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PROGRESS REPORT
On the Implementation of the Work-plan of the
Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

Summary

This report summarizes the progress made by the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth over the past three years since its establishment towards implementing the Office's work-plan. The work-plan corresponds to the growing need for the United Nations to elevate the global youth agenda, increase awareness of youth issues and contribute to the acceleration of a global response that seeks to address the development needs and safeguard the rights of the largest generation of young people that the world has ever known. The report presents progress and achievements per the four key pillars that underpin the Office's work-plan: participation, partnerships, harmonization and advocacy. The report also offers the progress on key thematic focus areas that cut across these pillars, and reflects on the way forward for the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth to continue to carry out its important mandate.

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I. Background & Summary of Key Achievements

1. The world today is home to the largest generation of youth in history, with 1.2¹ billion youth, accounting for one out of every six people worldwide. Close to 90 per cent of them live in developing countries and many face challenges in terms of accessing opportunities for education, employment, health and civic participation. Moreover, the number of youth is projected to continue to grow: between 2015 and 2030 alone, some 1.9 billion young people are projected to turn 15 years old. This growth will be largely driven by an increase in the numbers of youth in the least developed regions of the world. Therefore, sustainable development cannot be achieved without addressing the development needs and safeguarding the rights of youth everywhere and it is imperative that young people be engaged in a meaningful way in decision-making processes that affect their lives.

2. As part of the United Nations' collective commitment to engage and empower young people across the world, the Secretary-General appointed Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi of Jordan as his first Envoy on Youth on 22 January 2013. The appointment seeks to strengthen the UN's focus on youth in existing programmes, policies and strategies at all levels.

3. In an official communication to all Member States of 14 February 2013, the Secretary-General subsequently informed Member States of the appointment and encouraged them to provide support to the Envoy on Youth.

4. Following the endorsement by the Secretary-General of the Terms of Reference for his Envoy on Youth, the Envoy held extensive consultations with Member States, UN entities, youth-led organizations, and youth-serving institutions in order to develop his Office's work-plan. On 27 March 2013 at the ECOSOC Youth Forum, the Secretary-General endorsed the Envoy's work-plan and called upon the international community – including senior officials at the United Nations – to give the Envoy their fullest support.

5. On 29 April 2013, the Envoy briefed the members of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on his Office's work-plan, which is guided by the World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1995. The work-plan outlines four priority pillars:

- **Participation:** To increase youth accessibility to the United Nations through the promotion of structured mechanisms for youth participation at national, regional and international levels, as well as opening channels of communications between young people and the United Nations, and enhancing youth access to information related to the United Nations' work on youth.

¹ Youth are defined by the United Nations for statistical purposes as those between ages 15 and 24 and comprise 1.2 billion persons today, whereas young people aged 10-24 and comprise 1.8 billion persons. In other contexts, such as the recently adopted UN Security Council Resolution 2250, youth has been defined as those aged 18-29. Further variations in the definition of the age group exist at national and international levels.

- **Partnerships:** To engage Member States, private sector, academic institutions, media and civil society, including youth-led organizations in the UN programmes on youth and facilitate multi-stakeholder partnerships to tackle youth issues.
- **Harmonization:** To perform a catalytic role in enhancing the coordination and harmonization of youth programming among UN agencies and beyond by promoting the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY), as well as the implementation of the UN System Wide Action Plan on Youth (Youth-SWAP); supporting the establishment of UN inter-agency networks and taskforces at regional and national levels; and enhancing the communications and the flow of information between UN actors.
- **Advocacy:** To increase international awareness and attention to youth issues and promote stronger youth participation in setting, implementing, monitoring and evaluating various development and other policy frameworks. Efforts include promoting the placement of young people's rights and development at the centre of UN intergovernmental processes; utilizing various platforms to advocate for a stronger youth agenda at the national, regional and international levels; and deploying traditional and new media tools to promote and advance youth development.

6. The above outlined priority pillars of participation, partnerships, harmonization and advocacy are crosscutting with some key thematic areas that the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy has focused on in the implementation of its work-plan over the period under review. These include the following: **Youth and the Sustainable Development Agenda; the World Programme of Action for Youth; the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda; Education and Civic Participation; Decent Jobs for Youth; Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Young Women and Girls; and Disaster Risk Reduction, Humanitarian Response and Climate Change.**

7. In November 2015, UN General Assembly Resolution A/C.3/70/L.11/Rev.1 "Policies and programmes involving youth", echoed the Secretary-General in recognizing the role of the Envoy on Youth as a "harmonizer" among UN entities and other stakeholders in elevating the global youth agenda. The Resolution also recognized the work of the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth in addressing the needs of youth and calls on the Envoy to continue to act as a harmonizer working closely with Governments, United Nations entities, civil society, youth organizations, academia and media, empowering and strengthening the position of young people within and outside of the United Nations system. The Resolution provides a strong impetus to the Envoy and his Office for their ongoing efforts in elevating the global youth agenda and strengthening the UN's programmes on youth at all levels.

8. This narrative report describes the progress in implementing the work-plan of the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, over the past three years; since its establishment until mid-February 2016. It details activities undertaken in the priority areas of the work-plan, as well as key thematic areas, highlighting the progress to date and elaborates the below summarized key milestones:

Summary of Key Achievements:

- Firmly established the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth (OSGEY);
- Solidly anchored youth issues in UN processes and programmes, at all levels and increased the UN's accessibility for youth;
- Played lead global advocacy role in elevating the international youth agenda;
- Actively mobilized Member States to ensure their recommitment to the full and accelerated implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY), in particular through the High Level Event of the General Assembly to mark the WPAY's 20th anniversary;
- Reinvigorated the debate on public policies on youth and recommitment of key actors to move the youth policy agenda forward, in particular through the convening of the First Global Forum on Youth Policies, and its resulting outcome, the Baku Commitment to Youth Policies, and follow up thereof;
- Increased visibility for and commitment to global youth issues throughout the Post-2015 process and in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:
 - through the establishment of the Global Partnership for Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and its crowdsourcing platform;
 - by leading the development of the "Global Call on Youth: Prioritizing Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda";
 - by leading the development of the "Youth-check: Preliminary SDG Indicators Analysis" and OSGEY's engagement in the process of establishing the global framework of SDG indicators as an active member of the Interagency Expert Group on the SDG indicators; and
 - through OSGEY's lead role in ensuring young people's participation in the UN Sustainable Development Summit and as partners in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in going forward;
- Played a critical role in facilitating the inclusion of Member States expressed commitments to investing in youth as critical to achieving sustainable development in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, a first-ever in the history of conferences on Financing for Development;
- Played an instrumental role in the adoption of the historic Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security, including by
 - strongly advocating for the recognition of young people's contributions to peacebuilding and conflict prevention, through the Security Council Debate on the Role of Youth in Countering Violent Extremism and Promoting Peace;
 - co-organizing of the Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security and its outcome the Amman Declaration;
 - as well as ensuring the inclusion of a strong focus on youth empowerment and inclusion in the UN's strategic framing of its efforts on the prevention of violent extremism;
- Increased awareness of and visibility on other key youth-related agendas and strengthened multi-stakeholder partnerships, including
 - Education and Civic Participation, in particular in supporting the Global Education First Initiative;
 - Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship, specifically by actively engaging in the development of the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth;
 - Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Girls and Young Women, as a cross-cutting issue throughout all of OSGEY's activities; and

- Disaster Risk Reduction, Humanitarian Response and Climate Change, by actively engaging in key global events, including the Sendai Conference, COP21 and its preceding Conference of Youth, as well as the Doha Youth Forum in preparation of the World Humanitarian Summit;
- Covered fifty-two countries through a total of 97 official missions; and undertook many more remote engagements covering Member States in all regions;
- Supported the establishment of UN Inter-Agency coordination mechanisms in 49 countries, as well as at the Regional level;
- Supported the establishment of Youth Advisory Boards to UN Country Teams and UN-System entities, now active in over 55 countries, to improve youth programming on the ground;
- Co-authored and partnered on various publications, including “Young Peoples Engagement in Strengthening Accountability for the Post-2015 Agenda”, “Overcoming Youth Marginalization: Conference Report and Policy Recommendations”, as well as reports of Global Fora and events convened by OSGEY, and additionally contributed to numerous other publications, such as in the form of forewords, opinion articles and think pieces;
- Strengthened the regional collaboration on youth by establishing partnerships with key regional and inter-regional intergovernmental bodies, regional youth fora and networks, and UN Regional Commissions and UN agencies’ Regional Offices;
- Strengthened the UN partnerships with numerous youth-led and youth-focused organizations and networks, from grassroots levels to the global level, including in advocacy efforts in numerous UN intergovernmental processes.
- Supported numerous youth events and engaged in countless events and conferences, out of which 343 times in the form of keynote addresses, speeches, lectures or panel discussions;
- Demonstrated strong convening power, by organizing or co-organizing over 25 events, including Global Fora and High Level Events bringing together diverse stakeholders, including representatives from Member States, civil society, youth-led and youth-focused organizations and networks, academia and the private sector;
- Co-organized the annual ECOSOC Youth Fora and played a key role in elevating the Forum, which offers today the highest level of a youth participation mechanism as part of the ECOSOC and UN institutional processes, feeding into other processes of the Economic and Social Council, including the High Level Political Forum and the Annual Ministerial Reviews;
- Held over 400 coordination and bilateral meetings with Member States, including at the highest levels of authority;
- Established a global online resource on youth statistics, ranging a wide span of topics and continuously updated;
- Actively engaged young people through social media and led several online initiatives and campaigns, including the Crowdsourcing Initiative on Youth Priorities in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, as well as the social engagement campaign #YouthNow, highlighting the 20th anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth, which reached 2 billion digital impressions during its course;
- Mobilized close to USD \$ 4.5 million for the OSGEY operations, while supporting additional mobilization of USD \$ 15 million for youth programming through convening several country-focused donors meetings and promoting specific initiatives.

II. Progress on the implementation of the work-plan of OSGEY

9. Under each of the four priority pillars of the work-plan as well as under the crosscutting key thematic areas, OSGEY undertook specific actions and activities, as highlighted below.

A. Participation

10. With the objective of increasing youth accessibility to the UN by promoting structured mechanisms for youth participation, OSGEY convened and actively participated in numerous of high-level panels, fora and consultations in which the Envoy promoted the role of young people themselves as well as youth-led, youth-serving organizations and other youth stakeholders' participation in the UN System and beyond. A selection of the core efforts undertaken with regards to strengthening youth participation at different levels -ranging from global to local-, are highlighted below.

11. At the global level, OSGEY has been co-organizing in partnership with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) the annual **ECOSOC Youth Forum** held under the presidency of ECOSOC. The aim of the ECOSOC Youth Forum is to provide a platform for young people to voice their needs and concerns through dialogue with other stakeholders, in particular Member States, and to explore ways and means for promoting youth development.

12. With the support of OSGEY, the ECOSOC Youth Forum has over the past years grown into an apex event during which the outcomes of other key global, regional and national youth fora, conferences, events and initiatives are reported. At present, the Forum presents the highest-level youth participation mechanism as part of UN institutional processes, feeding into other processes of the Economic and Social Council, including the High-Level Political Forum and the Annual Ministerial Review.

13. The 2013 ECOSOC Youth Forum focused on the theme of “Shaping tomorrow’s innovators: Leveraging science, technology, innovation and culture for today’s youth”. The outcome of the Forum helped to strengthen youth engagement in the Council’s high-level segment during its 2013 substantive session, and provided a “youth voice” on issues central to the theme of its Annual Ministerial Review.

14. During the 2014 ECOSOC Youth Forum, OSGEY worked closely with UN-DESA, UNDP and other UN System partners to ensure the broad participation of young people from around the world. In order to foster open dialogue and engagement at the Forum, Member States delegates were seated side-by-side with youth representatives, and participated equally for the first time in a Forum hosted by the ECOSOC. The Forum was extended from a one-day event, to cover two full days to allow for a more in-depth dialogue on key issues and respond to growing demand. In line with the Post-2015 process, the Forum brought forward the presentation of the “Global Youth Call: Prioritizing Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda”, which represents a consensus document on youth priorities and target areas for inclusion in the

Sustainable Development Goals (see Section E1). The Forum focused on leveraging support from Member States and youth participants, for this consensus document, which was ultimately shared with the Member States during the ECOSOC High-level segment in July 2014 and fed into the then still ongoing Post-2015 deliberations.

15. The 2015 ECOSOC Youth Forum, which took place on 2-3 February, was convened in line with the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review, and focused on the topic “Youth Engagement in the Transition from MDGs to SDGs: What will it take?” As in previous years, the forum was addressed by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who launched the online social engagement campaign #YouthNow to mark the 20th Anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth leading up to the High Level Event of the General Assembly on 29 May 2015 (see Section E2). Nearly 500 youth representatives actively participated in discussions with Member State representatives, including Ministers, and leaders from civil society, the private sector, media, and the UN System. The participants debated ideas and identified key priorities that required greater attention from policymakers in the transition from the MDGs to the post-2015 context, which helped guide the work of OSGEY and other stakeholders in the lead up to the start of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

16. The 2016 ECOSOC Youth Forum, which was convened on 1-2 February 2016, offered the first high-level discussion on youth after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and discussed the roles youth can play in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With over 800 participants, the Forum was the largest convening since it was first organized, marked by an unprecedented number of twenty Ministers and over thirty high level officials. The Forum affirmed that youth are not mere beneficiaries of the Sustainable Development Goals, but will be key drivers in turning the comprehensive vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into action. The Forum also saw the launch of UN System joint initiative to tackle youth unemployment: “The Global Initiative for Decent Jobs for Youth”. The initiative was introduced by the ILO Director-General and reflects a UN System-wide response to one of the critical targets in SDG 8 on promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all. In his closing statement, the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth focused on the way forward for the 2016 ECOSOC Youth Forum. He shared his vision of strengthening the forum to provide a platform to review youth development as a cross-cutting issue throughout the SDGs as an input to the High-Level Political Forum, as outlined in the Secretary-General’s Report on “Critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level” of 15 January 2016. A Presidential Statement was issued at the closing of the Forum and a summary report will be made available to the High Level Segment of ECOSOC in July.

17. Moreover, OSGEY has been actively supporting the channelling of youth voices into UN intergovernmental processes. In particular, OSGEY supports and partners with the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY), which as one of the UN Major Groups forms an officially recognized civil society channel for interaction in UN processes. Such support has encompassed substantive briefings and exchanges, coordination and advocacy efforts, as well as funding support for MGCY participation in key events and processes, including – amongst others – the Post-2015 Development Agenda/SDGs, Financing for Development, the High-Level Political Forum, and the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Furthermore, OSGEY promotes youth participation in functional commissions, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, for which it also supports the Youth CSW Forum, as well as the participation of indigenous youth in the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in close coordination with the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus.

18. Over the past three years, OSGEY has also supported the organization of key global thematic youth consultations, such as the World Humanitarian Forum Youth Consultation held in Doha, Qatar on 1-2 September 2015, which sought to ensure that the voices of young people are heard and taken into account during the shaping of the new humanitarian agenda (see also Section E.7). OSGEY is working with partners to ensure youth engagement and a focus on youth issues in the forthcoming World Humanitarian Forum to take place 23-24 May in Istanbul, Turkey. Similarly, OSGEY is working closely with the UN Alliance of Civilizations in supporting the Youth Event of the 7th Annual UN Alliance of Civilizations World Forum in April in Baku, Azerbaijan.

19. Aside from real-time, offline participation in UN events and processes, OSGEY has also opened and promoted avenues for young people's participation through the use of online engagement platforms. One of the flagship endeavours was the **Crowdsourcing platform on Youth Priorities in Post-2015 Development Agenda**. Following the launch in January 2014 of the Global Partnership for Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda (see section B on Partnerships), and as a concrete vehicle for engaging youth in the debate, OSGEY launched the Crowdsourcing Platform on Youth Priorities in Post 2015 Development Agenda, run in partnership with ITU, UNFPA, UN Millennium Campaign, and the partners of the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD). Building on the five key priorities identified by young people in the MYWorld 2015 Survey (namely employment; education; health; governance; and peace and security), the crowdsourcing initiative provided an opportunity for youth and youth organizations around the world to discuss in more detail what they thought should be reflected as priorities and targets in the new development agenda. The initiative presented an opportunity for young people from all over the world to help move the post-2015 development debate from "Consultation to Consolidation".

20. Through online discussions on the five above-mentioned themes, moderated by teams consisting of both UN agencies and international youth organizations, the crowdsourcing platform actively engaged the over 1700 members of the Global Partnership on Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Over a period of five months, young people submitted proposals on their priorities for concrete target areas for the Post-2015 Development Agenda. These proposals were eventually consolidated into the afore-mentioned Global Youth Call: Prioritizing Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and launched at the 2014 ECOSOC Youth Forum.

21. As part of the efforts to ensure the active engagement of young people in the preparation of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), as well as in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the UN supported youth policies, programmes, and initiatives at a country level, the Envoy worked with UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams (UNCT) in several countries to establish **National Youth Advisory Boards or Panels**. These mechanisms facilitate partnerships with youth at the national level, with special

attention to the participation of marginalized youth and young women and girls, to advise on various policy initiatives in a cohesive and productive fashion. **Fifty six countries to date have established Youth Advisory Boards to the UNCT or its member agencies:** Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Egypt, the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean², Georgia, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Samoa Multi-Country Office³, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Tunisia, Ukraine, and Zambia. Furthermore, the Envoy received commitments to pilot Youth Advisory Boards in an increasing number of countries, including the following: Colombia, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Serbia, and Uruguay. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ecuador, Montenegro, Philippines, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda have also expressed interest in establishing Youth Advisory Boards. Currently, in partnership with other UN-System partners, OSGEY is embarking on an exercise to take stock of lessons learned and best practices, which will be supplemented by an Expert Group Meeting to be convened in the course of 2016, in order to distil key recommendations that could guide future efforts in other countries.

22. Continuing the efforts to engage young people in the work of the UN, OSGEY has also been actively encouraging Member States to participate in the UN Youth Delegates Programme, which is administrated by UN-DESA. Moreover, OSGEY led the UN System effort on engaging youth in the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development, which took place from 25 to 27 September 2015. As part of this effort, OSGEY undertook specific outreach activities to ensure the participation of UN Youth Delegates in the official opening session of the Summit during which the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development was adopted by the UN Member States.

23. In view of promoting young people's volunteering opportunities in UN operations, OSGEY has been actively promoting the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Youth modality. To this end, the Envoy participated in fundraising efforts and facilitated a major media partnership with MBC group to support the winners of UNV Youth Programme.

24. Furthermore, OSGEY has created and maintained active channels of communication between youth-led organizations and the United Nations, helping enhance access to information related to the United Nations' work on youth. Such efforts have resulted in an increase in the volume of requests placed on the Envoy's Office to engage in and support youth events and initiatives at the global, regional and national levels. As a result, the OSGEY has partnered on and supported the hosting of a number of major youth events for key youth organizations and networks. Among others, the Office supported the organization of the 2015 JCI (Junior Chamber International) Partnership Summit, 2015 AIESEC International Congress, and the 2015 Millennium Campus Conference. Hosting such events has proven critical to opening the United Nations to young people from around the world and providing a platform for real-life participation and engagement for civil society to align their organizational priorities with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

² The YAB for the Dutch and English Speaking Caribbean coordinated by UNFPA covers 22 countries and territories in the region

³ Samoa Multi-Country Office covers Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tokelau

B. Partnerships

25. Fostering effective partnerships has proven critical to moving the global youth agenda forward. To this end, the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth has extensively engaged with Member States, the private sector, academic institutions, media, civil society, and youth-led organizations in UN programmes on youth, and facilitated multi-stakeholder partnerships on youth issues. The Office also supported evidence-based research on youth issues and networking with youth-led organizations.

26. The Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth closely coordinates its activities with **Member States**, including by advocating for a youth perspective in relevant UN resolutions. Over the past three years, OSGEY has held regular meetings with representatives of Member States at all levels, including Heads of States and Governments; Ministers of Foreign Affairs; Ministers of Youth, Planning, Employment, Education, Social Affairs, and other relevant ministers. In addition, the Envoy regularly briefs the Permanent Representatives of Member States to the UN. To date, the Envoy held over 400 coordination and bi-lateral meetings with Member States representatives.

27. Since the establishment of OSGEY, the Office has established strong partnerships with **international and regional youth organizations, networks, alliances and fora**, including with Task Force members of the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO); regional youth fora and networks, and the members of the Major Group on Children and Youth. As part of the Office's partnership efforts with youth organizations, the Envoy has also organised and facilitated several interactions between the Secretary-General and other UN Officials with youth-led NGOs.

28. Utilizing the opportunity offered by the First Global Forum on Youth Policies (see Section E.2.), OSGEY in conjunction with the Forum convened an **International Stakeholders Meeting on Youth Policies** on 27 October 2014. The meeting brought together some 50 key international actors in the field of youth policies, including representatives of international, regional youth fora and organizations, regional intergovernmental bodies, Foundations and UN agencies. The meeting offered an opportunity to strategize and identify ways to strengthen the global, regional and national commitments to the development, implementation, scaling up, monitoring and evaluation of youth policies and discussed ways to improve the coordination of key actors in this field.

29. Since his appointment, the Envoy has established strong **partnerships with UN Agencies and other multilateral institutions**. The Envoy has coordinated closely with senior leadership of UN entities to sharpen the focus of youth programmes across the UN System. To that end, the Envoy held over 270 official coordination meetings with representatives of UN agencies during the reporting period. In addition the Envoy has partnered and participated in numerous UN agency events and initiatives.

30. OSGEY has also established a strong partnership with key UN Offices. For instance, OSGEY has worked closely with the **Office of the President of the General Assembly** on

furthering the global youth agenda and increasing youth participation. The collaboration included, amongst others, the Envoy's engagement in the 68th President of the General Assembly's High-Level Event of the "Contributions of Women, the Young and Civil Society," which took place 6-7 March 2014, as well as the High-Level Stocktaking Event on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which took place 11 September 2014. OSGEY worked in close collaboration with the Office of the 69th President of the General Assembly with regards to the organization of the High Level Event of the General Assembly marking the 20th Anniversary of World Programme of Action for Youth to highlight Youth Priorities in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The partnership also included the WPAY+20 public engagement and the #YouthNow campaign (see Section E2). OSGEY furthermore supported both the 69th and 70th President of the General Assembly in the preparations for the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development, while leading the UN effort to ensure youth participation in the Summit. In January 2016, OSGEY supported the youth engagement in the multi-stakeholder retreat on the selection and appointment of the next Secretary-General, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the first meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, which was organized by the 70th President of the General Assembly. It is a testament to this partnership that the Office of the President of the General Assembly has strengthened its efforts to integrate a youth focus to the upcoming 2016 High Level Thematic Dialogues series, including by featuring youth speakers, working in close consultation with OSGEY.

31. Similarly, OSGEY has established a strong collaboration with the **Presidents of the Economic and Social Council** and Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination in UN-DESA, a partnership that has contributed to increased momentum for the afore-mentioned ECOSOC Youth Forum. Most recently, in February 2016, a joint Op-Ed by the President of ECOSOC and the Envoy on Youth was published in the Huffington Post on "Why the UN is prioritizing youth in 2016". Additionally, the Envoy addressed the Special High-level Meeting of ECOSOC to commemorate its 70th Anniversary convened by the President of ECOSOC, which brought together numerous former Presidents of ECOSOC, as well as other high-level dignitaries to reflect on the milestones achieved and the way forward for the Economic and Social Council. OSGEY works closely with the President of ECOSOC throughout the year to ensure youth participation and representation in a calendar of events.

32. With regards to the Bretton-Woods institutions, OSGEY has collaborated in the annual **World Bank Group Youth Summit** taking place on the eve of the IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings. The Envoy sits on the Board of Directors of the World Bank facilitated coalition Solutions for Youth Employment (S4YE), which works to identify and promote the adoption of transformative, scalable youth employment solutions. OSGEY also co-organized a joint meeting in October 2014 in Washington, DC, which brought together young professionals from several UN agencies and their peers in the World Bank and the IMF and contributed to strengthened collaboration and partnerships between young professional across the multilateral system.

33. Noting that globally less than two percent of Members of Parliament are under the age of 30, the Envoy has been undertaking special efforts to reach out to and partner with **young Members of Parliament** from around the world. To that end, OSGEY - on the margins of the 6th International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme

of Action (IPCI) in Stockholm in April 2014 - gathered young parliamentarians from some 15 countries to discuss possible avenues for increased collaboration. Moreover, OSGEY joined the initiative of the International Parliamentarians Union (IPU) to convene a Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians under the theme: Taking Democracy to Task, which took place in Geneva from 10-13 October 2014. During this interaction, and in close consultation with UNDP, it was agreed that the group continue to work together and explore ways in which to build a network of young parliamentarians to support the UN development agenda. The Envoy has been working closely with IPU and this group ever since its establishment and facilitated the participation of members of the IPU young Parliamentarians in various UN events. Furthermore, the Envoy will be addressing the Young Parliamentarians Forum and the 134th General Assembly of the IPU in March 2016 in Zambia, convened under the theme: “Rejuvenating democracy, giving a voice to youth”.

34. OSGEY also maintains close partnerships with the **research and academic community** to advance knowledge and understanding of youth issues. The Envoy engaged students, researchers, leading academic institutions, think tanks, intergovernmental organizations, and UN entities to support the field of research and maintain close working relationships. In October 2013, the Envoy addressed graduate students at Bilgi University’s opening ceremony of the masters’ programme in Advanced European and International Studies, a joint undertaking between Bilgi University and the Institut Européen- European Institute in Istanbul. The Envoy delivered the inaugural lecture on “The UN’s Commitment to Youth in the 21st Century.” OSGEY engaged with MEDMUN 2014, organised by the Mediterranean Campus of Science Po and CIFE in Menton, France, where the Envoy gave a public lecture on current youth issues and leadership. Similarly, the Envoy gave a public lecture at the Harvard College community, organised by the Harvard Kennedy School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The Envoy visited Lehigh University, Pennsylvania, on 12 November 2014, to join in their celebrations of a ten-year successful partnership with the United Nations. Furthermore, over the past three years, OSGEY has engaged with students from all over the world in numerous Model United Nations events as well as in various video conferences.

35. In partnership with Columbia Global Policy Initiative at Columbia University, OSGEY co-convened a two-day Expert Group Meeting on “Marginalization and Inequalities Facing Youth,” which brought together academia, practitioners, civil society, and youth activists to discuss their diverse experiences with youth marginalization, and identified specific proposals and approaches for addressing the issue at the local, national, and international levels. A report of the Expert Group Meeting that captures the outcomes of meeting has been published by the Columbia Global Policy Initiative in partnership with OSGEY. Most recently, the Envoy provided a keynote address along with Professor Jeffrey Sachs, of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, during the event “Youth for SDGs” organized by Columbia University in collaboration with the Youth Division of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network on 22 September 2015.

36. OSGEY has also been working to foster partnerships with **private sector organizations and foundations**, both bilaterally and with the sector as a whole. With regards to the latter, OSGEY hosted a breakfast event that brought together some 30 key partners from the business and

philanthropic sector on 7 October 2015 in Washington D.C. in conjunction with the Global Youth Economic Opportunities Summit. The event focused on the linkages between youth development and the Sustainable Development Goals, and offered an opportunity to brief partners on the planned activities of OSGEY, as well as to present some of the plans, initiatives and activities of UN System partners.

37. During the period under review, the Envoy undertook coordination visits to and meetings with **regional and inter-regional intergovernmental bodies**, including the African Union, the League of Arab States, the Ibero-American Organization, CARICOM, the European Union, the Council of Europe, the Commonwealth, and the International Organization of the Francophonie to strengthen the collaboration with the UN on youth-related issues. In addition to these bodies, OSGEY also worked closely with the UN Regional Commissions, as well as Regional UN Youth Task Forces, consisting of Regional Offices of UN System agencies. OSGEY supported regional multi-stakeholder UN Youth Fora and strengthened the UN's efforts to address youth issues at the regional levels. A detailed overview of the various key engagements of the Envoy by region is highlighted in the next few paragraphs.

38. Regarding the work in **Africa**, the Envoy signed a Joint Statement with the African Union Commission reflecting the strengthened collaboration on youth issues between the UN and the AU, including by engaging in the preparations for the fifth conference of African Youth Ministers and its preceding youth forum. In partnership with the African Union, ILO and UNESCO, OSGEY marked World Youth Skills Day in Addis Ababa during an event on Investing in Youth and Ensuring Decent Jobs to Harness the Demographic Dividend, convened on the side-lines of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. Moreover, the Envoy addressed the High-Level Event on “the African Continental Framework on Youth Development: Mainstream into Agenda 2063”, which was part of the Africa Week co-organized by the UN Economic Commission for Africa, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Department of Public Information, the Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the United Nations, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and the African Peer Review Mechanism. The event brought together youth advocates and senior policymakers to discuss the African continent's forthcoming framework on youth development, highlighted the progress achieved and challenges recognized in implementing the African Youth Charter, as well as the important role of youth employment in accelerating the achievement of the African Union's Agenda 2063. The Envoy continues to underscore the potential of African developed solutions to African challenges, emphasize the need for proper funding and investments, and the need to address specific issues such as the high prevalence of child marriage and teenage pregnancy.

39. With regards to the **Arab Region**, the Envoy attended and delivered a keynote address at the Regional Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and UNFPA in June 2013 in Cairo, Egypt. OSGEY also engaged in the preparations of the Youth Forum prior to the Arab Leaders' Summit and supported the organization of and attended the Arab Youth Development Forum: Strengthening Partnership with Young People in the Arab States for Post-2015 Development

Agenda, co-hosted by the United Arab Emirates' General Authority of Youth and Sports Welfare, and the UNFPA Regional Office for Arab States in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on 4-5 May 2014. In addition, OSGEY facilitated a media partnership with the largest TV network in the Arab Region (MBC Group) to support the winners of the afore-mentioned UNV Youth Programme. Moreover, on 28-29 April 2015, the Envoy provided an opening address to the Council of Ministers of Youth and Sport of the League of Arab States, calling on them to elevate the youth agenda in the region in order to address the particular challenges that many Arab countries are struggling with today. Most recently, in December 2015, the Envoy followed up and again addressed the League of Arab States' Council of Ministers of Youth and Sport during his visit to Kuwait and expressed the UN's support to the development of the League's forthcoming regional youth strategy.

40. In **Asia and the Pacific** the Envoy coordinated with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) as well as the regional offices of UN System partners and welcomed the development of the 2015 Human Development Report, which included a focus on youth. In addition, the Envoy attended the Asia and the Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics co-organized by a partnership between ESCAP, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, WHO, the Asian Development Bank, and Plan International, which took place in November 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand. At the conference, which was attended by over 200 Ministers, senior officials and experts from Asia and the Pacific, the Envoy facilitated a special youth session "Youth voices matter: Get us in the picture!" In November 2015, the Envoy visited Niue and addressed the Pacific Community's 9th Conference which brought together Ministers from over twenty countries, development partners, and youth representatives to discuss youth issues in the Pacific region, including how youth are affected by and can engage in the response to climate change. In November 2015, the Envoy attended the first Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Young Leaders Summit held in conjunction with the 27th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Youth Envoy's address to the summit focused on "Youth Leadership: Making Global Impact" and engaged in a discussion with young leaders from the ASEAN community, which focused on their roles in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the challenges and opportunities facing the youth of the region.

41. In **Europe**, OSGEY has been working closely with the European Youth Forum as well as the Council of Europe, in particular in the organization of the First Global Forum on Youth Policies, for which both entities were co-conveners, along with UNDP and UNESCO. During a visit to Germany, the Envoy provided a keynote closing statement at the conference "Building Tomorrow's Europe: European Conference on youth work and youth policy" convened in Bonn on 7-8 May 2013. As part of his visit to Brussels, the Envoy also met representatives of the European Commission to discuss joint cooperation on youth policy, as well as the President and Vice-President of the European Youth Forum to discuss the youth-led organization's agenda in Europe and at the global level. Furthermore, the Envoy attended and delivered a keynote address at the ICPD Regional Review Meeting organized by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and UNFPA in Geneva, Switzerland in July 2013. Moreover, the Envoy visited the European Commission and met with the young Members from the European Parliament. In April 2015, the Envoy provided closing remarks at the European Youth Work Convention - European

Youth Week 2015 which was convened by the three Belgian Communities in the context of the Belgian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. In his remarks the Envoy responded to the newly adopted European Youth Work Declaration and recommended policy makers to concretely use it as a reference document to give a new impetus to youth work policy and ensure recognition of the value of youth work. The Envoy, furthermore, engaged in the establishment of the Regional UN Task Force for Europe, including Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and addressed the Task Force's inaugural meeting by video conferencing.

42. In **Latin America and the Caribbean** the Envoy attended and delivered a keynote address at the ICPD Regional Review Meeting, organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and UNFPA in August 2013 in Montevideo, Uruguay. OSGEY supported the organization of and attended the Regional Youth Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean, co-organized with the Ibero-American Organization of Youth (OIJ), co-hosted by the Government of Ecuador, and Regional Offices of UNFPA, UNDP, UN-Women, and UNAIDS, and the NGO Juventud con Voz, which took place in Quito, Ecuador on 12-15 May 2014. The Envoy was represented by his Special Adviser during the International Young Leaders Assembly convened by the Global Young Leaders Academy, in partnership with the Paraguayan Ministry of Youth and Global Peace Foundation, that took place in Asuncion, Paraguay in November 2014 and brought together youth participants from across the region and beyond to discuss the cultivation of moral and innovative youth leadership. The Envoy delivered a keynote address at the Ibero-American Meeting on Ministers and Directors of Youth, organized by the Ibero-American Youth Organization and Mexican Institute of Youth in the context of the Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Governments in December 2014. In April 2015, the Envoy participated as a speaker in the Young Americas Forum that preceded the VII Summit of the Americas.

43. One of the key efforts undertaken by OSGEY under the partnerships pillar relates to the establishment of the **Global Partnership for Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda**, which was launched on 31 January 2014, in partnership with ITU, UNFPA and UN Millennium Campaign, and with the support of the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, the Major Group for Children and Youth and the International Coordination Meeting for Youth Organizations. This partnership brought together UN agencies, international NGOs, youth-led organizations, national youth councils, and youth groups, and reached a membership of some 1,700 youth-led organizations and NGOs from around the world. The partnership facilitated exchange of information and ideas around how to reflect youth priorities in the new development Agenda and contributed to the growing recognition of the critical role of young people in ensuring the success of the new development agenda.

44. Building off of the Global Partnership for Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and following the recent adoption of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, OSGEY has announced the **Global Youth Partnership for the Sustainable Development Goals**. This partnership will facilitate collaboration and exchange among UN System, civil society, private sector, academic and other key stakeholders to highlight commitments and initiatives on youth engagement in the context of the SDGs. The Partnership will offer a platform for the incubation of ideas and the amplification of existing mechanisms, and promote coherence and coordination

to enhance effective initiatives around youth engagement in the 2030 Agenda (see also section E1).

C. Harmonisation

45. Since its establishment, the Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth has played a catalytic role in enhancing the coordination and harmonization of youth programming among UN agencies. To that end, OSGEY has worked closely with the **Inter-agency Network on Youth Development** (IANYD), which brings together around 40 UN entities to exchange information and increase collaboration on youth issues.

46. The Envoy has continuously promoted the implementation of the **System-Wide Action Plan on Youth** (Youth-SWAP), which provides strategic guidance to the UN System in its work on youth within the framework of the World Programme of Action for Youth, and promotes joint programmatic work and complementarity on youth development. Actions related to strengthening the UN harmonisation on youth included the promotion of the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, as well as supporting the establishment of mechanisms for inter-agency coordination at the national and regional levels. With support from OSGEY, **inter-agency coordination mechanisms on youth** have been established at the regional level in Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, including Eastern Europe and Central Asia and at the national level include the following 49 countries: Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Rwanda, Samoa Multi-Country Office⁴, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Timor Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Venezuela and Zambia.

47. Furthermore, during 97 missions undertaken during this reporting period and at numerous other occasions, the Envoy has promoted the **inclusion of youth issues in the UN Development Assistance Frameworks** (UNDAFs). Countries who have mainstreamed youth issues in their current UNDAFs include: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Cote d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Haiti, Moldova, Morocco, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Uruguay and Zambia.

48. In partnership with other UN-System partners, OSGEY is currently embarking on an exercise to take stock of experiences and lessons learned to date, both with the establishment of UN Interagency Youth Working Groups at the country and regional levels as well as the mainstreaming of youth issues in UNDAFs. These analyses are to inform what constitute good practices that could guide future efforts in other countries and regions.

⁴ Samoa Multi-Country Office covers Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tokelau

49. In all missions undertaken, the Envoy promoted the visibility of and supported the implementation of the System-Wide Action Plan on Youth with UN Country Teams, and worked to enhance communications and the flow of information between UN agencies and youth. The Envoy has consistently engaged with the interagency youth task force in countries, briefed them on the Youth-SWAP and explored ways to sharpen the youth focus in the UN programmes.

50. The Envoy's country missions also have contributed to strengthening the UN's engagement and partnerships with national Governments. In several instances, the Envoy has helped consolidate and expedite critical initiatives including, for example, in the Dominican Republic, having met with the President, subsequent to which the UN Country Team was able to finalize a framework agreement with the Ministry of Youth to develop the country's first ever youth policy, and in Somalia with the mobilization of USD \$ 10 million for youth programming.

51. Within the UN System, the Envoy engages with a wide range of UN entities, including the members of IANYD. Moreover, the Envoy has been coordinating closely with senior leadership of UN entities on youth programmes to increase their visibility, actively provide support to the youth programmes of the members of the IANYD, help in promoting their work, and facilitating new partnerships. The Envoy and his staff have attended and actively participated in the IANYD Annual Meetings since the establishment of the Office. Furthermore, OSGEY is strongly engaged in the various Working Groups of IANYD, and co-chairs the Working Groups on the Post-2015 Development Agenda/2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development as well as the Working Group on Communications and Advocacy.

52. Within the UN System, the Envoy has participated in the highest-level coordination mechanisms, including the retreats of the **Chief Executives Board** for Coordination (CEB), which is the longest-standing and highest-level coordination forum of the United Nations system; as well as the **High-Level Committee on Programmes** that promotes system-wide cooperation, coordination and knowledge sharing in programme and operational areas and reports to the CEB. Through his participation in these mechanisms, the Envoy has been critical in elevating the global youth agenda and leveraging the UN's convening power whilst strengthening UN System-wide coordination efforts.

53. The Envoy on Youth also acts as the advisor to and the representative of the Secretary-General on youth related matters. In support of this role, OSGEY regularly provides briefings and inputs to the Secretary-General, as well as to Senior Managers, and provides advice on youth issues to other senior UN officials.

D. Advocacy

54. The Envoy has led the United Nations' advocacy efforts on youth development by highlighting youth issues in numerous high-level events and summits. Since his appointment, the Envoy has undertaken 97 official missions, spanning over 600,000 miles. While doing so, he covered 52 countries in all regions; to support major youth-related processes, attend international events and fora, engage with government officials, youth-led organizations, the private sector,

and UN teams. The regional break down according to the UN Regional Groups is as follows: 10 in Africa, 15 in Asia and the Pacific, 6 in Eastern Europe, 9 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 12 to Western Europe and Others. These missions covered countries with different socio-political and economical profiles, including countries in fragile situations and in post-conflict zones. In addition, the Envoy remotely joined events and held dialogues with youth in numerous UN Member States. OSGEY's engagement with Member States has included over 367 meetings, with 108 countries, with Heads of State and Government, Ministers, State Secretaries and others, including those at the highest levels responsible for youth issues.

55. The Envoy has been part of the official delegation of the Secretary-General on various missions, including to the IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings 2014, and during the participation of the Secretary-General to the Youth Olympic Games from 26 to 28 August 2014 in Nanjing, China, during the Seventh Summit of the Americas, which took place in April 2015 in Panama, and for the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations and signing of the Charter on 26 June 2015 in San Francisco, US. The Envoy most recently joined the Secretary-General's during his visit to Canada, which included meetings with the Prime Minister, H.E. Justin Trudeau, who also is Canada's Minister of Youth, and other Government officials, as well as various public events. Such missions have offered the opportunity to amplify the UN messages, with a strong focus on youth engagement in all UN efforts. In addition, the Envoy has also facilitated and joined in official meetings of representatives of established youth organizations and networks with senior UN officials, including the Secretary-General and supported the Secretary-General in his missions by facilitating meetings with young people and key youth stakeholders. On several occasions, the Envoy has also represented the UN Secretary-General at events and provided remarks on his behalf, such as the World Conference on Youth: Mainstreaming Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which took place in May 2014 and was hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka.

56. In order to raise awareness on a diverse range of youth issues, needs and challenges, the Envoy assumed a speaking engagement in countless events and conferences, out of which 343 times were in the form of keynote addresses, speeches, lectures or panel discussions. These engagements covered a wide variety of topics including: education, youth employment and entrepreneurship, health, gender equality and girls' and women's empowerment, governance and youth participation, human rights, peace and security, environmental issues and climate change, and the post-2015 development agenda/2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

57. A key highlight in the Envoy's annual calendar is the celebration of **International Youth Day**. Since its establishment, OSGEY has played a key role in marking the annual celebratory events on International Youth Day, which was declared by GA resolution 54/120 and has been observed on 12 August since 1999.

58. International Youth Day (IYD) in 2013 highlighted the issue of youth migration. The Envoy joined young people at the Latin America Youth Forum visiting remote villages in Uruguay, wherein he engaged with marginalized youth, exchanged ideas and highlighted the particulars around youth migration. Furthermore, the Envoy joined the UN Secretary General and Senior UN Officials for a Global Interactive Dialogue, which was convened to mark 2013

IYD. The dialogue included the participation of young people from all regions, who were connected live and on-screen to the event held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

59. In 2014, the Envoy joined the Secretary-General to mark International Youth Day at the UN Headquarters in New York in an event focusing on the theme of social inclusion of youth with mental health conditions. The event raised awareness on the issues of youth with mental health conditions and highlighted risks that are especially great as young people transition from childhood to adulthood.

60. In the lead up to International Youth Day 2015 and ahead of the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development, OSGEY and the United Nations Millennium Campaign co-organized a month-long online photo exhibit under the title “#YouthNow Driving Change”. The campaign highlighted the life stories of young people from different countries covering all regions, who are affecting change in their communities. In support of the campaign the visuals of inspirational youth from around the world were featured in Times Square in New York during the first half of August 2015 thanks to a partnership between OSGEY and the electronics company LG.

61. Furthermore, International Youth Day in 2015 was marked by a series of events, conversations, online mobilizations and celebrations around the world. The Envoy, on an official visit to the Philippines, observed the day with a celebratory event with 2,000 Filipino youth gathered in Manila’s SM Skydome. He also joined representatives from Government, civil society, the private sector, and international organizations to officiate International Youth Day by delivering the opening keynote to the 3rd Asian Youth Forum hosted by the Asian Development Bank. On the occasion of his visit, the Envoy was presented with the Youth Agenda from the Philippines National Youth Commission.

62. While the Envoy attended events in the Philippines, a recorded video statement by the Envoy was featured at 2015 International Youth Day events around the world, including the celebration at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, which brought together Member States, youth participants and UN agency representatives. As in previous years, the Envoy’s video statement and written messages were shared with numerous youth organizations, as well as UN country teams for their utilization in local and national IYD events marking this important day. In addition, in 2015, the Secretary-General and the Envoy on Youth recorded a joint public video message to youth around the world on the occasion of International Youth Day.

63. Online, OSGEY organized an International Youth Day 2015 Digital Surge to raise awareness about ways in which young people engage in civic, political and social spheres. This Digital Surge included live Twitter chats on youth civic engagement and participation during which the hashtag #YouthDay received over 70 million digital impressions.

64. The year 2015 saw the first ever **World Youth Skills Day** following the resolution A/C.3/69/L.13/Rev.1, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in December of 2014 designating 15th July hence forward to mark this important day. The first World Youth Skills Day, offered an excellent opportunity to underscore the global imperative of providing young

people with skills development for life and work as a means to achieve better socio-economic outcomes.

65. To mark the day, the United Nations hosted two key events: a) an event at the United Nations Headquarters in New York co-hosted by the Permanent Missions of Portugal and Sri Lanka, UNESCO, ILO, and OSGEY. The event promoted and highlighted the importance of sound policies, knowledge management, advocacy and multi-stakeholder partnerships for youth skills development in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Additionally, in conjunction with the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, OSGEY convened an official side event in partnership with ILO, and UNESCO under the theme “Investing in Youth and Ensuring Decent Jobs to Harness the Demographic Dividend”. The event brought together high-level speakers and youth activists to highlight the importance of investing in the skills-development of youth by financing youth policies and programs and ensuring that young people, including the most marginalized, have access to decent jobs.

66. OSGEY has also utilized the momentum and visibility generated by the presence of many Heads of State and Government at the **High-Level segments of the General Assembly** over the past years by engaging in key events that aim to generate increased attention to the youth development agenda. These included special youth events with the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, H.E. Mark Rutte; the Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany, H.E. Gerhard Müller; the former UK Prime Minister, Gordon Brown; Her Majesty Queen Maxima of the Netherlands; Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mary of Denmark; Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, H.E. Mangala Samaraweera; Minister of Youth Sierra Leone, H.E. Alimamy Kamara; Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, H.E. Lianne Ploumen; and Secretary of State for International Development of the UK, H.E. Justine Greening; among others.

67. Moreover, OSGEY actively promoted increased visibility of youth in key UN publications. For instance, the upcoming Regional Human Development Report (HDR) for the Arab Region will be dedicated to the situation of youth. Moreover, several national Human Development Reports have been increasingly focused on youth, for instance the recent HDRs for Iraq, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. The Envoy has welcomed and supported these efforts and has been actively engaged in the launch of some of these reports. Furthermore, an Op-Ed article by the Envoy was included in a special issue of the **UN Chronicle** focused on “The United Nations at 70: Strong UN – Better World”, along with articles by high-level dignitaries and world leaders. The UN Chronicle featured “Young at 70: the promise of the United Nations work with and for youth”, in which the Envoy reflected on the UN’s increased recognition since its inception 70 years ago of the unique role that young people play in development efforts. The Op-Ed also provided a forward-looking perspective on what the UN at large can do to continue deliver on its promise to young people.

68. Using both **traditional and new media** outlets, extensive outreach efforts by OSGEY have contributed to increased visibility for youth issues. OSGEY’s work on youth participation, advocacy, and action, has been highlighted by, or featured in, over one hundred diverse media outlets and major news agencies from all regions and in several languages. While on missions to

different countries, the Envoy has systematically highlighted the work of the United Nations and the critical importance of youth, including with local media outlets. OSGEY's media engagements have included a thematic focus on the Sustainable Development Goals, the World Programme of Action for Youth, youth unemployment, climate change, civic engagement, peace and security, health, and the empowerment of young women and girls. Most recently, the website Elite Daily, which has an extensive viewership amongst young people globally, ran a video feature on the work of OSGEY to increase awareness of how youth issues are addressed at the United Nations. The video has been viewed more than 1.3 million times online.

69. Main channels of communications for OSGEY include the Office's official website, social media accounts, and media engagement through traditional print, broadcast, and digital publications. With OSGEY's proactive digital approach the website www.un.org/youthenvoy, which is available in English, French and Spanish, and social media channels serves as a one-stop-shop for news pertaining to youth from across the UN System. In regards to social media, the Office continues to be active on Facebook and Twitter, which remain the primary drivers of traffic to the official website. In addition, OSGEY has also joined new social media platforms, including Medium.com, Instagram, Tumblr, Snapchat and Vine, to join conversations already happening, digitally, amongst the world's youth.

70. The considerable volume and extent of outreach efforts by OSGEY have contributed to increased visibility for UN System-wide actions on youth development, youth participation in UN efforts, and youth-focused initiatives and missions undertaken by the Envoy on Youth around the world.

E. Thematic focus areas

71. Numerous efforts undertaken by OSGEY encompass various or all of the four pillars (participation, partnership, harmonization and advocacy) of the Office's work-plan and cut across key thematic areas. These include Youth and the Sustainable Development Agenda; the World Programme of Action for Youth; Youth, Peace and Security; Education and Civic Participation; Decent Jobs for Youth; Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Young Women and Girls; and Disaster Risk Reduction, Humanitarian Response and Climate Change. The below section provides an overview of the main activities implemented under each of these thematic areas and reflects on the results achieved to date.

E.1. Youth and the Sustainable Development Agenda

72. One of strategic focus areas of the work of the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth since its establishment has been on advocating for youth priorities and rights to be duly reflected in the Post-2015 Development Agenda/2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

73. To this end, OSGEY launched the afore-mentioned **Global Partnership for Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda** in January 2014, which brought together UN agencies,

international NGOs, youth-led organizations, national youth councils, and youth groups, and reached a membership of some 1,700 youth-led organizations and NGOs from around the world. The partnership facilitated exchange of information and ideas around how to reflect youth priorities in the new development Agenda.

74. OSGEY facilitated, in close collaboration with other UN agencies and international youth organizations, the development of the abovementioned **‘Global Call on Youth: Prioritizing Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda’**. The Call reflected a global youth consensus on concrete proposals for target areas on youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The Global Youth Call was a result of the consolidation of the outcomes of numerous global, regional and other youth fora and consultations, along with those of the online crowdsourcing platform that was facilitated by the Office of the Envoy (see section A).

75. The Global Youth Call has been endorsed by major global youth-focused alliances and networks, intergovernmental organizations, and national youth structures, including National Youth Councils, and over 1,250 youth organizations from over 140 Member States. It was presented during the 2014 ECOSOC Youth Forum and fed into the deliberations of the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals.

76. The Global Youth Call served as a rallying document on youth priorities in the 2030 Agenda. It has proven a powerful and strategic leverage in the advocacy efforts on youth issues in the Sustainable Development Goals and Post-2015 process, and has been referenced on numerous occasions and instances, such as during the High-Level Stocktaking Event on Post-2015 convened by the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General’s Synthesis Report.

77. OSGEY engaged in numerous high-level and other events and initiatives to continuously raise awareness on the need for the inclusion of youth priorities in the new development agenda. For instance, OSGEY partnered with Plan International and ODI on the publication *“Young people’s engagement in strengthening accountability for the post-2015 agenda,”* which was launched jointly during the High Level Political Forum in July 2014.

78. During the High-Level Segment of the General Assembly in September 2014, OSGEY, in partnership with UNFPA and the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, co-organized a breakfast event in which the Prime Minister of the Netherlands along with the UNFPA Executive Director engaged with youth participants on Youth Priorities in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

79. Together with the UN Millennium Campaign, the Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth co-hosted a ceremony on 12 December 2014 to launch the report *“We the Peoples: Celebrating 7 Million Voices,”* which presented the global results of the MY World survey to that date. MY World, the UN survey for a better world, was developed in response to the Secretary-General’s call for *“the most inclusive development agenda the world has ever seen”*. OSGEY actively promoted the MY World Survey through its networks and was an advocate for the resulting data throughout the Post-2015 process. The Envoy’s office also actively engaged in the Action/2015 campaign which launched on 15 January 2015 in an event hosted by the UN Foundation to

support efforts to facilitate youth engagement into this broad based coalition of organizations mobilizing around the Post-2015 process at local, national, regional and global levels.

80. OSGEY closely followed the intergovernmental negotiations process that started with the Open Working Group and concluded at the United Nations Summit to adopt the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. OSGEY both promoted meaningful youth engagement in the entire process, as well as provided substantive support throughout to ensure that youth needs and priorities would be duly reflected in the outcome. In doing so, OSGEY closely involved members of the IANYD and kept them abreast of relevant developments. In the 2030 Agenda, youth-specific and youth-related targets have been secured in several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and youth development is a cross-cutting issue throughout the new agenda, including the preamble and declaration of the agenda, which emphasizes youth issues in various paragraphs and concludes with a recognition that *“the future of humanity and of our planet lies in our hands [and...] in the hands of today’s younger generation [...and] it will be for all of us to ensure that the journey is successful and its gains irreversible”* (para 53).

81. OSGEY has also been closely following the intergovernmental process on **Financing for Development** and has sought to raise awareness with Member States and other stakeholders on the need to ensure that investments in youth development, including through the promotion of national youth strategies and policies, would be considered for inclusion in the outcome document.

82. The Envoy attended the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which took place from 13 to 16 July 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia during which he made interventions to call attention to the need to invest in youth, including financing for youth policies and youth structures, which tend to go heavily underfunded in many countries. Furthermore, the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth had various media engagements during conference including a press briefing, in which he reiterated the crucial need to invest in youth.

83. Critically, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda adopted by the Member States presented a milestone in advancing the global youth agenda: for the first time in history a Financing for Development conference outcome document has included a reference to youth. More specifically, the outcome document recognizes that investing in youth is critical to achieving inclusive, equitable and sustainable development for present and future generations (para 7) and calls on Member States to promote national youth strategies as a key instrument for meeting the needs and aspirations of young people (para 16), while also committing to develop and operationalize, by 2020, a global strategy for youth employment (para 16). These references will provide an important tool for ensuring adequate investments in youth, as well as formed an important stepping stone in the Post-2015 Development Agenda process.

84. As a member of the Core Team of the Post-2015 Strategy Hub, which was established by the Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning, OSGEY led the coordination with UN System agencies and external partners on youth engagement during the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development.

85. To this end, OSGEY convened the Strategy Hub’s Task Force on youth participation and produced a calendar of all the youth-related events based on inputs from the various partners so as to facilitate coordination and collaboration of youth-focused efforts during the Sustainable Development Summit and in the events which led up to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. OSGEY, furthermore, undertook a comprehensive mapping of all youth participants attending the Summit, including youth delegates, youth representatives of the Major Group for Children and Youth, young people supported through UN agencies as well as INGOs and others, and undertook concerted outreach efforts to inform young people of the numerous opportunities, activities and events taking place during the Summit.

86. Moreover, together with the Office of the Special Advisor of the Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning, OSGEY led the UN System effort to secure the participation of 193 youth representatives from around the world in the historic moment of the **adoption of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development**. The 193 young people joined world leaders, and Nobel Prize Laureate Malala Yousafzai, who addressed the General Assembly on behalf of youth. The participation of a 193 young people from all regions provided a powerful message to the world leaders that young people are going to be partners in implementation and they will also hold governments accountable on delivering on the SDGs.

87. During the Sustainable Development Summit, OSGEY co-hosted three high-level side events, while supporting others events. These included the “Mobilizing Generation #ZeroHunger” co-hosted with the FAO, IFAD, WFP and the Government of Ireland to highlight how the mobilization of this generation of young people can contribute to achieving sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition in order to make zero hunger and sustainable development a reality. The Envoy’s Office also co-hosted “#Generation2030: Torchbearers for the SDGs”, a High Level Event on the Role of Youth in Implementation and Monitoring of the SDGs together with the Permanent Missions of Denmark, Rwanda, and Sri Lanka; the Government of the United Kingdom, UNDP and the youth-led organization Restless Development. The event brought together youth advocates and representatives from around the world, along with global leaders and policy makers to recognize the important role that youth have played in the formulation of the SDGs, and to highlight the need for their ongoing engagement as the world starts the implementation and monitoring of the new agenda. Furthermore, OSGEY together with the Mission of the Netherlands co-organized a high-level side event on Youth Entrepreneurship, during which the Envoy announced the new Youth Gateway and Global Youth Partnership for the Sustainable Development Goals.

88. The announced **Global Youth Partnership for the SDGs** will serve as a platform for collaboration and exchange among UN entities, civil society, private sector, academic and other key stakeholders working on youth engagement and the SDGs. This Partnership would convene engaged and emerging stakeholders, offer a platform for the incubation of ideas and the amplification of existing mechanisms, and promote coherence and coordination to enhance effective initiatives around youth engagement in the 2030 Agenda. Its online platform, the **Youth Gateway**, will facilitate innovative approaches and connect young people with opportunities to take action and contribute to global development.

89. Since the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, OSGEY has been contributing to key UN follow-up efforts and reports, such as the Report of the Secretary-General on “Critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at global level”, as well as the forthcoming Inaugural Report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development “Opportunities and Challenges in Monitoring the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Means of Implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda”. This effort aims at ensuring that youth issues are well reflected as a cross-cutting theme and receive the attention they deserve.

90. Furthermore, and in order to ensure the measurement of the priorities identified in the above-mentioned Global Youth Call, OSGEY has closely followed in the process of the development of the **global indicators framework for the Sustainable Development Goals** and is an observer member of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators (IAEG-SDGs).

91. The Office of the Envoy, with the support of UN agencies, including through the Inter-agency Network on Youth Development, undertook an extensive mapping exercise of the proposed preliminary indicators for the SDG's framework, in order to assess these indicators with regards to their relevance for monitoring youth development and wellbeing in the 2030 Agenda. The key findings of this analytical exercise have been reflected in the “**Youth-check: Preliminary SDG Indicators Analysis**” which has been widely shared with UN System partners, the Major Group for Children and Youth and other stakeholders for advocacy efforts, and has served as a key reference for the ongoing elaboration of the global SDG indicators framework.

92. OSGEY has been actively participating through the IAEG-SDGs, both in its formal meetings 1-2 June in New York and 26-28 October in Bangkok (and will also attend its forthcoming meeting in Mexico City), as well as through the online consultations that have taken place, by providing substantive inputs to the IAEG members for their consideration with regards to youth-relevant indicators.

93. As youth development is a cross-cutting issue in the 2030 Agenda, and youth-development related goals and targets are interdependent, OSGEY has been advocating that they must be pursued together, since progress in one area often depends on progress in other areas. As such, OSGEY has been promoting the consideration for a youth development monitoring framework in the context of the SDGs to effectively track indicators across different targets, thereby supporting an integrated and comprehensive approach given the centrality of addressing youth needs and rights as a key to ensuring sustainable development. Thus, OSGEY intends to develop, in close collaboration with key partners from the UN System, a **Global Youth Index on the SDGs**, which would serve to highlight the status of young people in the SDGs, areas of progress and urgent need. This index is envisioned to draw from the official indicators, both those explicitly related to youth and those for which disaggregated data by age is pertinent and available. This Index will ensure the review of the progress in youth development in the context of the SDGs over the span of the 2030 Agenda's duration.

94. Furthermore, and in line with the recognition -expressed in the Secretary-General's Report on "Critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level"- of the annual ECOSOC Youth Forum as a platform that could be utilized for the review of youth development as a cross-cutting issue that runs through the SDGs, OSGEY will continue to promote the strengthening of the ECOSOC Youth Forum. The ECOSOC Youth Forum in this way could directly feed into the High Level Political Forum with regards to its role in the follow up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the global level.

E.2. Promoting the World Programme of Action for Youth

95. Another area of strategic focus in OSGEY's advocacy work has been the promotion of the UN World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1995, which provides a policy framework and practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people around the world. The WPAY covers 15 youth priority areas and contains proposals for action in each of these areas.

96. In light of the 20th anniversary of the UN World Programme of Action for Youth, its continuous relevance, and the fact that more than 122 Member States are either implementing or reviewing their national youth policies, OSGEY co-convened in partnership with UNDP, UNESCO, and the Council of Europe the first **Global Forum on Youth Policies**, which was hosted by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and took place in Baku from 28 to 30 October 2014.

97. The Global Forum on Youth Policies was the first of its kind and brought together some 700 participants from over 165 countries, including policymakers, experts, academia, youth activists, and representatives of civil society organizations, international and regional organizations, and UN agencies. It represented the largest gathering of Ministers of Youth since the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth that took place in Lisbon in 1998, with some 115 member states represented at the highest government authority responsible for youth.

98. The Forum provided a multi-stakeholder opportunity to assess the state of youth policies; in particular 20 years after the General Assembly adopted the UN World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY). It reviewed – from a thematic, structural and regional perspective – progress made, as well as identified remaining gaps, challenges and ways forward. The Forum provided member states and other stakeholders with a unique opportunity to engage in a meaningful dialogue, which yielded concrete suggestions for specific follow-up actions and the way forward for effective youth policies.

99. As a result, the Forum produced guiding principles for integrated and inclusive youth policy development to serve as a milestone in defining and exemplifying what is needed to advance youth policy development and implementation with and for youth. The **Baku Commitment to Youth Policies** outlines 8 key guiding principles and 10 follow-up actions. The Forum generated key momentum at the highest political levels and among other stakeholders for

recommitment to national youth policies and to reenergize the global debate on youth development.

100. In addition to the principles and follow-up actions contained in the Baku Commitment, various participants pledged to take forward the outcomes of the Forum. Pledges included the establishment of a network for researchers on youth policies in Africa, and the commitment to establish a network between UN agencies and key regional partners on youth development for the Asia and Pacific Region.

101. One of the major achievements from the first Global Forum on Youth Policies included the announcement of the development of the **Global Initiative on Youth Policies**. The Global Initiative on Youth Policies, which is a joint initiative by OSGEY, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA and UN DESA, has been further elaborated by these entities over the past months. The initiative will seek to strengthen the provision of robust, joint, consolidated and comprehensive policy and technical support to countries that are in the process of developing and implementing national youth policies. Efforts will include the establishment of a knowledge hub on youth policies that compiles good practices and lessons learned, to help broaden and strengthen the knowledge-base and research proficiency of youth policy work. It will also seek to strengthen global advocacy to elevate the status of youth policies by highlighting their importance as a sine qua non for effective youth development, but also as a requirement for achieving sustainable development, whilst raising awareness on its inter-linkages with key national development sectors. Moreover, the initiative will stress the benefits of developing rights-based, responsive and inclusive youth policies and programmes, and of mainstreaming youth into national plans, policies and budgets guided by the WPAY and based on the principles identified in the First Global Forum on Youth Policies.

102. In May 2015, OSGEY in coordination UN-DESA and the Office of the President of the General Assembly, organized the **High Level Event of the General Assembly to mark the 20th Anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth** and to highlight Youth Priorities in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The high level event, convened under the auspices of the 69th President of the General Assembly, offered an important opportunity for Member States and other relevant stakeholders to take stock of progress made in the implementation of WPAY, as well as identify the gaps and challenges, and the way forward for its full, effective and accelerated implementation.

103. A total of 62 Member States inscribed to give statements during the all-day High Level Event. The General Assembly was addressed by 19 Ministers, 2 Deputy Ministers, 2 State Secretaries and 8 Directors of Youth with all Member States noting the importance of the commemoration of the anniversary of the WPAY, and its continuing relevance to realization of youth development. South Africa delivered a statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Nigeria on behalf of the African Group, Kuwait on behalf of the Arab States, and Suriname on behalf of the Caribbean Community. Throughout their statements, a majority of Member States noted that despite progress in the 20 years since the adoption of the WPAY, key challenges to youth development remain: specifically those of youth unemployment, education, HIV and AIDS, poverty eradication, conflict and violence, and gender equality.

104. While numerous Member States noted that young people were a strategic wealth and demographic dividend for countries, there was a general recognition that social exclusion and lack of opportunities greatly hindered youth development, and that Member States needed to ensure strong policy and programme responses to ensure that young people can reach their full potential. The Event also included two interactive panel sessions, which featured high level Government officials, along with youth representatives and academia and provided an opportunity to discuss the way forward in addressing youth needs and rights, in particular in the context of the Post-2015 development agenda/2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

105. To build momentum in the lead up to the High Level Event, OSGEY implemented a comprehensive communications strategy that included multi-media, digital engagement and traditional media visibility. This strategy included the **WPAY+20 Campaign** using the hashtag **#YouthNow**, launched by the UN Secretary-General during the ECOSOC Youth Forum on 2 February 2015 and hosted on the website of the President of the General Assembly, which encouraged young people worldwide to become more actively involved in discussions around WPAY and the new development agenda.

106. The WPAY+20 campaign was organized by OSGEY in partnership with UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs, with support from the Office of the President of the 69th session of the General Assembly, and undertaken in close collaboration with UN entities, international organizations, and youth organizations. Collaborating UN entities included: UNAIDS, UNAOC, UNCDF, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFCCC, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UN Millennium Campaign, UNODC, UN WOMEN, UNWTO, FAO, ILO, ITU, OCHA, WFP, WHO, Office of the SRSG on Violence Against Children, and the UN Peace Building Support Office.

107. In partnership with UN agencies and global stakeholders, #YouthNow released relevant materials and infographics on a weekly basis to raise awareness about youth development opportunities and challenges based on the 15 cross-cutting youth priority areas outlined in WPAY. The result of this effort represented a comprehensive overview and the most up-to-date data and statistics on the situation of young people on a webpage called “The Situation of #YouthNow”. The materials continue to be available on the OSGEY’s website and are updated on an ongoing basis.

108. The online social engagement campaign #YouthNow reached an impressive 2 billion digital impressions during its course of 8 months (from February through September 2015). Young people from around the world engaged online with the campaign through contests, photo sharing and Twitter chats. The #YouthNow campaign was also galvanized around the International Youth Day campaign #YouthDrivingChange which each day featured young people’s contributions to community development for a total of 30 days.

E.3. Youth, Peace and Security

109. Working for and with young people in conflict-affected and post-conflict zones and highlighting their plights is a top priority for the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on

Youth. After assuming his position, the Envoy visited Colombia in August of 2013, to discuss the role of young people in peace-building process in the country, where they have been one of the main drivers of the peace process. In December 2013, the Envoy visited the Zaatari Refugee Camp in Jordan, which housed the largest number of Syrian refugees at the time. During his visit, the Envoy inaugurated a women's clinic run by the UNFPA at the camp and met with young refugees to discuss their concerns and priorities.

110. In September 2014, the Envoy visited Somalia, where as a result of 25 years of conflict, two generations of young people have been denied basic access to education, health, employment and array of other services. In Somalia, the Envoy called on the international community to support the young people of Somalia and worked closely with the UN Country Office and the government in raising USD \$ 10 million for youth policy development and programming. This was followed by a High-Level Multi-stakeholder meeting that took place in Nairobi, Kenya in July 2015, in which the Envoy and high-level representatives of the Somali Government and regional counterparts discussed the progress of the development of the national youth policy. The policy is to guide youth-focused interventions that will respond to the aspirations of youth and help facilitate the role of young men and women in bringing peace and stability to all parts of Somalia.

111. In 2015, a key priority of the Envoy was to meet with more young people in conflict-affected areas, such as in Palestine and Zamboanga, Philippines. The Envoy visited Tunisia in the wake of the terrorist attack in Sousse to demonstrate solidarity of the United Nations with the people of Tunisia. In Rwanda in July 2015, the Envoy paid his respect to the victims buried in the mass graves at this site of the Rwandan Genocide Memorial Center in Kigali and participated in Rubavu district in a so-called "Umuganda", which, in an effort to reconstruct the country and nurture a shared national identity, is bringing local communities together on a monthly basis to engage in voluntary work that contributes to their community's development. In August of 2015, the Envoy joined a youth forum in Japan to commemorate the 70th anniversary of atomic bombings of Japan in Hiroshima, where he underscored the important role youth activists play in advancing the path of peace, development and prosperity, disarmament and elimination of weapons.

112. At the global level, OSGEY in partnership with UN System agencies and civil society partners has been actively supporting the institutionalization of the youth, peace and security agenda with the aim to recognize and engage youth as partners in the search for solutions and for building sustainable peace.

113. As a follow up to the Open Debate of the Security Council on the Role of Youth in Countering Violent Extremism and Promoting Peace, held under Jordan's Presidency, to which the Envoy provided substantive support, the OSGEY, in partnership with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), UNDP, UNFPA, Search for Common Ground and the United Network of Young Peacebuilders, co-convened the **Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security**.

114. On August 21-22 August 2015, young people gathered in Amman, Jordan, with Member States, UN agencies, youth-led organizations, non-governmental organizations, governments, academic experts, practitioners, and donors to define and commit to a new agenda on youth, peace, and security. Nearly 600 participants, including over 200 young people representing 90 nationalities, attended the Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security.

115. The Global Forum marked a turning point in recognizing young people's role in peacebuilding efforts and resulted in the **Amman Youth Declaration**, to which 11,000 young peace builders from around the world provided inputs through an online consultation process, and which describes youth's commitment to forging a peaceful global society. Drafted and shaped entirely by young people, the declaration presents a common vision and roadmap towards a strengthened policy framework to support youth in transforming conflict.

116. Additionally, the Forum issued a call for the United Nations to establish a global policy framework on youth in conflict and post-conflict settings, and suggested a UN Security Council resolution on Youth, Peace, and Security as the ideal outcome. The Amman Youth Declaration and Youth Action Agenda to Prevent Violent Extremism and Promote Peace were presented by youth activists at the Leaders' Summit on Countering ISIL and Violent extremism on 29 September 2015. The Summit was convened by H.E. Barack Obama, President of the United States of America on the side of the 70th United Nations General Assembly.

117. Over the course of 2015, OSGEY also closely collaborated with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to ensure youth priorities and perspectives are reflected in the UN Secretary-General's forthcoming Plan of Action on Preventing Violent Extremism, which recognizes youth empowerment and engagement as one of its seven priority areas.

118. In November 2015, the Envoy addressed the Peacebuilding Commission, which for the first time dedicated a session to discuss the role of youth as peace builders.

119. These global level efforts culminated on 9 December 2015 in the unanimous adoption by the members of the UN Security Council of Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security. This historic Resolution marked a major breakthrough in the UN's efforts to change the predominantly negative narrative on youth either as victims or perpetrators of conflicts, and recognize the role of young people in peacebuilding and preventing violent extremism. Structured around five main pillars -Prevention, Protection, Participation, Partnerships, and Disengagement and Re-Integration-, the Resolution urges Member States to consider ways to increase inclusive representation of youth in decision-making at all levels in local, national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflict, as well as to consider establishing integrated mechanisms for meaningful participation of youth in peace processes and dispute-resolution. It also recognizes the important and positive contribution of youth in efforts to maintain and promote peace and security. Furthermore, the resolution affirms the significant role youth can play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and as key actors for the sustainability, inclusiveness and success of peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts. Since the adoption of the Resolution, OSGEY has continued to work closely with the relevant UN-System and civil society partners in the promotion of and

awareness raising about the resolution and the preparations on its follow up, including the Secretary-General's global progress study for which the resolution calls.

E.4. Education and Civic Participation

120. Promoting education, as well as civic participation opportunities for youth has been among the key focus areas of OSGEY. In numerous events and missions undertaken by the Envoy, he has emphasized the need for increasing young people's access to education, in particular for the 1 in 5 adolescents currently not in school today. Further, the Envoy has frequently advocated for improving the quality of education to ensure that young people can acquire the understanding and skills needed to effectively contribute to resolving the interconnected challenges of the 21st century. The Envoy has included visits to schools and campuses all over the world during his country missions and engaged on numerous occasions with students, educators and policy makers on these issues.

121. The OSGEY has also been actively engaged in advocating for youth civic engagement. While a quality education prepares young people for their productive lives as well as for their participation in society at large, civic participation opportunities in turn further young people's understanding of the world around them and can enable their active and constructive civic engagement throughout life. Moreover, young people have a right to participate in decision making processes that affect their lives.

122. As reflected in the OSGEY work-plan, the Office actively supports the **Global Education First Initiative** and its activities in relation to youth and education. This initiative, which was launched by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to accelerate progress on global education goals, has been working to put quality, relevant and transformative education at the heart of the social, political and development agendas. The Envoy has engaged in various events of the Global Education First Initiative, including during the 2014 ECOSOC Youth Forum where the initiative's advocacy toolkit was shared with an audience of youth participants from all over the world.

123. Furthermore, the Envoy attended the 8th bi-annual **UNESCO Youth Forum** convened under the overarching theme "Youth and Social Inclusion: Civic Engagement, Dialogue and Skills Development" from 29 to 31 October 2013 in Paris, France. A major outcome of the three-day event was the selection of the final 15 youth-led action projects to receive the UNESCO label. The Forum which precedes the General Conference of the UNESCO also adopted 10 strategic recommendations for future youth action. The Envoy also addressed the 9th UNESCO Youth Forum – Young Global Citizens for a Sustainable Planet – which took place in Paris, France from the 26 to the 28 October 2015. The forum, which brought together over 500 young women and men from all over the world, focused on issues related to sustainable development and global citizenship and aimed to ensure that the voices of future generations remain front and centre of the new development agenda.

124. The Envoy, along with the UN Special Envoy on Education, Graca Machel, and other officials, celebrities and youth activists participated in the launch of the Up-For-School

campaign in September 2014. The event brought together hundreds of young people to engage them in the important topic of education and the need to ensure that young people have equitable and universal access to education.

125. In advance of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, on 4 May 2015, the Envoy participated in a forum on global education themed “Toward a World at School,” in which the discussion focused on exploring the challenges and opportunities beyond 2015 toward global education and sustainable development.

126. Mindful of the increasingly clear connections between education and peace building, the Envoy participated in a two-day seminar on the “Role of Global Citizenship Education in Fostering Youth Peacebuilders”, organized by the Global Education First Initiative in September 2015. The seminar brought together youth advocates, NGOs, experts and educators from more than 25 countries and at least 12 organizations. Participants discussed ways to build capacities and create opportunities for youth peace builders as a part of a broad education in global citizenship.

127. The Envoy has also coordinated closely with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and addressed the participants of the Summer School programme co-organized by the UNAOC and Education First. The summer school offers a space to a diverse group of young people to discuss pressing global challenges in the context of cultural and religious diversity, increase their intercultural understanding and gain concrete tools to grow and sustain impact in their communities.

128. In relation to the work on civic participation and youth engagement, the Envoy has underscored the need to make targeted efforts to engage **marginalized youth**. He has, for instance, engaged with youth living with disabilities at national levels during country visits, as well as at the global level such as the 2014 World Conference on Youth. The Envoy has also engaged with indigenous youth, young people living with HIV/AIDS, as well as refugee and displaced youth, and continues to offer OSGEY’s support to strengthen the engagement and increase avenues for participation of the most marginalized youth. Furthermore, during numerous engagements with youth organizations and networks, the Envoy has called for the increased inclusion of and engagement with marginalized groups.

129. In its focus on youth engagement and civic participation, OSGEY has been exploring the opportunities offered by the increasing interconnectedness of young people around the world due to the advances of information and communication technology, as well as some of the related challenges. On 28 May 2015, OSGEY hosted an event titled “The New Media and Emerging Trends in Youth Engagement” on the side lines of the High-Level Event of the General Assembly in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The event included an interactive panel discussion between media professionals to explore the changing roles that traditional and new media play in shaping the global youth agenda and the changing dynamics of political influence in the digital age.

E.5. Decent Jobs for Youth

130. With youth unemployment standing at some 73 million globally and while the world needs to create over 600 million jobs to address unemployment and absorb new labour market entrants in the coming 15 years, youth employment has been a core focus in the work of the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. OSGEY has strongly advocated and continues to stress the urgency of the global youth unemployment crisis and the critical importance of creating decent jobs for youth. The Envoy has participated in over thirty-five events around the world specifically focused on youth employment and entrepreneurship, and additionally raised the issue of decent jobs for youth in numerous broader events and activities.

131. OSGEY has been very actively engaged with ILO and other UN System agencies, as well as Bretton Woods Institutions at both working and senior management levels in jointly discussing and identifying global responses to expand action, increase impact to address the global youth unemployment crisis and extend young people's access to decent jobs.

132. In November 2013 the Envoy participated in the discussion, "Educating and Employing Youth: The Influence of Public-Private Partnerships in a Technological Era" organized by the UN Department of Public Information. In his address of the delegates, he stressed the importance of education and continual learning to employment. In March 2015, the Envoy also addressed the Expert Group Meeting, which was organized by UNIDO in collaboration with UNCDF and the UN-DESA's Financing for Development Office, on best practices for entrepreneurial financing, including for youth- and women-owned small and medium enterprises.

133. OSGEY has participated in a number of global summits centred on employment and entrepreneurship. Focusing on economic inclusivity, the Envoy participated in both the 2014 and the 2015 Global Youth Economic Opportunities Summits, which were organized by Making Cents International and bring together funders, private sector companies, policy makers, youth leaders, implementers, educators, and researchers to facilitate networking and the exchange of information.

134. In July 2015, the Office of the Secretary General's Envoy participated in the Global Entrepreneurship Summit that took place in Nairobi, Kenya, co-hosted by the Governments of the United States and Kenya. The summit brought together some 1,000 outstanding and mostly young entrepreneurs and investors from across the world. The summit included remarks by H.E. Barack Obama, President of the U.S. and H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya, who opened the Summit and announced new commitments to promote entrepreneurship as a driver for economic growth, social inclusion, and secure communities. The Envoy was a keynote speaker and delivered a speech on "Providing Solutions: Leveraging entrepreneurship to solve social challenges" during the Women's and Youth Entrepreneurship Day. The Envoy encouraged the participants to engage through their entrepreneurial endeavours in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

135. On 29 September 2015 during the high-level segment of the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly, OSGEY together with the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the

United Nations co-hosted the **high-level side event “Innovative Solutions: Youth Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development”**. The event which was addressed by Her Majesty Queen Maxima of the Netherlands, as well as Dutch Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, H.E. Lianne Ploumen, offered an important opportunity to highlight innovative and creative efforts undertaken by young entrepreneurs from around the world that are contributing to socioeconomic development. During the event, the Envoy announced the launch of afore-mentioned Global Youth Partnership for the Sustainable Development Goals and the Youth Gateway.

136. The Envoy’s country visits regularly include site visits to youth entrepreneurship hubs, vocational training and school-work transition programmes. For instance, the official visits he undertook to Slovenia, Philippines, Africa, Middle East, and San Francisco.

137. The Envoy sits on the Board of Directors of World Bank-led **Solutions for Youth Employment (S4YE)**, a global coalition of stakeholders working on youth employment, including civil society partners, government officials, foundations, private sector entities, international organisations, and young people, with the aim to provide catalytic support to employment and productive work for 150 million youth by 2030. The coalition, which was launched in October 2014, aims to ensure we are able to link actors together and learn lessons from youth employment interventions implemented in all countries around the world. The Envoy participated in S4YE event in Washington, DC in October 2014 and most recently attended the launch event of coalition’s first flagship report “**Toward Solutions for Youth Employment: A 2015 Baseline**”.

138. The Envoy, moreover, moderated the special event at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 14 October 2015 that launched the **ILO report “Global Employment Trends for Youth: Scaling up investment in decent jobs for youth”**. The event, which was co-organized by ILO and the Permanent Missions of Morocco and Spain, offered an opportunity to review the state of youth unemployment around the world and discuss the importance for robust and committed youth employment strategies moving forward.

139. OSGEY has been an active member of the interagency task force that developed the **Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth**, which has been endorsed by the UN’s Chief Executives Board, and represents now the first-ever comprehensive UN System-wide effort to promote youth employment and assist Member States in targeting a crucial goal of the 2030 Agenda. The initiative, which was launched by ILO Director-General, Guy Ryder during the 2016 ECOSOC Youth Forum, aims to scale up action at the country-level and to increase impact through effective, innovative and evidence-based interventions. OSGEY will continue to play an active role in the promotion of and resource mobilization for the initiative and the interagency collaboration that will guide the implementation of the initiative.

E.6. Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Young Women and Girls

140. The Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth seeks to ensure a gender perspective in all the work it undertakes. To this end, the Envoy engaged in numerous events and

panels raising the issues of the importance of gender equality in order to meet the needs and rights of all young people, in particular girls and young women.

141. In his interactions with the media, the Envoy has regularly highlighted the issues of gender discrimination and violence and how this is negatively impacting the lives of girls and young women, their families, communities, societies at large, and hindering overall development progress.

142. The Envoy has also advocated on numerous occasions for the increased involvement of boys and young men in the work on gender equality, including efforts to address gender-based violence. The Envoy addressed the participants at the Special Event that launched of the **HeforShe** campaign, a solidarity campaign for gender equality initiated by UN Women that seeks to engage men and boys as agents of change for the achievement of gender equality and women's rights.

143. During the 2014 Commission for Social Development, OSGEY and UN-Women co-hosted a side event "Young Women and Girls: Leaders of Today for a Better Tomorrow". The Envoy also participated in the Women Leaders Forum on 22 September, 2014 and provided a keynote address during the panel on "Using the Power of Youth to Create Transformational Impact". Over the past three years, OSGEY has been actively engaged in various side events held around and during the annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), such as the roundtable focusing on the impact of religious messages about gender during childhood organized by the Baha'i International Community in the lead up to the 20th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women/Beijing+20; and the young women's and girls' leadership workshop organized by the YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) during the 2015 session of the Commission. Furthermore, OSGEY participated in and actively mobilized young people to join the march for Gender Equality and Women's Rights on International Women's Day on 8 March 2015, in New York City.

144. OSGEY is furthermore playing an active role in the interagency task force, led by UN-Women, organizing the first-ever Youth Forum for the Commission on the Status of Women 2016, bringing together young gender activists from around the world. The outcome of the youth forum feeds into the CSW deliberations and the Commission's agreed conclusions.

145. The Envoy in his engagements with Member States, as well as in public speaking events, has often raised the issue of child, early and forced marriage as a harmful practice that violates the rights of girls and one which needs to be urgently addressed. Among other occasions, the Envoy spoke out about this issue when addressing the Provincial Assembly of Punjab during his visit to Pakistan.

146. OSGEY also supports the **Every Woman Every Child** campaign which was launched by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon during the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Summit in September 2010. The campaign mobilizes and intensifies international and national action by governments, multilaterals, the private sector and civil society to address the major health challenges facing women and children. The movement puts into action the Global

Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, which presents a roadmap on how to enhance financing, strengthen policy and improve service on the ground for the most vulnerable women and children. OSGEY has been closely involved in the recent expansion of this global strategy to also include young people's health in recognition that adolescence is a critical life stage characterized by rapid physical, emotional and social development. The Envoy's engagements have included a panel discussion on the "**Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescent Health**" during the "Call to Action Summit: 2015 for ending preventable child and maternal deaths" co-hosted by India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, along with Ethiopia's Ministry of Health, USAID, UNICEF, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Tata Trusts in New Delhi on 27-28 August 2015. During this event, the Envoy discussed the many challenges faced by young women and girls, including access to health care and information, particularly in regards to sexual and reproductive health.

147. OSGEY also is closely engaged in the key issue of young people's access to sexual and reproductive health information, education and services. The Envoy has regularly visited adolescent health centres as part of his country missions, most recently in July 2015 in Rwanda and Uganda. In Rwanda, the Envoy visited a UNFPA/UNICEF-supported health center in the Rubavu district which provides youth-friendly and confidential sexual and reproductive health as well as maternal health and HIV testing. While in Kampala, the Envoy visited the UNFPA-supported Naguru Teenage Information and Health Centre. During such visits the Envoy had the opportunity to also directly engage with health centre staff and young patients and discussed with them the critical importance of scaling up efforts to prevent adolescent pregnancies, STIs and HIV/AIDS as well as the importance of young people's access to comprehensive sexuality education.

148. OSGEY advocates strongly for women and girls' rights and utilizes every opportunity to reflect this in the Office's daily work. For instance OSGEY consistently seeks to achieve a gender balance in the overall representation of youth participants. Moreover, in terms of the internal organisational practices, the Office consciously aims to ensure that gender equality is promoted in the provision of work-related opportunities and benefits.

E.7. Disaster Risk Reduction, Humanitarian Response, Climate Change

149. The Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth has been advocating for increased recognition of young people's role and engagement on the work on disaster risk reduction, humanitarian response and climate change.

150. OSGEY contributed to the publication titled 'Youth in Action on Climate Change: Inspirations from Around the World' by the **United Nations Joint Framework Initiative on Children, Youth and Climate Change** by highlighting the crucial role that young people play in addressing climate change. The publication was launched at an event with representatives of the European Union, the United Nations and youth-led organizations on 11 June 2013 on the side lines of the United Nations Bonn Climate Change Conference 2013.

151. Mindful of the increasingly pertinent impacts of climate change, the Envoy has engaged in the Conferences of the Parties (COP) on the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) since his appointment. During the 19th session in Warsaw, Poland in November 2013, the Envoy spoke at the event “Intergenerational Inquiry on Climate Change”. As part of the sixth ‘Young and Future Generations Day’ held at the COP, the Intergenerational Inquiry gives young people from around the world a chance to make their voices heard in the climate change discussions.

152. In the lead up to the **twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21)**, OSGEY strengthened its advocacy efforts in close collaboration with YOUNGO to call for attention to young people’s role on tackling climate change. The Envoy has been stressing the need to involve youth, and tap into their creative and innovative capacities, in addressing the challenges that are posed by climate change in numerous public engagements. He also underscored this message at the council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Pacific Island States, when he visited Niue in November of 2015 and demonstrated his solidarity with and commitment to the peoples of the small island states, which are the most affected by climate change.

153. In 2015, the Envoy attended and addressed the 11th Conference of Youth (COY) in Paris, which preceded the COP21 and presented the youth voice that fed into the COP deliberations. Young people from around the world actively engaged for years on this process, including the 5000 youth who attended the 11th COY, which produced the Youth Manifesto to the COP21 expressing young people’s consolidated views, calls and commitments in mitigating the worst effects of climate change. Furthermore, the Envoy was featured as a speaker during the “Young and Future Generations Day” at the COP21 which focused on the role of youth in implementing climate action. Young people around the world have enthusiastically welcomed the Paris Agreement as a monumental triumph.

154. The Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth attended **Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction** which took place from 14 to 18 March 2015 in Sendai, Japan. The Envoy moderated the Conference’s Working Session on “Children and Youth – Don’t Decide My Future Without Me” and furthermore delivered keynote remarks both at the opening and closing of the Children and Youth Forum of the Conference. The Children and Youth Forum, which was co-organized by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk reduction (UNISDR) and the Major Group on Children and Youth, provided a platform for over two hundred children and youth to share their views, ideas and experiences in reducing disaster risk and in building community resilience.

155. During the Conference the Envoy furthermore advocated for inclusive finance, governance and accountability as it relates to the role of youth in disaster response. He additionally called upon governments to broaden the active participation of young people to ensure their meaningful engagement in the implementation of post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

156. With regards to humanitarian response, OSGEY also attended the **World Humanitarian Summit Global Youth Consultation**, which took place 1-2 September 2015 in Doha, Qatar. The youth-led and youth-focused Consultation, which was hosted by Reach Out To Asia (ROTA) and co-organized by the World Humanitarian Summit Youth Working Group of the MGCY, and the International Federation of the Red Cross. The WHS brought together some 300 young people from over 82 countries and provided a platform for youth to share their insights and inputs as part of a larger stakeholder consultation process in the lead up to the World Humanitarian Summit to be held in Istanbul, Turkey on 23-24 May 2016. The Envoy provided keynote remarks during the opening ceremony, along with a number of high-level delegates and representatives. Attendees called for the recognition and inclusion of the youth sector in peace-building processes and recommended localisation of humanitarian response through obligatory disaster trainings in school and social service workplaces. The views of participants are incorporated in the Synthesis of the WHS Consultation Process “Restoring Humanity: Global Voices Calling for Action” and fed into the UN Secretary-General report, and the overall recommendations for the World Humanitarian Summit.

157. OSGEY has also been an active supporter of the **Sustainable Energy for All Initiative**, launched by the Secretary-General in 2011. In April 2014 the Envoy delivered a keynote address during the High-level meeting on energy in the post-2015 development agenda convened by the Government of Norway in the context of the Post-2015 global thematic consultation on this theme. On 4-6 June 2014, the Envoy delivered a speech at the First Annual Sustainable Energy for All Forum, which officially launched the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024. The Envoy also addressed the 2nd Annual Sustainable Energy for All Forum calling for support to young people in their sustainable energy initiatives and presented the Zayed Future Energy Prize to the young winners on 21 May 2015 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

III. Resource mobilization and management

158. Administratively housed in and supported by the Outreach Division of the Department of Public Information (DPI) in the UN Secretariat, the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth draws on outreach assistance from DPI, while working closely with the UN entities that are members of the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD), UN Regional Commissions, as well as UN Regional and Country Teams.

159. Over the period under review, the Envoy has consistently sought to firmly establish his Office by ensuring the availability of adequate funding and human resource capacity to carry out his mandate and effectively implement the work-plan.

160. The activities of the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth are funded on the basis of voluntary and extra-budgetary contributions made by the UN Member States. To date, the Office has mobilized USD \$ 2,681,386. Additionally USD \$ 1,125,000 has been pledged for

the 2016. A total of USD \$ 1,867,131 has been disbursed between January 2013 and February 2016. Including USD \$ 1,343,822 for staffing and other costs, USD \$ 214,803 for programme support costs, USD \$ 154,613 for operating expenses and USD \$ 153,894 for travel of OSGEY's staff and youth participants. OSGEY donor countries to date include Austria, Azerbaijan, Kuwait, Norway, Sri Lanka, and the United Arab Emirates.

161. OSGEY has been carrying its operations with a team of nine members consisted of four professional category staff, one general support staff, and four full-time consultants. OSGEY has also been supported through a generous non-reimbursable loan agreement with UNFPA and signed a reimbursable loan agreement with UNDP. Additionally, OSGEY has recruited over time a select number of consultants to contribute to specific projects and work streams of the Office's work-plan, including a consultant provided on a non-reimbursable loan by UN-Habitat. With an average age of the OSGEY staff currently standing at 29.5 years, the Office is living proof that young professionals can make important strides in the work of the United Nations.

162. Since its establishment, OSGEY has furthermore been aided by a large number of interns who have contributed to the achievements of the Office over time. To date OSGEY has benefitted from the support of 37 interns from the following countries: Austria, Azerbaijan, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Norway, Qatar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom and United States. These interns, enrolled in a Master's programme, or in the final year of a Bachelor's programme, or within one year after graduation, received a first-hand experience of the day-to-day OSGEY working environment. During their internships, they have been exposed to high-profile conferences and events, participated in meetings, and contributed to all the areas of OSGEY's work.

163. Since its establishment, OSGEY staff undertook 125 missions to attend various global, regional and national youth-focused events, including 52 country visits focusing on supporting youth policy and programming on ground. OSGEY has proven a cost-effective management of its resources. For instance, the average costs incurred by OSGEY of a country mission amounts to USD \$ 1,231.

164. Aside from funds mobilized for the OSGEY operations, the Envoy also made key contributions to fundraising efforts for youth programming of other UN entities through series of country-focused donor meetings and briefings, and supported the resource mobilization for various other initiatives.

165. While much progress has been made in implementing the OSGEY's work-plan, as the manifold of achievements reported above attest to, more needs to be done to improve mechanisms for systematic engagement with youth, including through ICT and new media platforms, and to expand the spaces for youth participation offline. Moreover, advocacy efforts that ensure youth issues are reflected in all relevant processes continue to be necessary, as well as efforts to strengthen the coordination and participation of actors in the space. To respond to these needs, OSGEY requires additional support to ensure that sufficient human and financial resources are available to implement the ambitions and meet the numerous demands placed on

the Office. Going forward, OSGEY will seek to continue to build off the momentum that has been generated by the appointment of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth and the catalytic role that his Office has been playing in elevating the global youth agenda.
