



DEVELOPMENT *NEEDS YOUTH!*

3rd
EDITION

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 IFMSA: HIV Education for Youth
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INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW EDITION

This is the third edition of Development Needs Youth! and it comes at an important time for development policy and young people internationally. Since the last edition, published in 2009, there have been significant developments in core development areas.

At a time when the environmental and human cost of climate change became more and more evident, world leaders dramatically failed to reach an accord and agree on a climate deal that would replace the Kyoto Protocol at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009. This is despite the fact that young people were more organised and vocal than ever in the run up to the Conference and during the negotiations themselves. The past year has also been a difficult year for young people globally in terms of employment with the global financial crisis creating a youth unemployment crisis in Europe and pushing millions of young people into poverty in the developing world.

Although some progress is being made towards the Millennium Development Goals, in some ways little has changed for young people around the world. In developing countries millions of young people suffer from hunger and starvation, with over one billion hungry people in 2010, mainly due to conflict, climate change, unstable livelihood systems and poor governance.¹ Wars and conflict continue to disproportionately affect the young; many young people continue to go without basic primary education and the rate of HIV infection outstrips the expansion of treatment.

The past 12 months have also presented numerous opportunities for youth to express themselves politically and young people internationally have proved themselves up to the challenge. At the World Youth Conference in Leon, Mexico in August 2010 an NGO declaration, led by youth NGOs, called for a rights-based approach to development policies, to invest in education and jobs for young people internationally, recognise young people's sexual reproductive health and rights in the context of

1. Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN, 2010. The State of Food Insecurity in the World [online] Rome. Available at www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1683e/i1683e.pdf [Accessed 12 November 2010]

health and HIV prevention and identify the root causes identifying in preventing the achievements of the MDGs, with youth as an active partner.

In December 2009 the United Nations General Assembly agreed on the need to further disseminate among young people the ideals of peace, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, solidarity and dedication to the objectives of progress and development, including the Millennium Development Goals and adopted a resolution proclaiming the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding, commencing on 12 August 2010.²

As part of the Year young people have been active promoting the ideals of peace, freedom, youth development and working on the ground in combating hunger in their communities, the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the protection of the environment. This new edition aims to provide more facts and examples on initiatives and processes that youth organisations are undertaking at various levels, from the grassroots to the national and the global scale. Young women and men are full agents in their communities and societies. Nevertheless, targeting youth in development policies is still not being sufficiently addressed. While recognition of their value is growing, much needs to be done.

PART I

YOUTH: MORE THAN JUST DEVELOPMENT TARGETS

2. United Nations Resolution A/RES/64/134 of 18 December 2009 of Proclamation of 2010 as International Year of Youth [online] New York. Available at www.un.org/en/ga/64/resolutions.shtml [Accessed 7 August 2010]

1.1 STATE OF THE (YOUNG) WORLD

Why does youth matter?

There are a number of reasons why young people deserve special consideration with regards to international development. The most prevalent and striking is arguably that it is young people that suffer disproportionately in relation to poverty and hunger globally. The global financial crisis has severely hampered efforts to tackle global poverty, resulting in a spike in hunger rates in developing countries, again with young people among the worst affected. This crisis has also resulted in the highest youth employment rates on record, this time not just limited to developing countries as young people in Western Europe and North America struggle to find work and financial stability. In developing economies it may prolong the cycle of poverty for at least another generation while in Europe many political leaders are concerned about the economic and social impacts of a “lost generation of young people”.³

The lack of global consensus on how to tackle climate change and international economic instability are far from being mutually exclusive issues for young people. Climate change is a reality and the environmental instability that comes with it is already being felt harshly by young people. Without adequately tackling climate change, poverty reduction strategies and international diplomacy in order to prevent armed conflicts may become piecemeal. More people are today being displaced due to environmental disasters, both natural and man-made, than by war. Young people in the world also continue to be disproportionately affected as victims of both armed conflicts and environmental disasters.⁴

When it comes to development it is clear that youth needs to be prioritised. Therefore young people must be specifically targeted and involved in relevant policy-making, or it will not be possible to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. Moreover, as tackling youth poverty implies

tackling poverty at the beginning of a person's life; such targeted policies contribute to break the vicious cycle of poverty repeated from generation to generation.

What issues do youth face?

According to the World Youth Report 2005 “Young people today, and in 2015”, 209 million young people between the ages of 15 and 24 (approximately 18 percent of the world's population), live on less than US\$1 a day. 515 million (almost 45 percent) live on less than US\$2 a day. 130 million are illiterate, 10 million live with HIV, and 88 million are unemployed. The forms of poverty endured by young people, and their consequences, can be different for them than for other groups in society. For example, the importance given to the distribution of resources for education and health, as well as the distribution of land, would most likely be different if young people are considered. This is particularly the case when considering young women as they face multiple discrimination and are often expected to do unpaid domestic work.

The issue of sustainability must always be considered when addressing youth. Often the positions of young people are not adequately addressed in measures and policies traditionally pursued, for example economic growth largely dependent upon the unsustainable use of a country's natural resources is often not thought of as a youth issue. In such cases, fewer resources are left for future generations and indeed, for the young when they reach adulthood.

Likewise, if economic policies designed to reduce poverty do not target the informal economy (i.e. the trade of goods outside the state-controlled economy and not included in the Gross National Product); fewer young people will in turn be reached. This is due to the fact that young people and women make up the bulk of the workforce in the informal economy, e.g. street vendors, unregistered home-based businesses etc. If the size of the informal economy remains large, with a high number of low quality jobs still existing, then it is less likely that those working within this part of the economy will benefit sufficiently from economic growth and increased productivity. Working in the informal economy also means that they have less opportunity to increase their income, to receive training, and to benefit from social protection.

3. International Labour Organization, 2010. Global Employment Trends for Youth [online] Geneva. Available www.ilo.org/empelm/what/pubs/lang-en/docName-WCMS_143349/index.htm [Accessed 13 October 2010]

4. Weston, B.H. and Bach, T., Recalibrating the Law of Humans with the Laws of Nature: Climate Change, Human Rights and Intergenerational Justice [online] Vermont, Iowa [Published 2009] Available at http://international.uiowa.edu/centers/human-rights/documents/CLI_Policy_Paper.pdf [Accessed 29 September 2009]

“We are going to need the imagination and the creativity of even more such young heroes”

Kumi Naidoo, Executive Director, Greenpeace International

I was fifteen years old when I first began fighting injustice. It was the vision of equal education in apartheid South Africa that made me stand up, demand justice and equality and put my own comfort on the line (I was subsequently expelled from school). And it was there, on the streets of Chatsworth, Durban with my fellow students and friends, that I realised many of the amazing possibilities inherent in Civil Society: the power we have as simple individuals when we come together and act; the things we can learn when we take the time to listen to one another; the strong friendships we form when we are joined in the struggle for a just cause and the satisfaction we receive from knowing that we are doing the right thing. Getting involved as an activist at a young age set me on a path of lifelong political involvement and made me who I am today.

History shows us that terrible things can happen when men and women don't speak out or feel that they can't speak out. But history also shows us that if they do, "ordinary people" have the power to create extraordinary change and that includes,

in particular, young people. I first saw this in the anti-Apartheid struggle, later as an anti-Poverty activist and today as the head of Greenpeace. Dissatisfied with the way things are going, young people around the globe are standing up, calling for change and demanding justice. Young volunteers are ready to be seen not as tomorrow's leaders, but as the leaders of today.

Take climate change, which is the most pressing problem the world has ever faced. It is becoming increasingly clear that young people understand better than anyone what is at stake - perhaps this is because they are the ones who will have to live with the consequences of whatever decisions we make today. Let's remember the question that was emblazoned on many T-Shirts worn by young members of the Global Campaign for Climate Action delegation in Copenhagen last year: 'How old will you be in 2050?' The message that these young people were sending was clear: the future belongs to them, and they're going to do everything they can to ensure environmental, social and economic justice for future generations.

We must all work to ensure that today's youth do not slide into the cynicism that prevents so many adults from speaking out and getting involved. We must do our best to enable today's youth so that they may breathe new energy into what, in most places, has become a stale and moribund public life. We must work very hard to enable them to be able to contribute their voices, their enthusiasm and their engagement. Failing to engage the world's young people would mean squandering the enormous potential that active youth participation has to offer in our fight to achieve a fair and sustainable future for this and future generations. We cannot allow that to happen.

Right at this moment, millions of young volunteers are engaged in the struggle for climate justice around the world. But given the struggles we face, we are going to need the imagination and the creativity of even more such young heroes. I am convinced that in the face of the enormous struggles we currently face - an ongoing poverty crisis, a financial crisis and a climate crisis all challenging us simultaneously - it is the young who have the greatest scope for the action, innovation and creative engagement the world so desperately needs.

1.2 WHICH ROLE FOR YOUTH ORGANISATIONS?

Youth is a major group affected by poverty, however young people are often ignored on the development agendas. Investing in youth is fundamental to development. Youth needs to be mainstreamed into poverty reduction strategies and the concerns related to youth poverty should be fully integrated in the development actions, including the priorities defined in the World Programme of Action for Youth.

The problem of youth poverty cannot be solved by merely targeting youth to a greater extent. Young people also need to be considered as actors who can make valuable contributions to policy-making as well as during the implementation of projects. Even if policies do target young people and accord them due consideration, those determining the policies must understand the realities faced by young people today. This does not only require more research on youth poverty, but also a more general understanding of the needs and aspirations of those affected – and the ones who know this best are young people themselves.

Development assistance must be based on democratic decision-making, and the UN General Assembly clearly asks for the inclusion of youth organisations in development policy-making. Yet, in a large number of countries of the world young people are traditionally excluded from such processes. If engaged with correctly, partnerships with youth organisations can bring much needed experience, knowledge, and perspectives to the implementation and planning of development actions and programmes.

Agents of change

Several development actors are increasingly realising that young people are not only targets but also agents of change. However, much still remains to be done. Youth organisations across the world have already shown that this is possible. They are important actors because their constituencies, young people, have a much higher understanding of volunteering and a belief in the need and possibilities to change the world. Their role is crucial because representative structures are indispensable to voice the

concerns and aspirations of young people. Moreover, youth organisations are often ready to try new and innovative ways of working.

Open up to youth

The valuable contribution of youth organisations to development should be further acknowledged and strengthened. Youth organisations must be effectively engaged in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of development strategies and actions and provided with the adequate support to undertake their work. Youth organisations must also benefit from funding opportunities to carry out their own development initiatives. This will enable them to fulfil their role and responsibility as development actors.

Access to funding continues to be one of the major obstacles for youth organisations to develop their capacity as development actors. Governments and International Institutions have a major role to play in increasing and making more accessible the funding opportunities to youth organisations.

Funding through development assistance programmes is usually not available to youth organisations and thus development agencies are losing the possibility of reaping the full potential of youth volunteering and engagement. While there are more and more projects targeting youth, the possibilities of youth organisations carrying

these projects out themselves remain small. Consequently, the types of projects that can be funded as well as the different funding possibilities available must be diversified. Grants for shorter time-periods should be designed and allocated, as well as support for project planning and the implementation of more simplified application procedures. The small extra costs such funding might incur would be paid back several times over by the volunteer work done in youth organisations. In the long run, more and more youth organisations would also have built up the capacity to get support through existing funding programmes, thus increasing the efforts and actors contributing to the achievement of the MDGs.

Unless opportunities exist that allow youth organisations to start obtaining funding for development cooperation, the direct step to “conventional funding” might often be too hard to take. Apart from some, usually non-governmental, funding opportunities for youth groups, there are also a few cases in which National Youth Councils have taken the initiative by getting development agencies to channel some funding through them to youth organisations.

1.3 THE YOUTH FORUM AND EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT POLICY: 30 YEARS OF ACTION!

The work of the European Youth Forum has resulted in important achievements in development policies, particularly in that they should take into account the needs of young people. Since its establishment in 1978, the Forum (back then called "Youth Forum of the European Communities") decided to have development co-operation as one of its core areas of interest.

Activities can be summarised into three periods:

Youth Forum and EC Development Cooperation (1978-1985): A first resolution was adopted in 1979 and gave the base to start to advocate for a stronger role of NGOs and Youth in development cooperation. At the Youth Forum's Executive Committee in November 1982, the members agreed on the following definition of development:

We believe development is a concept which transcends a crude equation with increases in national income, but should

consider all aspects of the quality of life. Development depends on altering power relationships in society, improving the ability of people to enjoy maximum participation in decision making, strengthening political and economic self-reliance and independence, as well as ensuring the extension of social rights such as education. A prerequisite must be to ensure that all basic human needs are fulfilled.⁵

Of course this definition needs to be read today taking into consideration the political and historical moment in which was released. Nevertheless, this agreement laid the basis for the political action of the Forum in following years. Between 1982 and 1985, seminars were organised and position papers were drafted, positioning the Youth Forum of the European Communities as a credible actor in development cooperation. Close contacts were established with the Commissioner for International

Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Edgard Pisani and an independent evaluation of the Lome III Convention was produced in 1985.

ACP-EC Youth Cooperation (1986-1995): Thanks to the previous involvement of the Forum, youth organisations from Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries started a consolidated process of cooperation in 1986 with young Europeans, working together to ensure that the voice of young people was heard in the Lome process. The result of the subsequent lobbying work was the concrete reference to youth in the Lome IV Convention. This cooperation was further formalised with the organisation of three joint Assemblies of the ACP-EC Youth (1990, 1993, and 1995) and with the continuous request for the recognition of young people as partners in all areas of competence of the Convention.

Global Cooperation (1996-2008): With the merging of the three existing European Youth Platforms in 1996, YFJ widened the scope of its action in development cooperation. Cooperation was enlarged to other regions beyond the ACP, with the inclusion of Latin America, Asia and the Arab World in the Global Co-operation Co-ordination Committee, a tool to work with YFJ partners in other continents. Since 1997, YFJ has devoted 1% of its annual budget to finance youth-led development projects carried out by its partner organisations in the different regions of the world. Furthermore, a special commitment on the implementation of

the MDGs was taken by signing a formal partnership with the Millennium Campaign of the UN in June 2006.

Cooperation with the European Commission continued with the negotiations for the Cotonou Agreement in 2000 and led to the inclusion of the youth article (art. 26) and, in 2005, to its further improvement with the revision of the Partnership Agreement. YFJ contacts with the European Parliament led the Development Committee, in September 2007, to start a study on the impact of EU Development Policies on young people, currently under preparation. Further, in 2007, Commissioner Louis Michel invited the YFJ to join the Civil Society Stakeholders Group within DG Development.

During this last phase, the European Youth Forum was actively involved in the organisation of the first Africa-Europe Youth Summit which took place in Lisbon from 5 to 7 December 2007 and the follow-up of the EU-Africa Joint Strategy. The Youth Summit was organised in partnership with the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, the Portuguese Youth Council, the Pan-African Youth Union, and other national and international youth organisations, with the support of the European Commission and the Portuguese government. The European Youth Forum has also been involved in the European Civil Society Organisation Steering Group for the implementation and monitoring of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy and its Action Plan.

5. Youth Forum of the European Communities (1982) *Youth Forum's views and proposals regarding the European Community's Contribution to development*, adopted at the Executive Committee 5-6 November 1982

Active steps were also taken to strengthen the cooperation with the Arab region. In November 2009, in Assilah, Morocco, the 3rd League of Arab States Youth Forum took place, focused on the theme “Youth and Migration: A Human Rights Based Approach”. In July 2010 the European Youth Forum also co-organised, together with the Italian National Youth Forum, the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe and the League of Arab States the Euro-Arab Youth Conference “*Mare Nostrum: Youth, Migration and Development*”.

During this period the European Youth Forum was committed to strengthen the cooperation with Asia as well, carrying on fruitful exchanges and enhanced co-operation on youth policy development in both regions. The 1st EU-China Youth Leader Summit was held in Hangzhou and Shanghai, 7-11 May 2010, co-organised by the European Youth Forum, the All China Youth Federation and the European Commission.

The European Youth Forum also made progress in the cooperation with Latin America and Caribbean. On 7-9 May the **I EU-LAC Youth Summit** took place in Fuenlabrada-Madrid, organised by the Spanish Youth Council in the framework of the EU Spanish Presidency, in partnership with the European Youth Forum, the Latin American Youth Forum, the Iberoamerican Youth Space, the Caribbean Federation of Youth Revitalisation Committee, the Spanish Youth Institute, the Iberoamerican

Youth Organisation and the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe. Preceding the VI EU-LAC Summit of Heads of State and Government, the First EU-LAC Youth Summit gathered 167 youth representatives from 38 countries of Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean region. The Summit concluded with a written declaration adopted by youth delegates that urged their governments and international institutions to take into consideration the valuable contribution that young people and youth organisations can give to the dialogue and cooperation between these regions on regional and global issues and to the further development of the EU-LAC strategic partnership.

Which role does the European Youth Forum play?

The European Youth Forum and many of its Member Organisations, both international youth organisations and national youth councils, have been working on development issues for a long time. This is done through working with international institutions and governments, and advocating for the achievement of the MDGs, in cooperation with other youth organisations from all over the world.

Moreover, the European Youth Forum co-operates with other regional youth platforms, and at the global level, works within the Global Co-operation Coordination Committee (GCCC) which gathers the regional non-governmental youth platforms of Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, and the Pacific.

In addition, the YFJ is cooperating within the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO – www.icmyo.net) which brings together regional youth platforms and international youth organisations with a global outreach.

PART II

(YOUTH) DEVELOPMENT POLICY

2.1 THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS ARE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT GOALS

It is concerning that young people are not considered more in development policy because it is obvious that achieving already agreed commitments requires their involvement. The reason is simple; the goals themselves target young people although this is not always explicitly mentioned. The clearest and most important example of this is the Millennium Development Goals.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are a set of eight goals and 20 targets on how to halve poverty by 2015, reduce child mortality and fight epidemics.⁶ World leaders committed to their achievement at the United Nations General Assembly in 2000. They are time-bound, people-oriented, and progress in reaching them is easily measurable. Foremost, the MDGs are of importance because they are achievable - if they are taken seriously.

Accomplishing what is set out in the MDGs requires more resources for development action, the revision of trade rules, and debt reduction, among other actions. One important element that is not often mentioned when discussing the achievement of the MDGs is the need to involve and target young people specifically. The reason for doing this is simple - the Millennium Development Goals are clearly Youth Development Goals.

Goal 1 : Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

About half of the young people in the world live in poverty. If youth are given more consideration in poverty reduction strategies, their ability to escape from poverty at the beginning of their lives would increase - thus breaking the vicious cycle of poverty handed down from generation to generation.

6. United Nations, 2007. Student Voices Against Poverty [online] New York. Available at www.un.org/millenniumgoals/youth.shtml [accessed 11 September 2010]

Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

It is obviously of extreme importance for young people to complete their education if they are to be able to escape poverty. Youth organisations can support this goal by providing volunteer tutoring and non-formal education.

Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

In addition to being a part of society which endures a very high level of discrimination, young girls across the world face many difficulties, with fewer girls than boys attending school, fewer young women enjoying paid employment, and unwanted sex being a common problem. Being a place where young people develop values, awareness and actions to combat different challenges, youth organisations have an important role to play.

Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

Infants born to teenage mothers are 80% more likely to die than infants born to mothers between 20-29 years old. Young mothers therefore need to be specifically targeted to help reduce child mortality.

Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health

Pregnancy is the leading cause of death among women aged 15-19. Moreover, because of gender-based violence (i.e. domestic violence, rape, trafficking, and sexual harassment) young mothers are a group that needs special attention.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Other Diseases

Each day, 6,000 young people become infected with the HIV virus – this equates to more than half of all new HIV/AIDS cases. This is an area in which young people are already playing a major role, with many major actors having acknowledged the importance of young people in relation to the issue and of integrating them into their HIV/AIDS related programmes. Youth-led sexual and reproductive health education has proven to be effective in tackling the pandemic. Likewise, youth organisations can take actions through awareness-raising when contributing to Goals 4 and 5. This awareness-raising can also be carried out internally, as youth organisations are a place where attitudes and behavioural change are frequently discussed.

Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

It is young people and their children that will have to deal with the consequences of not taking environmental sustainability seriously today, as many of the effects of pollution will only become evident over the longer term (i.e. climate change). Moreover, young people often have a better understanding of environmental problems and are more ready than older generations to take action to achieve environmental sustainability.

Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

This is a goal that is also aimed at providing the means for achieving the other goals. It is thus of significance for youth that actions are taken both in general (i.e. increasing aid) and specifically (i.e. providing micro-financing possibilities for youth). One of the targets under Goal 8 specifically deals with the importance of producing decent and productive work for youth. This is an issue on which youth organisations are actively working. Finally, through advocacy and awareness-raising, youth organisations have proven to be important actors in changing popular attitudes and pressuring governments to adhere to their commitments – which is crucial to Goal 8 as well as to the other MDGs.

2010 MDG Summit⁷

The 2010 United Nations Summit on the Millennium Development Goals took place on 20-22 September, concluding with the adoption of a Global Action Plan to achieve the eight anti-poverty goals by their 2015 targets. However, the most significant announcement was that of a major new commitment specifically for women's and children's health and other initiatives against poverty, hunger and disease.

The Global Action Strategy to accelerate progress on women's and children's health committed over US\$40 billion in resources over the next five years. In terms of human life, this commitment, if properly administered, has the potential of saving the lives of more than 16 million women and children.

This obviously is a welcome development and governments, multinational organisations and individuals must continue to invest in human development not only to ensure that we achieve the development goals by 2015, but also to ensure that our future together is stable and sustainable.

7. <http://www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010/pdf/mdg%20outcome%20document.pdf>

The European Students' Forum (AEGEE-Europe)

The Millennium Development Goals: A Challenge for Today's Youth?

The Millennium Development Goals and the empowerment of young people are of paramount importance for AEGEE, which is organised in 43 European countries. As part of its MDG work, a group of young people from Europe, India and South Africa, have joined hands across continents and taken up the challenge of empowering young people in their countries and local communities.

AEGEE designed this project in cooperation with the Gujarat Public School – BRG Group, AIESEC Baroda (based in Vadodara, India) and the ARESTA (based in Cape Town, South Africa), which is composed of four principle activities: a preliminary meeting held in Brussels in December 2009; two case study trips to India and South Africa in June and September 2010 respectively; and a final conference in Utrecht, The Netherlands, in November 2010, to discuss findings and produce a concluding message on youth contribution to the MDGs.

2.2 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

Apart from the MDGs, there are several international agreements that establish the framework for development policies. For example, within the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), guidelines and policies are often reviewed and agreed upon in particular donor countries. The guidelines that are adopted there are expected to be followed by all OECD member countries. At a high-level summit in Paris in 2005, new guidelines to make development assistance more effective and make the MDGs more measurable were discussed. One hundred countries are adhering to the outcome of the meeting, known as the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, according to which the recipient country's influence over the cooperation, and ownership of the process should increase, alongside improvements in the donor country's coordination of the poverty reduction strategies. All assistance should be guided by the recipient country's national development plans.

The role of civil society is, however, barely dealt with in the final Paris Declaration.

The youth dimension is something that OECD DAC in general has not worked on. The Paris Declaration nevertheless makes clear the increased importance of national development plans, and it has thus become even more important for youth organisations to play a role in the determination of such plans.

The largest gatherings of world leaders that have ever taken place on the issue of climate change were the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002. During these two Summits the world leaders discussed how to achieve sustainable development. Development policy was therefore also an important issue. Youth received special recognition in these two Summits and the work carried out in between them. For example, youth are recognised as one of nine major groups in the Johannesburg Summit and the annual Commission for Sustainable

EU policies and programmes for development cooperation and sustainable development open to Youth Organisations

The EU is a major player when it comes to development assistance. Together, the EU and its Member States provide more than half of the total development assistance in the world (of which a fifth is managed by the Commission). Consequently, EU policies on development have a big influence on the development agenda. The inclusion of a youth article in the ACP Agreement and the good cooperation in the frame of the EU-Africa Strategy increased the visibility and importance of youth issues. Nevertheless, the EU is still lagging behind when it comes to acknowledging the need for a youth dimension in its development policies. This must be changed!

Below are some of the tools of the EU to increase cooperation of youth organisations with their partners in the South:

// Development Cooperation instrument (DCI): The new thematic programmes (2006-2013) are now open to all Non-State Actors. In particular the programmes "Civil Society and Local Authorities in Development" and "Investing in People" are particularly interesting for youth

organisations. For more information:

http://ec.europa.eu/development/policies/development_programmes_en.cfm

// Country Programmes: The EU has representation in more than 120 countries in the world and they play an increasingly important role in programming and managing projects. Establishing contacts and cooperation between these offices and local youth organisation is of great value. For the list of Country Offices: http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external_relations/repdel/index_rep_en.cfm

// Youth in Action Programme: The Youth in Action Programme has a specific measure (3.2 - "Youth in the World") open for organisations to present youth projects in countries other than the neighbouring countries of the EU. In 2009, the Youth in Action programme will have sustainable development and climate change as one of two of its annual priorities. For more information: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.htm

Development that is following up on these commitments. In the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, youth is mentioned in relation to consumption and lifestyle, poverty reduction, education and the implementation of sustainable development programmes. The European Youth Forum is now actively working to achieve the recognition of youth as a major group also in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). There are many development strategies exist in operation and as all usually tackle poverty reduction and sustainable development, they are of importance for young people, and thus, youth organisations should be engaged in implementing them.

When addressing development strategies, a clear differentiation should be made between international agreements and guidelines, and national strategies of both the donor and recipient. Moreover, there are many other policies that are of tremendous importance to development, such as trade agreements, agricultural policies, and financial agreements. As these policies could support or undermine development commitments that affect youth, they are also of importance for young people.

Achieving coherence among all these different policies is probably one of the most difficult challenges for governments and international institutions. Overlaps and contradictions between development policies and others, such as trade, defence, environmental and migration policies, often undermine the desired impact of development cooperation and question the

effectiveness of aid delivered by the official agencies.

Development assistance is a topic that requires specific attention in this context. Development assistance has existed for a long time, and it was civil society who was first to take the lead on it. During the 1960s an increasing number of rich countries began to provide development assistance. Its direction has of course changed over time. Nowadays, there is for example more importance put on awareness-raising and development education in donor countries. This is an area in which youth organisations have an important role to play.

Since the 1970s, there has been a demand for richer countries to devote 0.7% of their Gross National Income (GNI) to development assistance. This demand has been reiterated several times, for example in the MDGs. So far only four countries are fulfilling the demand and it is unlikely that the goal will be met unless there is stronger public pressure within donor countries themselves. Nevertheless, a mere increase of aid needs to be combined with proper coherence among different policies; otherwise this will not guarantee more effective results.

When talking about national strategies there are both strategies that are setting the framework for the donor country as well as strategies for the recipient country. Increasingly, these strategies are discussed between the countries concerned and they also depend on international commitments

The 1% Solidarity Fund of the European Youth Forum

The European Youth Forum promotes the principle of increasing development assistance of richer countries to even more than the 0,7% of their GNI, setting the example that it is possible also for a Civil Society Platform to do the same. In fact, in 1997, the European Youth Forum set up the 1% Solidarity Fund, which devotes 1% of the annual budget of the Organisation to development cooperation projects specifically targeted to help the sustainability and the capacity building of other regional youth platforms and their members in other continents.

Since then the 1% Solidarity Fund has become both a tool for advocating national governments to do the same and increase the resources devoted to development co-operation, and a tool to increase the capacity of its partners in the South. A specific feature in the cooperation between the European Youth Forum and other platforms is the principle of equal partnership based on the specific needs of each platform. This ensures that the 1% Solidarity Fund does not become a tool to impose a unique model of development for regional youth platforms.

such as those discussed above. As with other policies, the level to which youth are considered differs widely between particular donor development policies: in a few cases, countries have their own overall strategy and are talking about mainstreaming youth; in other cases, countries mention youth in strategies that relate to child rights; but in far too many cases, national development policies do not take account of youth at all. The level of discussion concerning the coherence between development policies and other policies also varies considerably.

To enable a recipient country to put forward its biggest concerns and needs, and equally, for the donor to put forward the priorities of its development policy, donor and recipient governments usually discuss how their development cooperation will work. However, it is common that a donor will also try to exert influence on the recipient on other issues e.g. pushing for the adoption of trade agreements beneficial to the donor country itself. The degree of involvement of civil society in related processes differs widely, as indeed it does from country to country.

The natural thing would be that the development strategies are coherent with other strategies and policies, such as the Millennium Development Goals and the World Programme of Action for Youth as well as national youth policies where such exist. With regards to youth policy on the

global and national level, these are often forgotten. That they even exist, however, constitutes a strong argument for including young people in relevant processes. Countries also design specific policies relating to the achievement of certain commitments. Consequently, there are for example many national MDG-strategies and sustainable development strategies.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) are one such form of national strategy that are playing an increasingly important role in development, having become key documents in low-income countries with regards to economic and social policy. PRSPs were first introduced seven years ago as a requirement to get debt relief from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund under their Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative. They are updated every three years and progress reports are made annually⁸ PRSPs have received criticism for not involving civil society enough in the process and for the economic requirements that often accompany them. There are only a few cases in which youth organisations have been involved in the PRSP-process and where the national PRSP has a youth dimension. This is obviously a problem if they are to tackle poverty.

8. International Monetary Fund, 2010. Fact sheet on Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers [online] Washington. Available at www.imf.org/external/np/exr/contacts/contacts.aspx [Accessed 29 September 2010]

Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe (EYCE)

Campaign to Promote Ecological Justice

Environment is one of the most challenging concerns for contemporary society. It is clear that climate change is affecting the entire planet. Just one example of the effects of dangerous climate change in 2010 was the heavy rains in the Philippines in July which were directly connected to mild winters in Baltic States. As a result of these environmental changes there has been a higher frequency of tornadoes in the Pacific in recent years. However, there is a far greater connection than simply between different environments. The link between ecological responsibility and the wealth and poverty of others should also be considered. The effects of climate change and migration should also be explored as should the connection between climate change's impact on natural resources and military conflict and violence.

It is the responsibility of each individual, including young people, who will be the main players in future Europe and shape the world of tomorrow, to work against the negative effects of climate change and raise awareness on environmental issues.

Campaigns have proved to be effective tools in the work of EYCE in previous years. In 2005-2008, EYCE was running the Campaign "Youth Fighting HIV and AIDS" and from 2008-2010 the "Campaign to Overcome Fundamentalism". These campaigns reached a large number of young people from all over Europe. As a result EYCE decided to launch a 3-year campaign to promote ecological justice, which will run from 2011 until 2013.

The overall aim of the campaign will be to commit EYCE, its Member Organisations and individual young people to act responsibly towards the environment and to empower them to advocate for a greener Europe. This will be done by raising awareness of ecological issues in Europe, studying the developments from the Kyoto and Copenhagen Climate Change Conferences and exploring the relation between ecology, economy and politics, including reviewing ecology issues as basis for numerous conflicts.

Swiss National Youth Council (SAJV/CSAJ)

Youth for development

Youth for development is a programme designed by and for youth in the field of development cooperation. Youth for development advocates for development where youth are not only the recipients of help, but are also independent actors and partners. As the umbrella association of Swiss youth organisations, CSAJ/SAJV has become familiar with the needs and concerns of young people through many years of experience. With the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), CSAJ/SAJV carries out various projects and activities that contribute to the development of the potential of young people in Switzerland and in target countries. The goal is the improvement of living conditions for all and to the ability for young people to participate in important processes. "South Project" for example supports small-scale youth projects planned and implemented jointly by Swiss and local youth organisations in Africa, Asia and Latin-America.

CSAJ/SAJV also offers capacity building activities for youth organisations in Switzerland and does know-how transfer activities with National Youth Councils in developing countries.

CSAJ/SAJV also runs "East Project" which supports small-scale youth projects planned and implemented jointly by Swiss and local youth organisations in South-Eastern Europe and an Online-Tool-Kit offers online and youth friendly information and knowledge about development cooperation topics and project planning and management.

PART III

YOUTH (DEVELOPMENT) POLICY

As young people both represent the present and the future and the key to achieving global development targets, it is vital to ensure that there is not only a youth dimension in current development policies but also to consider the specific role of young people in individual areas, particularly areas where youth are already active and working as agents of change.

The most important framework dealing specifically with young people on the global level is the **UN World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY)**. The WPAY focuses on the challenges faced by young people, is strongly interrelated with the MDGs and is the most complete example of a global consensus between governments to engage young people. Adopted in 1995, the WPAY is considered as the first “global blueprint” for developing effective policies for young people, with the peculiarity of having been drafted by young people, for young people. The document currently contains 15 priorities. The original ones were Education, Employment, Hunger, Poverty, Environment, Drug Abuse, Juvenile Delinquency, Leisure-time activities, Girls and Young women and the Full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and decision-making.

Five additional areas of concern to youth were adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2003: Globalisation; Information and Communication; HIV/AIDS; Conflict prevention; and Intergenerational relations. Through the implementation of WPAY and regional and global dialogue and cooperation frameworks, young people and youth organisations have been able to tackle global issues, contribute to the development of coordinated and coherent policies and programmes and promote awareness raising, information sharing and capacity building. In order to properly look at the work of young people and what is required for the future a closer analysis of some priority fields is required.

Dutch National Youth Council (DNYC)

Youth representatives

The Dutch National Youth Council has an extensive background in youth involvement in social and political affairs worldwide. It endorses officially elected Youth Representatives to take part in international conferences, such as the UN Framework Convention on Combating Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Dutch National Youth Council selects and nominates the most suitable youth representative to take part and actively participate in each respective conference.

Youth representatives work with a junior/senior system. Each youth representative has a mandate for two years with one year overlap. The junior youth representative attends the Conference of Parties (COP) with an NGO accreditation whereas the senior youth representative is part of the official delegation. In this way, both the continuity and the quality of the youth contribution are ensured.

3.1 MAINSTREAMING GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT

In order to achieve real equality, a rights-based approach to gender equality must lie at the heart of all youth and global development goals. This is key in order to ensure that progress is not made at the expense of women, and also because the empowerment of girls and young women is a prerequisite to achieving the MDGs. Special areas to consider with regards to gender equality are decent employment and working conditions, education and the achievement of universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights. In these areas youth organisations are at the forefront in the struggle for gender equality and youth autonomy, particularly in their role as one of the main providers of non-formal education on these issues for young people and further mainstreaming is required in order to ensure that youth is considered and consulted when decisions are being made.⁹

Another issue of huge concern is that of climate change and its impact, both on the environment as well as on other key development areas. A truly sustainable approach must be taken in order to achieve the MDGs, so as to ensure that climate change does not undermine the efforts and compromise the needs of the younger and future generations. Climate change have been particularly felt by the world's most vulnerable people, as its impacts have been exacerbating existing problems and development issues such as hunger and access to water.

Only through addressing these interrelated issues and working with those most affected can we strive for more policy coherence and a holistic vision of development.

9. YFJ 2007, Policy Paper on Achieving Equality Between Women & Men [online] Brussels. Available at www.youthforum.org/images/stories/Documents/Human_Rights/0685-07_GEquality_final.pdf. [Accessed 10 September 2010]

3.2 EDUCATION

Education equals development. Without education, individuals and societies can not obtain the necessary knowledge and competences to develop economically while keeping social cohesion.

It is therefore worrying to see that many young people still do not even receive primary education. This is the case despite education being inscribed as a Fundamental Right in the Declaration of Human Rights, as well as in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). This is an unacceptable situation and several measures need to be taken both by states and by civil society. The state has to ensure free education for all and support young people from poorer families to enable them to pursue education instead of working. More has to be invested in higher education to enable young people to continue their studies regardless of their family's economic situation.

Development is often hindered by badly functioning government structures and people not being prepared for real democratic citizenship. Development is not something

that can be taught by learning facts and statistics by heart. Participation has to be experienced and the frame for this is formal education. It requires schools to see their students as partners in the educational process, by involving them in setting the curriculum and influencing their school environment, through their elected representatives. Formal education is crucial but it is not the best suited for all types of learning. It needs to be complemented by non-formal education - an organised educational process which takes place alongside mainstream systems of education and training, and does not typically lead to formal qualifications. Individuals participate on a voluntary basis and, as a result, take an active role in the learning process. In countries where primary formal education does not reach the entire population, non-formal education plays an important role in providing education and skills to disadvantaged people. This is also an area within which youth organisations play a significant role, for example, assisting pupils through volunteer tutoring outside school.

Development is not just an issue for developing countries: it is a global issue of all citizens. This spirit forms the basis of Global Education, the education that opens people's eyes to the realities of the world and that allows them to take action on changing these realities. Global education, sometimes called development education, should be included in all formal education programmes in a learning by-doing-way, by establishing twinning projects and educational exchanges to develop learning that is not theoretical but transformative for society and the young people involved. Youth organisations as the main providers of non-formal education programmes are key providers of Global Education for young people through their programmes and activities.

World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)

Global Action Theme

As the leading voluntary organisation for girls and young women in the world, global development is an important priority for WAGGGS. Seven in ten of the world's hungry are girls and young women. They are also the most affected by climate change and pandemics such as AIDS and malaria which continue to impact more directly on the life chances of women and girls.

However, despite the fact that investment in girls and young women can start a process of education and care that breaks the cycle of poverty, they are often not included or considered in the development of solutions to these problems. Educated girls and young women earn more money, start their families later and have fewer children. When girls understand about their own health and their rights, whole communities are healthier and safer. When girls are free from sexual violence, coercion and destitution they are free from sexually transmitted infections including HIV. When they are educated on sexual and reproductive health, their children are born healthy.

Through its mission to “enable girls and young women to discover their fullest potential as responsible citizens of the world”, and building on WAGGGS’ history of developing non-formal educational activities to address the most important global issues affecting girls and young women, WAGGGS’ Global Action Theme is a six-year programme to empower and support girls and young women to advocate, educate and carry out community projects towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. (MDGs). As part of the Global Action Theme, WAGGGS has developed a badge curriculum for its members aged 5-18 to help them understand the issues and how they can take action at local, national or global level on the MDGs; and a toolkit funded by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe to help WAGGGS Member Organisations at European level to get involved. Specific programmes on the eradication of poverty and hunger, protecting the environment, HIV/AIDS and girls’ empowerment have been developed following a survey of our members to identify which of the MDG issues they believe to be the most important

for WAGGGS to take action. WAGGGS Member Organisations are also taking action in different ways to support the MDGs.

As part of their national theme for the Triennium 2007/2010, “Wanting, Getting to Know the World and Action” and the implementation of the GAT, the Association of Portuguese Guides (AGP) established a project to support development in countries whose official language is Portuguese. The purpose of the project is to sensitise Girl Guides in Portugal to get involved in their community, raise awareness about the MDGs in the framework of a programme of education for development. By baking and selling cookies, Girl Guides were mobilised to raise financial support to: rehabilitate a community bakery in East Timor, improve a school for young girls in Angola and restore a library in Mozambique.

Girl Guides from Mexico and Wales have been working together on an anti-poverty project which has supported the marginalized Mazahua community in Mexico. Through the project, the girls and young women learned about Millennium Development Goal 1: ending poverty and hunger through non-formal education activities. They then delivered a community service project into the Mazahua community, where houses are made of wood and cardboard, and families collect water from a well.

Above are just a few examples, for further information on WAGGGS’ extensive development work can be found at www.wagggs.org

The International Falcon Movement – Socialist Education International (IFM-SEI)

Peers without Frontiers: Youth for the MDGs

Peers without frontiers is a global project aiming to set up a network of young people actively contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. By training and supporting a network of peer educators in 17 International Falcon Movement Member Organisations worldwide IFM-SEI were able to support them to

work more effectively at local level.

The young people involved in the project shared approaches to peer education and developed peer education projects in their local communities, focusing on youth contribution to the achievement of the MDGs. As a result of the project, IFM-SEI are also developing a set of peer education materials on the MDGs.

The Portuguese National Youth Council (CNJ)

Roteiro 3456

Of the Millennium Development Goals, goal three of promoting gender equality, goal four of reducing child mortality, goal five of improving maternal health and goal six of combating HIV, AIDS, malaria, and other diseases relate most closely to sexual, reproductive health and rights. They are also the most difficult to achieve and pose significant challenges not only to political and community leaders, but also humankind as a whole. The achievement of these goals require the improvement in services and infrastructure related to: family planning; maternal care, equal opportunities; women's rights; HIV/AIDS prevention programmes; sexual education. They also require political and social progress on equal opportunities; women's rights the eradication of all forms of violence on women, including Female Genital Mutilation and other harmful practices. In order to adequately tackle this myriad of issues there needs to be a strong advocacy campaign and practical activities on the ground by civil society actors.

Roteiro 3456 is an ongoing project which aims to strengthen the presence of the MDGs related to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) on the political agenda and public opinion, with a special focus on the response to the WHO Strategy Document adopted by the Portuguese Cooperation. The activities proposed by the project aim to broaden and deepen the scope of intervention for the development of education in SRHR in its approach to human rights awareness and solidarity, namely among young people. Several recent commitments reinforce the relevance of this approach, namely the initiatives of the Portuguese-speaking Countries Community (CPLP) related to issues of gender and HIV/AIDS and Health, in 2008; the conclusions of the meetings in the context of Education for Global Citizenship and the New York Summit on the MDGs in September 2010, among others.

World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM)

Inter-regional Cooperation in Africa, the Arab States and Eurasia

Interregional co-operation has been an on-going process for WOSM over several years, with the recently adopted work plan (2010 – 2013) of WOSM's European Region reaffirming that it is a high priority for the movement.

Three regions have been prioritised for partnerships – Africa, the Arab States and Eurasia with partnership with Africa currently receiving the most focus. In this context WOSM have several projects and efforts going on, linked by the youth dimension and the belief in the key role of young people in development and the formation of development policy.

The project is carried out in cooperation with the WOSM African Regional Office (ARO) and several National Scout Organisations from the regions that are running partnerships. The aim is to improve the quality of interregional partnerships and develop a practical toolkit for partners. Another focus is the empowerment of youth leaders by providing training courses on inter-regional partnerships as well as co-operation at a pan-regional level with other international youth NGOs. The latest round of trainings was organised in the framework of the Second African University on Youth and

Development in cooperation with six other African youth NGOs.

Grassroots scouting is in itself a development activity. WOSM have a strong focus on non-formal education and firmly believe that education is a multi-faceted fundamental human right. WOSM recognises that that many children are excluded, for a variety of reasons, from the standard formal education system. Non-formal education and the Scout Programme in particular provide a flexible alternative to alleviate shortcomings the formal education system and enables disadvantaged young people to gain knowledge and skills, within a value based environment.

This non-formal education process also allows WOSM's National Member Organisations to work towards the achievement of the MDGs, including, for example, through tackling food security in Kenya, Burundi and Uganda, tackling diarrhoea and maternal health in Bolivia or promoting environmental sustainability through the World Scout Environment Programme. Scouting works to create a better world, harnessing the potential of young people and empowering them to leave the world a little better than they found it.

3.3 HEALTH, SRHR AND HIV/AIDS

The right to health is stated in many international conventions, notably the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The health of children and young people, mothers and the prevention of the spread of the disease lie at the heart of the MDGs.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic is also one of the main obstacles to poverty reduction with 40 million people currently living with the virus and more than half of all new cases each year affecting young people. Although the spread of HIV appears to have stabilised in most regions, and more people are surviving longer, many young people still lack the basic knowledge to protect themselves against contracting HIV. In order to fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic, all young people should not only have the right to basic health services and access to treatment but also education on the virus and how to prevent its contraction.¹⁰ HIV/AIDS prevention must involve campaigns encouraging responsible sexual behaviour and condom

use. It needs to be tackled from a number of different approaches and including an approach that embraces gender equality. Girls and young women are the group worst affected by HIV/AIDS partly because on a global level they suffer more acutely from poverty. There is also evidence showing a link between gender-based violence and the virus. Although there have been significant improvements in the ways that HIV and AIDS is treated and pockets of improvements in condom use and prevention, the rate of new HIV infections will continue to outstrip the expansion of treatment until a more concerted approach is made with gender equality and poverty reduction at its core.¹¹

Gender equality is also key to fighting many other health risks. Maternal health is one of many examples, with one woman in three giving birth before the age of twenty, and pregnancy being the leading cause of death in developing countries for women aged 15-19. Moreover, infants born to teenage mothers are 80% more likely to die

10. YFJ, 2008. Policy Paper on the Health and Well Being of Young People [online] Brussels. Available at www.youthforum.org/images/stories/Documents/Employment_and_Social_Affairs/0741-08_Final_Health_Well-being.pdf. [Accessed 4 September 2010]
11. United Nations, 2010. The Millennium Development Goals Report [online] New York. Available at www.un.org/millenniumgoals [Accessed 8 October 2010]

during their first year compared to infants of mothers aged 20-29.¹² The chances of a child surviving increase relative to the level of a mother's education; thus, if girls and young women have the same opportunities as men, to continue their studies and to form families later in life, infant mortality would decrease and maternal health would improve.

The 2010 UN Summit on the Millennium Development Goals further acknowledged the importance of gender equality with the announcement of commitments for the improvement of the health of women and young girls. Over US\$40 billion was pledged over the next five years under the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health. It has the potential of preventing 33 million unwanted pregnancies, protecting 120 million children from pneumonia, advancing the control of deadly diseases and ensuring access for women and children to quality facilities and skilled health workers.

Although this is welcome, there is much work to be done as maternal mortality continues to remain high in much of the developing world and, like with most of the other goals, although there has been a reduction in child mortality since 2000, it has not been done quickly enough to reach the 2010 and will most likely fall short of the final 2015 objective.

There are obviously many other concerns for the health of young people. For example, a major proportion of young people across the world live in rural areas where access to health services often needs to be ameliorated. At the same time, a substantial part of those living in urban areas live in slums where they are subjected to air pollution, unsafe water and poor sanitation during the most vulnerable period of their life. Thus, improving the health of young people also requires particular attention to issues ranging from access to health services to sanitation and pollution. Anaemia, under-nourishment and malnutrition are particularly prevalent in developing and middle-income countries. These problems are becoming even more pressing now with the stress on natural resources, and there is an increasing imperative to address the food crisis and respect the right to food¹³. This right has also come under increased economic pressure with the recent global financial crisis dramatically slowing poverty reduction efforts, resulting in a spike in hunger rates. The right to food is a human right and a binding obligation well-established under international law, recognised in particular by the UN ICESCR, and must not be compromised in times of economic strain.

12. Ibid

13. Defined in the General Comment NO 12 by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as "the right of every man, woman and child alone and in community with others to have physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement in ways consistent with human dignity."

International Federations of Medical Students' Associations

HIV Education for Youth & Greater Involvement/ Support of People living with HIV

IFMSA has a number of different standing committees, one of which is the Standing Committee on Reproductive Health including AIDS (SCORA). The members of this committee, have different projects which focus on awareness raising on HIV/ AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, stigma and discrimination and the involvement of people living with HIV/ AIDS, with focus on everyone but particularly on the younger generation.

The medical students of IFMSA SCORA have developed different projects involving raising awareness in grassroots communities in Africa and Europe, safe sex education and training people to be able to train others. The programme supports the involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS in its work.

The project aims to make younger generation more aware, not only on HIV/ AIDS but also on stigma and discrimination, encouraging those affected and accepting them into our society and not neglecting them. With these projects members of the SCORA project have realised that by working together and with the support and co-operation of all those involved the project can gain significance on a global, and not just local, level.

Only through the reduction poverty and hunger can a sustainable future be realised; forsaking important health obligations for short term economic considerations would result in devastating long term consequences. To this end the European Commission's adopted proposals to enhance the EU's role in global health made in March 2010 are a positive step and efforts must be stepped up to promote universal coverage and access to health services to all.

Youth organisations have a role to play in the area of health as well; if sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality, environmental problems, and other health concerns are to be tackled, awareness-raising amongst young people is also needed. Through non-formal education and through working for the inclusion of these issues on national curricula, youth organisations contribute significantly to this aim. In addition, many youth organisations advocate for these issues to be placed higher on the political agenda, for the respect of human rights and for greater coherence with other policy areas (e.g. to ensure that trade agreements do not distort the fight against HIV/AIDS and that economic policies do not lead to more environmental pollution).

3.4 EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY

Global youth unemployment reached 13% in 2009, amounting to 81 million young people – the highest number ever. This is twice as much as the unemployment among the general population of the world. In a two year period, between 2007 and 2009, an additional 7.8 million young people dropped off the labour market.¹⁴

Only half of the young people around the world are actively participating in the labour market and within the next decade, an extra one billion people will reach working age. Unfortunately, many of them face bleak prospects and little chance of obtaining employment. Thus, youth unemployment is a particularly urgent problem. Never before have so many young people been without work or been in temporary and unstable employment. In many countries young people are more than three times as likely to be out of work as adults and the numbers are even worse when it comes to the participation of young women in the labour force. Young women face significantly more difficulties, both socially and economically than young men in

finding employment, although this is only marginally reflected in official statistics with female youth unemployment standing at 13.2% compared to the male rate of 12.9%.¹⁵

Combating youth unemployment contributes to ensuring that young people are given a good start to help achieve their aspirations as active citizens in a democratic society. Fighting youth unemployment should consequently be seen as an important investment for economic sustainability and health. Society can gain considerably from high youth labour force participation. For instance, according to the International Labour Organisation, if youth unemployment were to be halved, the world economy would gain at least US \$2.2 billion a year.

It is important to talk not only in terms of the quantity of jobs but also to address their quality. Presently, many employed young people do not have decent-quality jobs and therefore remain poor despite working. For example, among the 540 million employed young people, approximately

14. International Labour Organization, 2010. Global Employment Trends for Youth [online] Geneva. Available at www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/.../trends/.../wcms_143349.pdf/ [Accessed 2 September 2010]

15. Ibid

The National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations (LSU)

Tackling Poverty Together

In *Tackling Poverty Together* LSU, along with UNDESA and youth organisations from each cooperation country, work to promote the influence of young people on national Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP). The project, which takes place in Sweden, Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Kenya, Zambia, Ghana and Liberia, has initiated and created the capacity for networks of youth organisations to take action in order to increase young people's participation in poverty reduction processes. Through the development and implementation of action plans the *Tackling Poverty Together* country teams have gained hands-on experience in research and analysis, strategic planning, and advocacy for greater inclusion in decision-making processes. As a result young

people have achieved greater recognition and involvement nationally in poverty reduction initiatives. Just two examples are that of the Liberia country team which has worked closely with its Ministry on Youth to create and multiply a youth-friendly version of the national PRSP and the country team in Ghana which has developed a guide to evaluate national youth policy, a publication that will help young people to make input into national youth policy development.

Service Civil International (SCI)

Handcrafting Opportunities

Pilateno is a small Nahua community of 700 inhabitants in the municipality of Xilitla in the Sierra Huasteca San Luis Potosi in Mexico. Its inhabitants live on coffee production, but more and more from remittances generated by people migrating to other cities in Mexico or in the US. In most cases men work intensively in the fields, harvesting fruits or vegetables, or as construction workers. Women, meanwhile, work mainly as maids.

During the summer of 2008 a group of SCI volunteers took part in a three week project using seeds in order to produce crafts. Beforehand, SCI's local partner, Cochitlehua Centro Mexicano de Intercambios (CEMIAC), had prepared the experience by asking the local population whether they were interested. CEMIAC also identified members of another indigenous community that would train the local population. Then, a team of international volunteers were invited to participate in the project.

After the project was over, the local people of Pilateno continue to produce small craft and generate income for their families. Several factors contributed to the success of this project: the availability of raw materials, the organisational experience of Pilateno colleagues, who run a store selling products at the lowest possible cost, but also the multicultural dialogue during the project, which allowed to consider many ways of seeing things and strengthens ideas.

one in three, or 152 million young workers, are living in extreme poverty - on less than US\$1.25 per person per day. In total young people constitute one fourth of the world's working poor.¹⁶

Due to its importance, youth employment is also a major commitment in the Millennium Development Goals; with Goal 8 including a target to develop, "in cooperation with the developing countries, [...] decent and productive work for youth". Moreover, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has also acknowledged the urgency of this problem by taking the initiative to the Youth Employment Network that is a driver for the employment and social inclusion of young people.¹⁷

However, youth unemployment and youth poverty must be tackled on the ground, with measures that allow for a smooth transition between the education process and employment. Measures should also be taken in order to foster entrepreneurship and the entrepreneurial spirit of young people as well as to prevent the normalisation of temporary and unstable contracts. One effective measure of doing so is to provide micro-credit for young people, especially

young women. The widespread problems that many poorer people face in obtaining normal loans, when they do not have sufficient security, are also common for many young people who have not had the chance to build up capital that could be used as security for the loans. They therefore have a harder time getting loans to assist them in removing themselves from poverty at the beginning of their lives. Micro-credit can contribute to changing this situation.

Jeugddienst Don Bosco/ Belgium & Don Bosco Youth-net (DBYN)

You(th) for Human Rights

From July until December 2009 Jeugddienst Don Bosco together with Don Bosco Youth-net has organised and developed a youth democracy project entitled You(th) for human rights. The project, which has been funded by the Youth in Action programme of the European Commission, focussed on human rights education and had as its main aim to bring together young people from all over Europe through non-formal education.

From July 2009, 25 organisations from all over Europe, working with and for young people, were involved in this youth democracy project to give the opportunity to all young Europeans to let their voices be heard about specific human rights education issues. You(th) for human rights was set up as a three stage project with a preparatory phase, a European youth congress which took place in Belgium and a third follow up stage concluded with the release of a publication about the project and its outcomes.

16. Ibid

17. International Labour Organization, 2010. Fact Sheet on Decent Work and the Millennium Development Goals [online] Geneva. Available at www.ilo.org/.../Youth%20Employment/FactSheetmdg8.pdf [Accessed 17 September 2010]

3.5 PEACE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

Development and peace are inextricably linked. Combined with poverty, armed conflicts and violence impede development and impede the prospects and future of young people.

Armed conflicts have a significant effect on youth development with direct and indirect consequences for young people who are among the main victims of violence, not only by being caught in the crossfire but also by being recruited into armed forces, internally displaced and turned into refugees.

Poverty often acts as the drive behind conflicts and violence. The absence or inadequacy of housing, health care and nutrition and the lack of education, employment and participation opportunities are factors of conflicts and involvement of young people in such events. The adverse impact of armed conflicts on health, education, employment and participation of young people in society is also evident, preventing their development.

In this context, an integrated strategy combining the protection and relief of young people in armed conflict situations is required. Strategies that combine peace education, solidarity and respect for human rights based on formal and non-formal education, with programmes to empower young people to fulfil their potential and act as development have been identified as the most effective to allow peace and development. Such strategies should also include support measures to involve youth organisations in conflict prevention, peace-building and post-conflict processes.

Working towards preventing armed conflicts and ensuring access to healthcare, education, employment and participation in decision-making in society is an important part of both the promotion of peace and youth development.

3.6 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is not only a huge threat to global development and the future of humankind; it is also a clear example of an area where the needs of today's youth and future generations are being compromised by older and previous generations' lifestyles. Young people have the right to a sustainable future, as do people in developing countries, who, as highlighted by the 2006 Stern Review, suffer the most from climate change.¹⁸

Indeed the impacts of climate change have already proven to be disastrous for the world's most vulnerable people with the potential to become much more severe in the future. Accelerated dangerous climate change in the future would hit agricultural incomes severely, health problems would arise as a consequence of heat stress, flooding, malnutrition and water borne diseases, millions of people would be forced to migrate and the stress on natural resources could spur conflict and violence. An estimated 250-550 million additional people could suffer from hunger mostly in African and Western Asia; India and South

East Asia could face a loss of 9-13% of GDP compared to how it would have been without climate change. It is clear that governments can not hope to meet development targets without also addressing climate change.

Despite this the ambitious and fair global climate change deal needed at the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009 in order to prevent dangerous climate change was not adopted. Despite all the evidence and after two weeks of exhaustive talks, world leaders failed to deliver a legally binding commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change was merely recognised by governments at a time when millions are already suffering from its effects.

As young people make up a larger share of the population in developing countries the importance of this issue for youth is clear, it is also natural that youth take an active role in advocating for measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, both in Europe and globally.¹⁹ The focus of young

18. Stern, N., 2006 The Economics of Climate Change. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press
19. YFJ, 2008. European youth fighting against Climate Change [online] Brussels. Available at www.youthforum.org/images/stories/Documents/Employment_and_Social_Affairs/0438-08_Climate_FINAL.pdf [Accessed 4 September 2010]

International Federation of Catholic Parochial Youth Movements (FIMCAP)

Thematic Study Sessions on Water, Nutrition, Mobility, Energy, Non-formal education and Responsibility for the Creations of God

Over the past three years FIMCAP has been focusing on the MDGs, particularly goal two to achieve universal primary education, goal three to promote gender equality and empower women and goal six to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. Twenty two FIMCAP Member Organisations from four different continents met in Munich between 14 and 22 August 2010 for a General Assembly with a special focus on Climate Change. Through the General Assembly's mission statement various youth organisations committed themselves to promote the issue of sustainable development. FIMCAP's Member Organisations want to educate young people so that they can influence society and take action in their local communities in accordance to the realities in which they live. This comes after facilitating a process where young people become aware of the impact and the importance of sustainable development and assume their role as effective agents in the necessary course of action.

The topics Water, Nutrition, Mobility, Energy, Non-Formal Education and Responsibility for the Creations of God vis-à-vis Climate change were tackled in different workshops, in which the participants of the General Assembly connected these topics to the dimensions of national, continental and worldwide organisational work as well as local day-to-day life. FIMCAP organisations shall continue to focus on the issues of climate change during the next three years (2010 – 2013) and shall develop projects accordingly. The action plan developed at the General Assembly comprises various ideas and plans for all levels from worldwide to local.

climate change activists will now turn to the Cancún negotiations in 2010 in Mexico and the Johannesburg negotiations in 2011 to ensure that the fair, adequate and legally binding climate agreement that was expected in Copenhagen in 2009 is adopted internationally and that additional financial resources to address climate change are allocated to developing countries. Youth organisations and the dynamism and creativity that young people bring to the climate change debate are vital in order to make this a reality. They also play a vital role in combating climate change through awareness-raising, particularly on sustainable consumption. Young people, like national governments and international institutions, also have environmental responsibilities and many youth organisations have also committed to reducing their emissions and to developing environmentally friendly policies.

Aside from international climate change negotiations, natural resources in general should be managed in a more sustainable way. It is a crucial development issue as industrialised countries' exploitation and consumption of resources of developing countries strongly hinder their development. This is evident in forestry, fishery and minerals extraction. The involvement of local communities and youth is crucial for a sustainable conservation of biodiversity. There also needs to be a rights-based approach to natural resources and the environment, particularly clean drinking water.

3.7 MIGRATION

Migration is a global phenomenon entrenched in the unequal distribution of wealth and the existing discrepancies in the levels of development among different areas of the world. If migration flows take also place from the South to the North of the world, it is important to underline that internal migrants (740 million) outnumber international migrants (200 million) and that the majority of migrants do not move necessarily from a developing to a developed country. Indeed, the majority of international migrants move from one developing country to another or between developed countries, while a minority (70 million) move from a developing country to a developed one.²⁰

Nevertheless, the link between migration and inequality is an important one as more than three quarter of international migrants move to a country where the human development index is higher than the country of origin. If migration is caused by violations of rights, conflicts, poverty and climate change, the poorest experience more difficulties to move and indeed move less;

for instance only 1% of Africans move to Europe. As statistics clearly indicate, there is a direct correlation between emigration rates and levels of human development.

Around 7% of international migrants are refugees, numbering 14 million in total. A minority of 500,000 move to a developed country with the aim of seeking asylum. The figures relating to internally displaced people are much higher, estimated at 26 million in 2009. International human rights law requires governments to guarantee fundamental rights to refugees including freedom from discrimination and right to not to be returned (non-refoulement) to a country where they might be persecuted. Contrary to the claims often made by some policy makers, the number of asylum seekers in developed countries overall remains quite stable; in the EU it has increased only by 3% from 2008 to 2009.²¹

20. United Nations Development Programme, 2010. Human Development Report 2010 [online] New York. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/mediacentre/> [Accessed 2 October 2010]

21. United Nations Development Programme, 2009. Human Development Report 2009 [online] New York. Available at http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/hdr_2009_EN_Summary.pdf [Accessed 2 October 2010]

National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI)

Zambia- Ireland Exchange

NYCI runs an exchange programme for youth workers from Zambia and Ireland. Since starting in 2005, 52 youth workers have participated. The aim of the exchange is to share good youth work practice; highlight key development and justice issues for young people in both countries and promote linking between youth work structures in Ireland and Zambia. The exchange happens each November, coinciding with the annual One World Week (OWW) in Ireland. Both the exchange and OWW are informed by the MDGs, particularly Goal 8 which calls for a global partnership for development, and by a recognition that young people are essential actors for change locally and globally. In both countries, young people have the opportunity to interact with the visiting youth workers and highlight similarities and differences between their experiences.

The exchange is run in association 80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World who engage in development education in Zambia. Pre-departure and follow-up meetings are organised for participants and organisations are encouraged to directly contact one another. The main communication tools used by the organisations and the individual participants are email and Facebook.

Young people constitute a considerable share of international migrants; youth under the age of 29 represents indeed half of the global migrant flows. If young people can benefit from specific gains from migrating, they also experience many challenges. Educational gains are clearly associated to young migrants moving from developing to developed countries, especially in terms of enrolment ratios.²² However, young migrants in Europe are at the same time more likely to leave school earlier than their native peers, to perform worse and to be discriminated against on the ground of their ethnic origin or religion. If some channels for ensuring regular migration of students from third countries to Europe exist, low skilled young migrants and youth migrating for other purposes than education experience extremely severe barriers to move.

The positive aspects linked to migration also have to be acknowledged. As research and international institutions have underlined, migration is linked with positive impact both on countries of origin and on receiving countries. Remittances have for instance a positive effect on countries of origin and movement of people could also succeed in bringing new ideas back to the countries of origin.²³ Migration has also a positive impact on the demographic challenges faced by Europe today and to the

shortage of skills on the European market. On the other hand, the youth perspective within migration and development policies should be strengthened.²⁴ Barriers to the freedom of movement of young people should be removed in order to provide them with further opportunities in the field of education and employment.²⁵

Cooperation between countries of origin and receiving countries is key to ensure that youth migration does not result in brain drain in the countries of origin. Channels for regular migration should be provided in order to tackle irregular migration and the exposure of irregular migrants to violation of fundamental rights, including for instance the risk, particularly higher for minors, women and girls to be trafficked. Agreements between receiving countries and countries of origin to counteract irregular migration should not be based on repression but rather be inspired by prevention and information sharing.

As the UNDP suggests in its Annual Report on Human Development 2009, overcoming barriers to migration is necessary as migration “while not a substitute for broader development efforts, can be a vital strategy for households and families seeking to diversify and improve their livelihoods”.²⁶

CONCLUSIONS: FROM WORDS TO ACTION!

This short booklet attempts to bridge youth policy-making with the experiences of millions of young people serving their local, national and global communities through their participation in youth organisations. However, this is only a first step to strengthen the reflection and the action around the issue of youth and sustainable development. In conclusion, there are at least three challenges which should be tackled and for which decision-makers, research community and youth organisations each have different roles to play:

// Youth and the concept of development: Development Needs Youth! This seems acknowledged by most government and institutions, at least in their official discourse, but what kind of development does youth need? The debate is very open and controversial on that point. Some researchers propose that the current fashion of targeting young people in development policies could be just a vehicle for quieting ideological challenges and building consensus over policies which see young people as policy-consumers and not policy-makers. In this regard it will be a necessary step to open this conceptual discussion to the various actors involved: the institutions, the research community and youth organisations.

22. United Nations Development Programme, 2010. Human Development Report 2010 [online] New York. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/mediacentre/> [Accessed 2 October 2010]

23. United Nations Development Programme, 2010. Human Development Report 2010 [online] New York. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/mediacentre/> [Accessed 2 October 2010]

24. Social Watch Network, 2009. Migrants in Europe as Development Actors [online] Montevideo. Available at <http://oneworldsee.org/node/19589> [Accessed 8 September 2010]

25. YFJ (2008), Policy Paper Youth & Migration [online] Brussels. Available at www.youthforum.org/en/system/files/yfj_public/strategic_priorities/en/1069-07_Migration_Final.pdf [Accessed 7 September 2010]

26. United Nations Development Programme, 2009. Human Development Report 2009 [online] New York. Available at http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/hdr_2009_EN_Summary.pdf [Accessed 2 October 2010]

// Monitoring and Evaluation:

The value of the commitment of young people involved in youth organisations is hardly measurable with facts and figures, because it is not merely based on project outcomes but is the result of life-long processes which can be fully assessed only in the long term. Nevertheless, non-governmental youth organisations and development institutions should join forces to create concrete tools to monitor and evaluate the impact of youth participation in development policies and the relevance of the youth-led development projects. The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment for the period 2006-2015 is a good example in this direction, because it foresees the setting up of a Youth Development Index to monitor the situation of young people. These indicators should be complementary both to the Human Development Index and the MDG targets.

// Democratic Participation is key:

since more than half of the world population is less than thirty years old, global and regional institutions should take this fact into consideration. Youth organisations provide the right channel to take an active role in the community and to make young people real agents of change. This is the greatest contribution of youth NGOs to development and it deserves appropriate and specific recognition.

List of Acronyms

ACP – African Caribbean and the Pacific
 AEGEE – Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe/
 European Students' Forum
 CNJ – Portuguese National Youth Council
 COMEM – Council of Members
 DAC – Development Assistance Committee
 DBYN – Don Bosco Youth Network
 EYCE – Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe
 FAO – Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
 FIMCAP – International Federation of Catholic Parochial Youth Movements
 GCAP – Global Call for Action Against Poverty
 GCCC – Global Cooperation Coordination Committee
 GDP – Gross Domestic Product
 GNI – Gross National Income
 HIV/AIDS – Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
 ICESCR – International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights
 ICMYO – International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations
 IFMSA – International Federation of Medical Students' Associations
 IFM-SEI – International Falcon Movement – Socialist Education International
 ILO – International Labour Organisation
 INGYO – International Non Governmental Youth Organisation
 IOM – International Organization for Migration
 IPCC – Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change
 LSU – Swedish National Youth Council
 MDG – Millennium Development Goal
 NYCI – National Youth Council of Ireland
 OECD – Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
 PRSPs – Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
 SCI – Service Civil International
 SAJV/CSAJ – Swiss National Youth Council
 STI – Sexual Transmitted Infection
 YFJ – European Youth Forum
 UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund
 UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
 UN ICESR – United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
 WAGGGS – World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
 WOSM – World Organisation of the Scout Movement
 WPAY – World Programme of Action for Youth

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