member States and observers as appropriate and selected representatives of the United Nations system and civil society representatives. As it is expected that the thematic panel discussions will be held in the GA Hall, access to the panel discussions will be limited to six per Member State.

15. Pursuant to paragraph 4(d) of resolution 65/267, and to promote interactive and substantive discussions, participation in the thematic panel discussions will be without a list of speakers being maintained. However, Member States are encouraged to inform the

