



YOUTH AT THE UN:

*A Handbook for Establishing a*

# NATIONAL YOUTH DELEGATE PROGRAMME TO THE UNITED NATIONS



A PUBLICATION OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS

At the heart of our mission is the belief  
that a strong and effective United Nations  
can be a powerful force in meeting our  
common global challenges and opportunities.

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# FOREWORD



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## **The World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)**

is a global nonprofit organization working for a stronger and more effective United Nations. Established in 1946, we represent and coordinate a membership of over 100 United Nations Associations and their thousands of members.

We work to build a better world by strengthening and improving the United Nations, through the engagement of people who share a global mindset and support international cooperation – global citizens.

At the heart of our mission is the belief that a strong and effective United Nations can be a powerful force in meeting our common global challenges and opportunities. We believe that peoples' involvement in all levels of local, national and global decision-making is essential in order to achieve the goals of the United Nations.

[www.wfuna.org](http://www.wfuna.org)

The International Year of Youth, which takes place from 12 August 2010-2011, was launched with the theme of Dialogue and Mutual Understanding. Its slogan, "Our Year, Our Voice," is a vivid reminder that in this age of globalization, young people can actively participate in national and global decision making processes, and lead the way towards finding innovative and sustainable solutions to some of the most pressing challenges of today's time. Throughout this year, the international community is encouraged to

celebrate youth and to recognize the valuable contributions young people make to creating a better world for all.

The World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) joins the international community in commemorating the International Year of Youth. WFUNA is committed to engaging people of all ages, from all walks of life with the United Nations. In particular, WFUNA has regularly emphasized the importance of empowering young people to be active global citizens. We are inspired by our strong and vibrant youth network, by the unwavering dedication of our young volunteers and members, and by the creative ideas and projects being implemented by them around the world.

Active youth participation at the United Nations is a critical contribution to successful international cooperation. The purpose of this handbook is to provide interested young people around the world with the information they need to approach their governments with the request to include youth voices in their national delegations to the United Nations.

In addition to learning about becoming a Youth Delegate, I would like to invite all young people who find themselves reading this handbook to join your local United Nations Association or UN Youth Association. Being a part of the UNA movement provides opportunities for engagement with United Nations issues in your home countries and internationally. If you do not have a UNA in your country, we hope you will reach out to us and explore the possibility of establishing one!

Finally, I would like to express appreciation to the United Nations Population Fund for the generous support that made the production of this handbook possible, as well as to the United Nations Programme on Youth for their valuable input.

**Bonian Golmohammadi,**  
*Secretary-General of the World Federation of United Nations Associations*

# SECTION 1

## INTRODUCTION: YOUTH PARTICIPATION AT THE UN



The United Nations launched an International Year of Youth commencing on 12 August 2010, signaling the potential for a new paradigm—one that shifts from tokenism to a true integration of young people as full and effective partners in all aspects of society. Under the theme “Dialogue and Mutual Understanding,” the Year aims to

increase the channels of communication between generations and to promote the ideals of peace, freedom and solidarity.

Around the world, youth are increasingly taking responsibility for molding their own futures and are engaged in an effort to better their lives and their communities. Young people bring creativity, energy, idealism and a unique perspective to issues of international importance.

Young people who are given the knowledge, resources and opportunities to participate in decision making processes become engaged as active and innovative partners in shaping the world they will inherit and pass on to future generations.

Young people are both a significant human resource for development and agents for social change, economic development and technological innovation. They are experts on the issues that affect them and are integral to achieving effective and enduring solutions.

There are several channels for youth participation at the United Nations (UN). This Handbook focuses on the Youth Delegate Programme. In 1995 the UN General Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth (A/Res/50/81) which includes a section on supporting the participation of youth in decision making, and invites Member States to consider including youth representatives in their national delegations to the General Assembly. This idea has been reinforced through several subsequent General Assembly resolutions, most recently in 2009 (A/Res/64/130).

There has been some growth over the years in the number of Youth Delegates, with 45 Youth Delegates from over 25 countries participating in the 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the General Assembly in 2009. However, this still represents barely 15 percent of the total number of Member States.

This low figure can be attributed to, among other things, the lack of easily accessible and comprehensive information about how a national

Youth Delegate Programme can be established in a country that does not yet have one. Establishing such a programme comes with its own unique set of difficulties, including convincing government officials of its value, navigating bureaucracy, overcoming funding challenges, and putting the appropriate processes in place for a sustainable and democratic programme.

There is an urgent need to equip young people with information that will enable them to take advantage of the United Nations Youth Delegate Programme by activating their governments to include youth in their UN delegations. The International Year of Youth offers an opportunity to spread awareness and draw attention to the need for increased youth representation at the UN. It can be used as a platform for approaching governments with the proposal of establishing national Youth Delegate Programmes.

Although there is no fool-proof method to lobby for youth representation, this guide compiles best practices based on case studies of successful lobbying efforts.

### YOUTH:

Internationally there is no generalized definition of the term “Youth.” According to the United Nations definition (1992), youth comprises young people aged between 15 and 24 years. However, countries vary considerably in their definitions of youth and childhood, which range from as low as age 7 up to age 30, depending on cultural, social, economical and political factors.





## LIST OF WPAY PRIORITY AREAS<sup>1</sup>

The World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY), adopted by the General Assembly (GA), provides a policy framework and practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people around the world. The WPAY covers fifteen youth priority areas and contains proposals for action in each of these areas:

10 priority areas were adopted by the GA in 1995:

- Education
- Employment
- Hunger and poverty
- Health
- Environment
- Drug abuse
- Juvenile delinquency
- Leisure-time activities
- Girls and young women
- Participation

Five additional issues were adopted by the GA in 2007:

- Globalization
- Information and communication technologies
- HIV/AIDS
- Youth and conflict
- Intergenerational relations

## UN INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS THAT HAVE MECHANISMS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

### THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY <sup>2 3</sup>

#### When?

**Meets annually, usually September-December**

#### Where?

**United Nations Headquarters in New York**

The General Assembly, the main deliberative organ of the United Nations, allocates specific agenda items to its Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs

Committee, commonly referred to as the “Third Committee.” These items relate to a range of social causes, humanitarian affairs and human rights issues that affect peoples all over the world.

The Third Committee addresses important social development questions such as issues related to youth, family, aging, persons with disabilities, crime prevention, criminal justice, and drug control. The

#### RESOLUTION:

Resolutions are the foundation on which every UN action is based. They are decisions by the international community expressing the desire to change a certain situation and prescribing ways in which this can be done. They are adopted by Member States of the UN in the various organs of the UN, for example in the General Assembly.

#### PLENARY:

attended by all qualifying members;  
fully constituted

#### ALL THESE ACRONYMS....!

ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
CSocD	Commission for Social Development
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
GA	General Assembly
NGO	Non-governmental organization
UN	United Nations
UNA	United Nations Association

Committee discusses the advancement of women, the protection of children, indigenous issues, the treatment of refugees, the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and the promotion of the right to self-determination.

<sup>1</sup>United Nations Programme on Youth/DESA – [www.un.org/youth](http://www.un.org/youth)

<sup>2</sup>United Nations General Assembly - [www.un.org/ga/third/index.shtml](http://www.un.org/ga/third/index.shtml)

<sup>3</sup>“UN Youth Delegates.” [www.youthdelegates.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=22&Itemid=29](http://www.youthdelegates.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=22&Itemid=29)

The Third Committee has plenary meetings where national statements are read on each agenda item. Youth delegates are given a chance to deliver a speech on youth during these meetings.

The General Assembly meets in plenary to adopt resolutions or to discuss topics that concern more than one committee. Resolutions concerning issues related to youth are often negotiated in the Third Committee and then brought to the General Assembly. The main resolution dealing with youth issues is the “resolution on programmes and policies involving youth.” It is usually negotiated biannually.

This resolution on programmes and policies involving youth is drafted by a Member State at some point before the General Assembly. Usually the resolution is introduced at the Commission for Social Development (CSocD) which meets in early February every year. If it is not introduced at the CSocD, then it is introduced during the General Assembly.

Youth delegates to the General Assembly have started the practice of writing an “input paper” which is the core document they use to put down particular concerns of young people in their respective countries regarding what should be included in the resolution. This input paper is sent to the responsible person in the Permanent Mission to the UN of the country that is drafting the resolution.

## COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:<sup>1</sup>

### When?

**Meets annually, usually in February for two weeks**

### Where?

**United Nations Headquarters in New York**

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was established under the United Nations Charter as the principal organ to coordinate the economic, social, and related work of the 14 UN specialized agencies, the functional commissions and five regional commissions.

The Commission for Social Development (CSocD) is one of the ten functional commissions established by ECOSOC in 1946 to advise and assist it in carrying out its work.

CSocD focuses on the follow-up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Social Summit which took place in 1995. It takes up key social development themes such as poverty, employment, and social integration (which includes the topic of youth).

## THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN <sup>2</sup>

### When?

**Meets annually, usually in March for two weeks**

### Where?

**United Nations Headquarters in New York**

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is another functional commission of ECOSOC, dedicated exclusively to gender equality and the advancement of women. Each year it evaluates progress on gender equality, identifies challenges, sets global standards and formulates concrete policies to promote gender equality and the advancement of women worldwide.

The CSW was established by ECOSOC resolution 11(II) of 21 June 1946 with the aim of preparing recommendations and reports on promoting women’s rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational

<sup>1</sup>United Nations Department of Economic & Social Affairs – Division for Social Policy and development – [www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd)

<sup>2</sup>Division for the Advancement of Women, Department of Economic & Social Affairs -[www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw)



UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras

fields. In addition, the CSW makes recommendations to ECOSOC on urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights.

## THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT<sup>1</sup>

### When?

**Meets annually, usually in May for two weeks, in two-year cycles with each cycle focusing on clusters of specific thematic and cross-sectoral issues**

### Where?

**United Nations Headquarters in New York**

The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was established by the UN General Assembly in December 1992 to ensure effective follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, also known as the Earth Summit.

The CSD is the high-level forum for sustainable development within the United Nations system. It has opened its sessions to broad participation from both governmental and non-governmental actors, and it supports a number of innovative activities, such as the Partnerships Fair, the Learning Centre and a series of panels, roundtables and side events. The High-level segment features dialogue among Ministers and with Major Groups.

<sup>1</sup>Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic & Social Affairs - [www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd\\_aboutsd.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_aboutsd.shtml)



# SECTION 2

## A, IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION

The creation of a Youth Delegate to the United Nations position in the Government has the benefit of empowering an often marginalized sector of society. It can lead to more effective solutions to problems facing young people as they present an invaluable perspective into issues that affect them, as well as provide sustainability by preparing young people for future careers in civil service. Furthermore, it can be a tool for recognizing the diplomatic efforts of young people already involved in development and humanitarian initiatives.

### DELEGATE:

A delegate is a person authorized to represent a certain country at an international meeting. A delegate is entitled to negotiate on behalf of her country with directives from her Foreign Ministry. A delegate can make suggestions to her Foreign Ministry on what position the country should take.

### PERMANENT MISSION:

Most Member States maintain Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York and, in some cases, to the other UN duty stations as well. These Missions are staffed year-round with delegates who attend to routine and ongoing processes and debates.

The existence of a national Youth Delegate Programme or position is a concrete demonstration by the respective government of their commitment to young people, improving relations between the government and youth. Through first-hand experience of the political process, young people develop important skills and improve self-confidence. It can encourage more young people to become actively involved in political processes on the national and international levels and motivate them to take a greater interest in international issues.

The inclusion of Youth Delegates in the work of its Mission to the United Nations gives a country legitimacy in representing the views of its young population and promotes the voice of young people

in global decision making. Youth Delegates have demonstrated themselves to be of great value to their Governments and Foreign Ministries who benefit from their fresh perspectives, creativity and idealism.

Youth have the greatest understanding of the realities of their own lives and the issues that affect them. They have much insight to offer policy-makers. A youth policy designed involving young people themselves stands a much greater chance of success as it will have greater legitimacy amongst youth.

## B, ROLE OF A YOUTH DELEGATE

The “World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond” calls upon Member States to:

“Include Youth Representatives in their national delegations to the General Assembly and other relevant United Nations meetings, thus enhancing and strengthening the channels of communication through the discussion of youth related issues, with a view to finding solutions to the problems confronting youth in the contemporary world.”

To achieve these goals, Youth Delegates prepare for participation at the UN through research and consultations, play a role during negotiations, and lead a follow-up process where decisions and experiences are brought back to the youth population of their countries.

Before attending the General Assembly or other meetings, many Youth Delegates conduct national tours of schools, universities and youth-led organizations. On these tours, they have a wide range of activities that educate young people on domestic and international political processes, consult

### INFORMAL SESSIONS:

The negotiations on a resolution, called “informals,” are held parallel to the plenary meetings in smaller conference rooms. Sometimes they also take place during lunch. This is where member states put forward their suggestions for changes to the draft resolution and negotiate them. These meetings may only be attended by delegates representing member states. Whether a youth delegate is allowed to attend or not depends on their Government.





### KEY POINTS:

- **Prior to going to the UN:** Youth Delegates conduct national tours in order to capture the concerns of youth in their countries.
- **At the UN:** Youth Delegates deliver statements, give input to deliberations, promote youth participation and organize side events.
- **After the UN:** Youth Delegates return to their countries and share their experiences through educational workshops and inspirational talks to diverse youth audiences.

youth from diverse backgrounds on their views on UN topics, and gather ideas for input to UN discussions.

The objective of these tours is to capture the local and global concerns of young people, and to engage with disadvantaged youth who are marginalized and come from adverse backgrounds and give them a voice at the UN.

At the United Nations, the role of a Youth Delegate is flexible within delegations. Most Youth Delegates draft and deliver a statement on an issue relating to youth to the Third Committee of the General Assembly or to the Commission they attend. In collaboration with the Permanent Missions of their countries and through attending a series of official meetings, informal negotiations, side events and social events, Youth Delegates have the possibility to give input to deliberations about youth issues, such as to the resolution on “policies and programmes involving youth” of the General Assembly.

In addition to making statements and giving input to resolutions, Youth Delegates of different countries usually work together to organize side events that can contribute to raising the profile of youth participation at the United Nations and promote further youth participation and input. Possible side event formats include a presentation, a panel discussion, a question and answers session, an interview, a film screening, or an exhibit. The aim of a side event is to provide information about the youth perspective on one of the meeting’s agenda topics and to encourage further discussion.

Some youth delegates participate in the general work of their Missions by providing assistance in monitoring general debates and drafting reports.

The length of time the youth representatives are based in New York differs from country to country but usually ranges from one week to eight weeks.

On their return from New York, many youth delegates again tour schools and universities to share their experiences. This serves to educate other young people about the UN and international politics, as well as encourage youth to get involved with decision-making processes in their own communities.

# SECTION 3

Are you interested in promoting youth participation at the United Nation, but your government does not have a national Youth Delegate Programme or position? This section explains, through clear steps, what you can do to encourage your government to begin including young people in its delegations to the General Assembly and Commissions.

## A, KEY ELEMENTS OF YOUR CAMPAIGN FOR A YOUTH DELEGATE TO THE UN

### Formal Proposal

The proposal is the description, in writing, of the Youth Delegate programme or position that you are suggesting that the Government undertakes. It includes background information, details of what the programme would look like in your country, the rationale for the programme including benefits to the Government, and clear steps for implementation. A strong proposal can go a long way. It must be tailored to the requirements and needs of specific countries and national contexts. Generally a good proposal should include:

- Cover letter with your contact information
- Introduction: What is the United Nations Youth Delegate Programme?
- Importance of a Youth Representation: Why have a Youth Delegate?
- Regional Representation: Which countries have a Youth Delegate Programme, and how do they implement it?
- Value of including a Youth Delegate: How would the government benefit?
- Suggested selection process: How will the Youth Delegate be selected?
- Role of the Youth Delegate (prior to, during, after the GA)
- Budget estimate: What will it cost and who will pay? (See next section.)
- Sustainability of the Programme: How it can be developed?
- Conclusion

Keep your proposal short and to the point – fewer than 10 pages is ideal!

### Budget

#### KEY POINTS:

- Be thorough in your budgeting
- Minimize avoidable costs
- Cost-sharing means you have to raise some money

One of the biggest hurdles to this process is the financial aspect. It is important to have an estimate worked out of the total cost of including a Youth Delegate in the Government delegation to the United Nations. Make sure that the budget is precise and reflects every aspect of the programme.

Before finalizing the proposal, you must scrutinize every aspect of the budget and look for alternative, cost-effective methods to bring down the total expenditure of the programme. When creating a draft budget, take into consideration all elements of the programme and possible related costs:

**1 | The recruitment and selection of the Youth Delegate:** Many countries have numerous rounds of applications and a variety of creative ways for selecting candidates, including national competitions and media events with a public vote. While these methods are extremely effective, they require a generous budget. A simple and cost effective proposal might be to suggest a process in which the opportunity is advertised through Universities and civil society organizations (e.g. youth NGOs and UNAs), there is a first round of written applications submitted online, and only shortlisted candidates are interviewed. This selection process is extremely flexible and can be adjusted according to available resources.

**Costs to consider:** promotion and advertisement, developing and hosting the online application, committee for reviewing written applications, and logistics for interviews (room, refreshments...etc.)



**2 | Preparation and consultations prior to traveling to the United Nations:** Ideally, the selected Youth Delegate will spend a few weeks or more consulting with youth in the country prior to traveling to the United Nations. To keep costs low, it is important to make use of technology to spread awareness and engage with youth communities. For example, it may be useful to use existing social networking sites to create awareness and reach diverse youth, and carry out online consultations on skype or using other free or low-cost online tools.

**Costs to consider:** travel costs of Youth Delegate to various cities, accommodation, and meals, or if travel does not fit into the budget, costs of online consultations

**TIP:**

Prioritize your reading needs, or you'll drown in the plethora of information! Get a general level of knowledge on the major topics through background reading, past conference reports, newspaper articles, and speaking with local experts. Use the Internet – a lot of the information you need may be found there. Get on the phone or write letters – sometimes government documents are hard to find, or haven't been created. In order to get this information you may need to contact government agencies directly. This might have the added benefit of opening doors for you and establishing contacts.

**3 | Participation at the United Nations:** Probably the most significant costs of the programme will be related to the Youth Delegate's travel to New York and participation at the United Nations. Keep in mind that most Permanent Missions to the UN have a living arrangement in the form of a guest house or guest room which may be used by Youth Delegates for the short time they are in New York to save on accommodation costs.

**Costs to consider:** airfare, accommodation, transport, insurance, phone costs and other daily expenses

**4 | Reporting:** After returning from the United Nations, the Youth Delegate should report back to the Government and the youth constituencies he or she represented. Depending on budget, this may be done through a national tour or online.

**Costs to consider:** travel costs of Youth Delegate to various cities, accommodation, and meals, or if travel does not fit into the budget, costs of online consultations

**5 | Evaluation:** The success of the Youth Delegate programme should be professionally evaluated to show results and lay the foundation for sustained government support of the programme.

**Costs to consider:** external written evaluation

## FUNDING

The more manageable the budget you present to the Government, the higher your chances are for getting direct support. However, providing funding or a fundraising strategy that does not rely entirely on government resources can only improve your chances. If your Government is not able to fund the programme in its entirety, try suggesting a cost-sharing method by which the government covers a part of the total amount, and you raise money for the remaining costs.

Some possible avenues for sponsorship/ funding you may consider:

- Private sector companies with a youth-oriented target audience, a known interest in international relations and UN issues, a history of granting sponsorship money and/or a strong background of Corporate Social Responsibility
- International Agencies with a specific regional interest
- UN Specialized Agency offices in-country, e.g. UNDP, UNICEF
- Airlines for in-kind sponsorship (to cover travel expenses)
- Private trusts or donations from private individuals
- Foundations with an interest in youth issues

- Schools/Universities that may be interested in hosting the programme
- Civil society organizations
- Organizing your own fundraising event, such as a benefit lunch or dinner, a charity sporting event, an arts auction, a bake sale, a musical performance or a gallery exhibition

Here are some websites you can visit for your initial research:

- United Nations Program on Youth: [www.un.org/youth](http://www.un.org/youth)
- Website set up and run by youth delegates themselves: [www.unyouth.com](http://www.unyouth.com)
- United Nations Associations (find contacts for your local UNA): [www.wfuna.org](http://www.wfuna.org)

**Lobbying vs. Advocacy:** Although often used interchangeably, there is a distinction between advocacy and lobbying. Advocacy is the general promotion of an idea or cause through education, outreach, and grassroots organizing. Lobbying is specifically directed at asking an elected official to take a particular position or vote a certain way on a specific piece of legislation or rule.

## 2 | Get others on board

Second, try and build a coalition. It provides a greater base of support for your mobilization goals. By recruiting allies, your Youth Delegate Campaign can generate financial support, volunteers, and other resources to help achieve its goal. The collective influence of groups of individuals is unbelievably powerful.

### COALITION:

A coalition is a group of interdependent people focused on advancing or opposing a particular issue. A coalition's power lies in its ability to present a united front. It mobilizes allies through grassroots efforts to increase community understanding and support.

Find out what youth organizations are active in your country or if there are NGOs that work on UN issues. It is always important to have institutional expertise and backing. The most important groups to get in touch with are:

- **National Youth Councils** – These are umbrella organizations of national youth organizations. National Youth Councils are representative bodies of youth organizations in their country and in most countries are recognized as independent and important contributors to the development of youth policy in their country.
- **United Nations Associations (UNA) or Youth Associations (UNYA)** – These are national non-governmental organizations that exist in over 100 United Nations Member States



UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

## B, THE LOBBYING PROCESS

With your proposal, budget and funding plan in place, you are now ready to approach your Government to lobby for the establishment of a national Youth Delegate Programme or position.

### 1 | Preparation – find out the history

As the first step, find out if your country may have had Youth Delegates in the past, or if someone may already be working on a programme. If there has been a history of Youth Delegates but the programme no longer exists, get in touch with the original Delegates or programme managers to find out why it stopped. This way you may find advice about potential hurdles you may have to be prepared to overcome, or get ideas for a new approach.

If you find that there is already a group lobbying to establish a Youth Delegate Program, inquire about joining their existing efforts.



to enhance the relationship between the people of that country and the United Nations, raise public awareness of the UN and its work, promote the general goals of the UN and act as an advisory body to governments, decision-makers and the news media. UNAs are members of the World Federation of United Nations Associations. To find out if your country has an active UNA or UNYA, go to [www.wfuna.org](http://www.wfuna.org).

- **European Youth Forum** – This forum represents 98 National Youth Councils and International youth organizations across Europe. It is the platform of the National Youth Council and International Non-Governmental Youth Organizations in Europe. It strives for youth rights in international institutions such as the European Union, the Council of Europe and the United Nations.

### 3 | Research your Government's policy on youth

Third, find out what your Government's position is on youth issues by visiting the website of the Ministry in charge of youth affairs. You can use this information to help guide you to the right person or department to contact for your lobbying efforts. Most importantly, it can help you design your campaign to align with the Government's priorities on youth. Being fluent in your government's youth policies will increase your professionalism and legitimacy and provide the basis for relevant and convincing reasoning.

If you find that youth are not at all a national priority, you may need to take a step back and begin by raising awareness about the need for prioritization before lobbying for the Youth Delegate position. By working with the media as part of an awareness campaign, you can tell your story or provide useful information to mass audiences. By creating a popular initiative and generating positive press coverage, you are more likely to convince policymakers and others to join, support, and protect your vision and goals.

#### **Awareness campaign ideas:**

- Letter writing campaigns
- Distributing information packages to officials and the media
- Mobilizing of Members of Parliament to champion issues
- Joining committees or groups
- Using the legal system
- Writing press releases
- Conducting media interviews

- Talking and networking with others
- Phoning-in to radio stations

### 4 | Initiate contact with a Government representative

Use your research and new networks to find the name and contact information of a person in your Government who is responsible for United Nations affairs, or for youth issues. You can do this by looking on the internet and contacting relevant Ministries or other government agencies. These are likely to be the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for Youth, the Ministry for Education, and the Permanent Mission to the UN.

Do keep in mind that your National Youth Council (or similar youth organization) or United Nations Association may already have an established relationship with all or some Ministries of the government and can possibly help you connect with the right people.

Establish a relationship with the government representative, and keep this person as your contact throughout the whole process. When you get in touch with your contact person, ask for a meeting and make sure you:

- Are specific about the purpose of the meeting
- Clearly explain who you are and what your credentials are
- Ask for the appointment well in advance
- Indicate how many people will be coming with you and who they are
- Find out how much time you are likely to have for the meeting (half an hour is normal)
- Confirm the meeting on the day of, and reconfirm how much time you are allotted.

Sometimes arranging a meeting may be simple and straightforward, or it may take some effort. The key is to be persistent and not to give up.

Do not turn down the chance for a meeting if you can only meet with an advisor or assistant. These people make many of the decisions and are often as important behind the scenes as the politician. Go to the meeting and treat them as you would the politician.

Gather information about the person you are meeting with. Find out their name, party, electorate, and any committees they are on or positions they hold that might be relevant.

### KEY POINTS:

- Research- Youth Delegate Programmes and active youth political organizations in your country; your Government's position on Youth issues
- Numbers matter- Recruit new allies and build a coalition
- Utilize the media- Build an awareness campaign
- Do not be discouraged by obstacles and bureaucracy

## 5 | Prepare for your meeting

Before you have a meeting with your contact person, you must make sure you are well prepared. Research can be an effective tool for change, as a simple lack of data and knowledge about an issue may be the cause of government inaction. Research can be a powerful advocacy tool, because it gives policymakers facts and figures. Your argument will be more effective when you back them up with existing examples, best practices and statistics. Make sure you have sufficient information about the latest developments in the field of global youth cooperation and UN issues. Refer to the list of resources provided at the end of this guide.

Be prepared to clearly and concisely explain the importance of including Youth Delegates in the official Government delegation to the UN, the role of the youth delegate, and the benefits for the Government. Be ready to answer any tough questions or objections in a calm, rational manner.

Often you will only get a few minutes to make your point, so it helps to prepare a short, 90-second version of what you want to say. It is always smart to use that 90-second version to begin with, and if there is time, follow that with a more elaborate version of your message.

### **Important things to have prepared and to carry to the meeting:**

- **Formal proposal and budget** (see previous section)
- **Fundraising strategy outline**, if you plan to fundraise
- **Talking points:** Make a check-list of important points to refer to so you don't forget anything crucial during the meeting.

- **Promotional materials:** If you have the time and the resources, it is always useful to bring some visual tools, such as a brochure, a flyer or a very short Power Point presentation.
- **Letters of endorsement/support:** Ask eminent officials and academics to recommend the inclusion of Youth Delegates to the Government delegation to the UN in writing. Obtaining recommendations from the right people can be very persuasive. Consider asking previous or present youth delegates from other countries, UN officials in your country, your country's Mission to the UN, university faculty, or youth leaders to support you.
- **Other relevant documents:** Consider what other supporting material could strengthen your position, e.g. the letter from the focal point on youth supporting youth efforts: [www.un.org/esa/socdev/nyin/documents/promoting\\_youth\\_delegates.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/nyin/documents/promoting_youth_delegates.pdf)
- **Stationery:** Take a pad and pen so you can take notes during the meeting, business cards if you have them and your calendar in case you need to schedule further meetings.
  - ✓ **Be persistent, but not pestering.** Keep trying using different tactics: corridor encounters and writing letters, emails or faxes.
  - ✓ **Take risks.** Approach high-level officials and negotiators and ask them for a meeting. Some contacts may not be able to help you directly, but maintain good relations; they may know colleagues who can help you.
  - ✓ **Follow-up!** Leave a brief written summary of your proposal. Government officials are extremely busy - make sure you follow-up so that you stay on their agenda!

## 6 | The Meeting

Be neat and presentable. Be early! Make sure you are there at least 15 minutes before the start of the meeting. It is a good idea to go in pairs of two; that way when one of you is unsure of what to say, the other one can respond. Never go with more than three people. Be confident and keep in mind that you are offering something worthwhile; you are not asking for a favor.

Start by thanking the politician for the opportunity to meet with them. Make the introductions. Confirm how much time you have.



**TIP:**

If you bring a Power Point, bring your own laptop turned on, with the presentation ready to go. Do not use more than 5 -8 slides, and don't overcrowd the presentation with text.

Present your case simply, without exaggeration or excessive elaboration of detail.

Be polite, and make it your goal to give the politician enough understanding of the importance of including Youth Delegates on the Government delegation to the UN to make an intelligent decision. Make sure you describe the process you have in mind for selecting, preparing and utilizing the Youth Delegates, but allow room for input and suggestions from the Government.

Be diplomatic and professional in your words and actions. Do not let yourself be side-tracked. Don't expect an instant result, as most politicians have learned from experience to avoid making impulsive decisions.

At the end of your meeting, define clear follow-up actions and offer to send any information you brought with you electronically. Ask if there is another colleague who you should also send it to, or if they have suggestions for additional persons for you to meet with.

Regardless of the outcome, thank them for giving you their time and the opportunity to meet with them.

- ✓ **Be accurate:** To build a working relationship and get action, you need to be a credible source of information.
- ✓ **Be brief:** Government officials and their staffs are incredibly busy. They appreciate it when you get to the point and respect their time.
- ✓ **Be courteous:** Always, always be courteous. Being abrasive is almost always counterproductive, and it provides a good excuse to ignore your request.
- ✓ **Be specific:** Get to the point, be concise. Don't say too much or too little.
- ✓ **Be persistent:** Be prepared to deal with obstacles; you must not give up easily.

## 7 | The Follow-up

Within three days of the meeting, send your contact person a thank you letter, ideally in hardcopy, which includes a summary of the main points discussed and follow-up possibilities. Attach any relevant documents, such as soft copy versions of your proposal or additional information the politician may have requested from you during the meeting. Make sure the politician can contact you if they need to.





To get the ball rolling on your initiative, you will probably need to contact the politician again to see if you can move forward with your ideas. Initiate a phone call within a month of your meeting. In the mean time, send brief updates to your contact about any new developments regarding your conversation.

## 8 | Other forms of contact

Sometimes, especially initially, an in-person meeting is not possible. Don't worry, settle for what you can get and go from there.

### Telephone

If you do not succeed in arranging a personal meeting, try to make an appointment to explain the issue over the phone. This is not as ideal as meeting in person, but it can open up doors for you. Ask before your phone call appointment if you can email relevant documents so that you may be able to look at them together while on the phone.

The techniques of polite, uncomplicated explanation of the subject can be effective here. Never be rude or insulting, as this can be counterproductive. Be clear, concise and to the point. Always follow a phone call with a thank you note. That way, they will have a record of your call.

If you feel the call went well, you may want to broach the subject of meeting in-person.

### Writing

Mail provides an opportunity for considered reflection which may be absent in real-time interaction. It provides a physical item on the desk that requires attention. You may choose to send your cover letter and proposal summary to various politicians by mail. Letters are an important and effective way to introduce yourself and your purpose. Lengthy and detailed documentation should be avoided. Many politicians will choose to ignore the document if they encounter a thick sheaf of papers. Make sure to include your name and contact information so they can get in touch easily.

Follow-up any mail with a phone call to confirm it was received, and again a few weeks later to ask for a phone call or a meeting to discuss further details. Hopefully your letter created some interest, and the politician will be eager to meet with you and learn more.

Whether you send an email or letter, make a telephone call or meet with your representative, your communication has an impact proportional to the amount of effort that you put into it, so whichever method you use, make sure you give it one hundred percent.



UN Photo/Mark Corsten



# AUSTRALIA

## SECTION 4

### CASE STUDIES

#### **Who?**

The United Nations Youth Association of Australia (UNYA-Australia) is a national network of young volunteers who strongly believe in the purposes and principles of the United Nations. UNYA-Australia encourages young people to strive towards a greater understanding of global issues and educates them about the United Nations structure, functions and future through advocacy and awareness-raising activities.

#### **The Lobbying Process**

UNYA-Australia began raising its profile with relevant Ministries and Departments of the Australian Government in 1996. The UNYA National Executive Committee drafted a 20-page promotional booklet which included important achievements of the Association and their work. They sent this to all relevant Ministers, Members of Parliament, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The then President and Vice-President of UNYA Australia traveled to Canberra for two days of back-to-back meetings with the relevant Ministers to follow-up and discuss the booklet.

Their increased stature led to the UNYA-Australia being included in various Australian Government events, including NGO human rights consultations held by DFAT and the Attorney-General's Department (AGD). This enabled them to develop a list of contacts within DFAT, AGD and other relevant agencies of the Government.

Establishing strategic contacts helped UNYA-Australia in receiving Government support to represent Australia at the UN World Youth Forum held in Braga, Portugal in 1998. It was in Braga that they learned about the idea of including a Youth Representative in Australia's UN General Assembly delegation.

Upon return from Braga, UNYA-Australia developed a proposal for a Youth Representative to the UN, which was sent to the Australian Foreign Minister. By that stage, UNYA-Australia already had a base level of political support, as the Foreign Minister had spoken at various UNYA events and was familiar with their work. Simultaneous to approaching the Foreign Minister, they also lobbied for the proposal through DFAT.

Ultimately, the Foreign Minister readily agreed to their proposal, and the first Youth Delegate was included in Australia's UNGA delegation in 1999 following a democratic selection process which continues to be used to select the Australian Youth Representative each year.

# BULGARIA



## Who?

The establishment of the Youth Delegate Programme in Bulgaria in 2007 was the result of proactive and steady efforts by the youth section of the United Nations Youth Association of Bulgaria (UNYA-Bulgaria) with the cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. UNYA-Bulgaria has over 100 individual members between the ages of 18-29 years, who are affiliated by their common interest in the UN and its values, principles and activities.

## The Lobbying Process

One of the founding members of UNYA-Bulgaria was in New York on an Open Society fellowship at New York University in 2006, where she was introduced to the concept of the Youth Delegate Programme through her interaction with the initiator of the Youth Delegate Programme in Romania. After returning to Bulgaria, this UNYA leader convinced the President of the UNYA to take on the issue. They approached the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a detailed proposal for introducing the programme in Bulgaria based on practices in various European States and in Australia. They arranged a series of meetings with the Ministry and with the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria in New York.

The Mission agreed to set up an internship programme which would serve as a trial run of the Youth Delegate Programme. The initiator of the idea was selected as the first such intern, for a period of 3 months during which she was able to attend meetings as an observer, liaise with Youth Delegates from other countries, meet with UN diplomats and perform the duties of a Youth Delegate (without formal recognition). As an intern within the Mission she was able to expand her knowledge about the Youth Delegate Programme, compile best practices based on other countries' programs, and build a stronger proposal based on first-hand information and experiences. She continued to lobby for the position at the mission in NY as well as at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bulgaria by way of consistent letters, phone calls and meetings. Valuable letters of support from the UN Youth Unit and references from the German and Romanian Youth Delegate teams helped immensely in the negotiation process.

The revised proposal with a more concrete action plan for a selection mechanism and a youth representative agenda was submitted in March 2007 to the relevant authorities. Two factors proved critical for the success of the negotiations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: a fully researched campaign and the credibility of the UN Association as the patron organization.

In September 2007, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs selected two individuals on an experimental basis to serve as the first official Youth Delegates from Bulgaria to the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the General Assembly. However, the programme was yet to be formally institutionalized – a structured selection process and a source of funding needed to be established.

While accommodation in New York was taken care of by the Mission, funding was only provided for the travel of one of the two Youth Delegates. Through their fundraising efforts, the selected Delegates themselves were able to arrange the second air ticket by way of free miles secured from a private sponsor. They spent one week in New York, after which they reported back to the government on the value of the programme and urged them to formally incorporate the programme.

Since then, Bulgaria has successfully sent a Youth Delegate to the Third Committee of the General Assembly every year. In March 2009, the first national three-round Youth Delegate selection campaign was implemented. The main sponsor of the full-scale national platform was the Goldman Sachs Global Leaders Programme. Additional funding was secured from the UNDP office in Bulgaria, and a private youth travel agency "USIT Colors" sponsored one ticket to New York while the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sponsored the second ticket and provided accommodation for both delegates in New York.



# GERMANY

## Who?

In 2003 the United Nations Association of Germany (UNA-Germany) and the German National Youth Council, which is the umbrella organization of all major youth organizations in Germany, met to discuss how to jointly set-up a youth delegate program. They agreed to both be carriers of the program.

The Youth Council would contribute the link to its young members, and the UNA would contribute the UN-related expertise.

## The Lobbying Process

After extensive research on the Youth Delegate Programme and on resolutions in which the General Assembly called on Member States to include youth-delegates in their delegations, a formal proposal was prepared including a two page document outlining:

- The aim of the Youth Delegate Programme
- The suggested role and responsibilities of the Youth delegate ( prior to participation at the UN, during, and after)
- The proposed selection process
- The projected cost of the programme (as well as who would sponsor the costs)
- How the Youth Delegates would be prepared for the role (and by whom)
- The national benefits

The UNA and the Youth Council jointly approached the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry for Youth. The UNA was primarily responsible for contacting the Foreign Ministry and the Youth Council was primarily responsible for contacting the Ministry for Youth. As the carriers anticipated that the officials would have several questions and require clarifications before accepting the programme, the letter was directed at setting-up a meeting with them to discuss the idea. This meeting made it possible for them to justify the need for a German Youth Delegate to the UN, as well as explain the value of the program in more detail. What proved very useful for the two organizations during this meeting was the vast knowledge of how other countries implemented their respective Youth Delegate Programmes.

During this time, the Sub-Committee on UN-issues of the German Parliament issued a statement of support for the Youth Delegate Programme, which was a politically important sign of support and good leverage for the two organizations.

What made the negotiations easier was that the UNA and the Youth Council were willing and able to cover all expenses of the Youth Delegate Programme in Germany.

The Ministries supported the idea in principle, but the specifics and practicalities of the Programme still had to be worked out, including how the youth representatives would be integrated within the official delegation, whether or not they would receive speaking rights, the duration of their stay in New York, and which meetings they would attend, etc. After several rounds of consultations, a common vision for the role of the Youth Delegate was established. It was decided that the German Youth Delegates would serve as advisors and would not be allowed to speak on behalf of Germany in the General Assembly; however, they would deliver a speech to the Third Committee.

Once the role of the Youth Delegate had been finalized, attention was turned toward establishing a sound nationwide selection process. After numerous brain-storming sessions, a democratic and transparent process was finalized.

The German Youth Delegate Programme was initially set up for a one year test-phase. After evaluation of the pilot programme, it was agreed to establish it as a continuous annual project. The German Youth Delegate programme was formally established in 2005 and has been running extremely successfully since then.

# GHANA



## Who?

The idea of the Youth Delegate programme and its implementation in Ghana were led by two youth activists beginning in 2004.

## Lobbying Process

First, extensive research was conducted on Youth Delegate programmes in countries where it had been successfully implemented, as this was an entirely new concept in the region. Once the idea was conceived, an initial proposal was drafted and submitted to the National Youth Council of Ghana. It was further submitted to the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Examples of successful programs in Australia, Germany and others were cited to support and strengthen the proposal.

Intense lobbying followed in the form of discussion and dialogue. The concept was favourably received by the Youth Council of Ghana and by the relevant Government agencies, Ministries and the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations. However, funding became a central concern. This challenge could only be overcome by looking at alternative sources of funding instead of relying directly on the Government.

The year 2005 was an important year for youth at the United Nations. It marked the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly which held special meetings to review the achievements in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth. International Youth Day 2005 was leveraged by the two youth activists to promote the Youth Delegate programme nation-wide through a series of workshops and seminars.

While spreading awareness and advocating for youth representation, strong efforts were made to establish funding for the program. The fundraising was a success. The National Council for Swedish Youth Organizations (LSU), which had activities in Ghana, agreed to provide financial assistance to help fund one Ghanaian Youth Delegate to participate at the United Nations. The first Youth Delegate was selected and completed his term, which served as a pilot program to show the program's effectiveness to the Government of Ghana.

In 2008, the government decided to formally incorporate the Youth Delegate programme and agreed to sponsor five young people to participate in 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the General Assembly.

In 2009, a permanent office was established by the National Youth Council to carry out the selection process, recruit representatives and raise funds independently, with a mandate of ensuring continuity and sustainability of the programme.

Ghana, one of the first African states to formally adopt and implement a national Youth Delegate Programme, used their own experience to launch a leadership drive in 2009, with the goal of helping young people from other countries in the region to lobby for youth representation at the United Nations.

## Key structures adopted for the Youth Delegate Programme in Ghana:

1. Nationwide selection
2. Robust publicity
3. Partnerships
4. Independent fundraising
5. Strong management
6. Volunteerism



# RWANDA

## Who?

A group of youth activists spearheaded the campaign for a national Youth Delegate to the UN Programme in Rwanda.

## The Lobbying Process

The starting point for the youth activists was becoming familiar with what the Youth Delegate Programme entailed, and how other young people had lobbied their governments for representation at the United Nations. This included connecting with current and former Youth Delegates and the United Nations Programme on Youth, and conducting extensive research on past youth-related resolutions. Based on this research, the youth activists began drafting a proposal of their own.

In the proposal, emphasis was given to the importance of youth participation in decision-making processes and to the UNs commitment to youth, citing relevant resolutions pertaining to youth. It was further emphasized that Rwanda would be among the first African states to implement the programme.

The draft proposal was submitted for feedback to the World Youth Alliance, a youth-led organization that is very active in Rwanda. In addition, a series of meetings were organized with University professors for further feedback, advice and direction. During this process, one of the professors became a mentor to the youth activists and provided them with regular advice. As students, they felt it was important to have someone older with a wide range of experience as an advisor.

The finished proposal was sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Youth Council and the Ministry of Youth. One month later, a serious follow-up process was begun. First, meetings were arranged with contacts in the relevant Government departments. The meetings were followed up with brief emails and phone calls, to find out about any advancement in the process and to keep the issue on the agenda of the new Government contacts. At least one phone call was made to each department weekly.

Finally, a favorable response was received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. However, the Ministry indicated that the initiative would require additional

clearance from the Ministry of Youth and the National Youth Council. The youth activists visited the Ministry of Youth and the National Youth Council frequently and were able to establish a good relationship with the Youth-Mobilizer Expert in Ministry of Youth. After a series of meetings, the Youth-Mobilizer Expert was convinced, and he organized a final formal appointment with the Minister of Youth. The Minister appreciated the initiative, and he expressed his commitment and the Ministry's commitment to support the initiative.

It was decided that the two individuals who initiated the programme would represent Rwanda as the first Youth Delegates from Rwanda. This was formalized with a letter of nomination from the Ministry of Youth, which was approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who further connected them with the Permanent Mission to the UN.

However, as the Ministry had already finalized its annual budget, it was unable to support the programme financially. The two selected Youth Delegates secured a letter of nomination and endorsement from their Government, which they used to approach sponsors. After working out a budget, they sent out the sponsorship proposal along with their letter of nomination to various organizations and UN agencies. Initially only one, GTZ Rwanda, responded positively and provided partial funding. Shortly thereafter, support came in from the National Youth Council as well as from UNICEF. Finally, the Youth Delegates published a report highlighting their achievements to date, and they sent it out to other possible sponsors including private sector companies.

Eventually they were able to secure all the necessary funding, and one of the two Youth Delegates succeeded in traveling to New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly (the other was unfortunately denied a visa). Rwanda now has an official Youth Delegate Programme, and it is currently working on establishing a democratic recruitment process and securing a permanent method of funding the project.

## BEST PRACTICES

1. Plan your campaign: lobbying your government is not an easy and straightforward path. A well thought out advocacy strategy can play a vital role in helping to avoid mistakes or to recognize hidden opportunities.
2. Make use of the experiences of others who have done the job before you: establish contact with current and former Youth Delegates. They are possibly the best people to assist you in this process as they have first hand information. In all the above case studies the individuals have benefitted from having a support system of former Youth Delegates.
3. Research is key: research can be a powerful advocacy tool. Your argument will be more effective when there are existing examples, facts and numbers to back you up. Make sure you have sufficient information about the latest developments in the field of global youth cooperation and UN issues. Refer to the list of resources provided at the end of this guide.
4. Write a great proposal: study in detail the various aspects of the Youth Delegate Programme run in other countries and create a programme that best suits your country's national priorities, requirements and budget. Make a list of possible managing agencies for the programme (for example the UNA, National Youth Council etc.), work out a feasible national selection process, the role of the Youth Delegate (prior to, at the UN and after) and prepare a thorough budget.
5. Have a source of funding established: it makes the process much easier when the value of including a youth delegate is not weighed against an increase in the total cost for the government. Use your own networks and the media to make appeals for support. Get in touch with your community – community organizations often like to help young people attend events like this and have money for that purpose. Below are a few links to websites which list available international and youth related grants:  
[www.fundsnetsservices.com/internat.htm](http://www.fundsnetsservices.com/internat.htm)  
[www.nonprofitexpert.com/international.htm](http://www.nonprofitexpert.com/international.htm)  
[www.aandolan.org/node/21](http://www.aandolan.org/node/21)
6. Get others on board: spread awareness and generate interest about the Youth Delegate Programme to build support, raise funds and recruit volunteers.
7. Establish legitimacy: letters of support and endorsement from public figures and officials will help strengthen your lobbying efforts. You can be very persuasive when obtaining these recommendations from the right people.
8. Establish a trial year: often officials are skeptical about authorizing the set up of new projects. Suggesting a pilot project on an experimental basis can be the first stepping stone toward institutionalizing the programme.
9. Don't turn down any opportunities: appointing an intern at the mission in New York turned out to be the starting point for the establishment of the Youth Delegate Programme in Romania.



# SECTION 5

## RESOURCES & FURTHER READING

### Existing resources available on the Youth Delegate Program and on youth participation

#### United Nations Program on Youth

- “A Guide to Youth Delegates to the United Nations” (2010) [www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/delegate-guide.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/delegate-guide.pdf)
- How to set up a Youth Delegate Program (Half page overview) [www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/youthrep.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/youthrep.htm)
- Country Profiles (Including selection process, role and contact information for 6 member states) [www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/youthrep.htm#profiles](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/youthrep.htm#profiles)

#### Resources by former and current Youth Delegates

- Paper on “How to become a Youth Delegate” [www.unyouth.com/documents/Steps%20to%20set%20up%20a%20Youth%20Delegate%20programme.pdf](http://www.unyouth.com/documents/Steps%20to%20set%20up%20a%20Youth%20Delegate%20programme.pdf)
- International Guide to Lobbying for Youth Representation at the United Nations General Assembly (written by a former Youth Delegate from Malta) [www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/Youthdelegatelobbying.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/Youthdelegatelobbying.pdf)
- Info kit prepared by former Youth Delegates to GA 58 (2003) – includes information on importance of youth participation and country profile [www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/infokit.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/infokit.pdf)
- Info kit prepared by former Youth Delegates to GA 59 (2004) – includes information on importance of youth participation and country profiles [www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/yd2004toolkit.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/yd2004toolkit.pdf)

#### United Nations Population Fund

- “A Case for Investing in Young People” (2005) [www.unfpa.org/public/global/pid/1289](http://www.unfpa.org/public/global/pid/1289)
- “Framework for Action on Adolescents and Youth” (2007) [www.unfpa.org/public/home/publications/pid/396](http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/publications/pid/396)

#### European Youth Forum

- Guide for youth NGOs at UN Meetings – small section directed at Youth Delegates to the General Assembly [www.youthforum.org/sites/youthforum.org/files/\\_old\\_website\\_yfj\\_files/Downloads/Press\\_publications/reports/UN.pdf](http://www.youthforum.org/sites/youthforum.org/files/_old_website_yfj_files/Downloads/Press_publications/reports/UN.pdf)



## United Nations Association of Canada

"Navigating International Meetings: A Pocketbook Guide to Effective Youth Participation"  
[www.unac.org/en/pocketbook/index.asp](http://www.unac.org/en/pocketbook/index.asp)

## Helpful websites

**The World Federation of United Nations Associations**  
[www.wfuna.org](http://www.wfuna.org)

**UN Youth Delegates**  
[www.unyouth.com](http://www.unyouth.com)

**Global Youth Action Network**  
<http://gyan.figweb.org/>

**The Youth Employment Summit**  
[www.yesweb.org](http://www.yesweb.org)

**The Youth Employment Network**  
[www.ilo.org/yen](http://www.ilo.org/yen)

**The United Nations Cyber Schoolbus**  
[www.cyberschoolbus.un.org](http://www.cyberschoolbus.un.org)

**The World Bank – You think**  
[www.youthink.worldbank.org](http://www.youthink.worldbank.org)

**Peace Child International**  
[www.peacechile.org](http://www.peacechile.org)

**War Child**  
[www.warchild.org](http://www.warchild.org)

**Save the Children**  
[www.savethechildren.net](http://www.savethechildren.net)

## National Youth Delegate Programme websites

**Dutch Youth Delegates**  
[www.wouternaardevn.nl](http://www.wouternaardevn.nl)

**German Youth Delegates**  
[www.jugenddelegierte.de](http://www.jugenddelegierte.de)

**Australian Youth Delegates**  
[www.youthrep.org.au](http://www.youthrep.org.au)

**Romanian Youth Delegates**  
[www.unyouthdelegate.ro](http://www.unyouthdelegate.ro)

**Swiss Youth Delegates**  
<http://youthrep08.wordpress.com/>

## United Nations departments and agencies working on youth issues

**United Nations Programme on Youth**  
[www.un.org/youth](http://www.un.org/youth)

**United Nations Population Fund**  
[www.unfpa.org](http://www.unfpa.org)

**Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
Division for Social Policy and Development**  
[www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin)

**Division for the Advancement of Women**  
[www.un.org/womenwatch](http://www.un.org/womenwatch)

**Division for Sustainable Development**  
[www.un.org/esa/sustdev](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev)

**United Nations Department of Public Information**  
<http://unic.un.org>

**United Nations Centre for Human Settlements**  
[www.unchsh.org](http://www.unchsh.org)

**United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**  
[www.unodc.org/youthnet](http://www.unodc.org/youthnet)

**United Nations Development Programme**  
[www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)

**United Nations Environment Programme**  
[www.unep.org/tunza](http://www.unep.org/tunza)

**Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**  
[www.unhchr.ch](http://www.unhchr.ch)

**United Nations Children's Fund**  
[www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)

**United Nations Development Fund for Women**  
[www.unifem.undp.org](http://www.unifem.undp.org)

**United Nations Centre for International  
Crime Prevention**  
[www.odccp.org/crime\\_prevention.html](http://www.odccp.org/crime_prevention.html)

**Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS**  
[www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org)

**International Labour Organization**  
[www.ilo.org/youth](http://www.ilo.org/youth)

**The Secretary-General's Youth Employment Network**  
[www.un.org/esa/socdev/youthemployment/index.html/](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/youthemployment/index.html/)





**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

[www.fao.org/ruralyouth](http://www.fao.org/ruralyouth)

**United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**

[www.unesco.org/youth](http://www.unesco.org/youth)

**International Telecommunication Union**

[www.itu.int/ITU-D/youth/YLinlCTs/documents/websiteYLinlct.html](http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/youth/YLinlCTs/documents/websiteYLinlct.html)

**World Health Organization**

[www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

**United Nations Volunteers**

[www.unv.org](http://www.unv.org)

**The World Bank**

[www.worldbank.org/childrenandyouth](http://www.worldbank.org/childrenandyouth)

**Important Youth Resolutions<sup>1</sup>**

2009

General Assembly Resolution on Policies and programmes involving youth, A/RES/64/130

2009

General Assembly Resolution on Proclamation of 2010 as International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding, A/RES/64/134

2009

Commission for Social Development, 47th Session Policies and programmes involving youth, included in the Report on the 47th Session to the Economic and Social Council (E/2009/26 & E/CN.5/2009/9)

2007

General Assembly Resolution on Policies and programmes involving youth: youth in the global economy – promoting youth participation in social and economic development (contains the Supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth A/RES/62/126)

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Commission for Social Development, 44th Session Resolution on Youth Employment 2006/15 (Ref. E/2006/26)

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2004

General Assembly Resolution on tenth anniversary of WPAY (A/RES/59/148)

2003

General Assembly Resolution on Policies and Programmes Involving Youth (A/RES/58/133)

2001

General Assembly Resolution on Promoting Youth Employment (A/RES/57/165)

2001

General Assembly Resolution on Policies and Programmes Involving Youth (A/RES/56/117)

1999

General Assembly Resolution on Policies and Programmes Involving Youth (A/RES/54/120)

1997

General Assembly Resolution on Policies and Programmes Involving Youth (A/RES/52/83)

1995

General Assembly Resolution on the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (A/RES/50/81)

1985

General Assembly Resolution on the International Youth Year (A/RES/40/14)

1981

General Assembly Resolution on the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace (A/RES/36/28)

**Reports of the Secretary General regarding Youth Issues<sup>1</sup>**

2009

Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth: progress and constraints with respect to the well-being of youth and their role in civil society (A/64/61 & E/2009/3)

2007

Goals and Targets for Monitoring the Progress of Youth in the Global Economy (Addendum to A/62/61 & E/2007/7)

<sup>1</sup>United Nations Programme on Youth - [www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/library.htm#resolutions](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/library.htm#resolutions)

2007

Follow-up to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (A/62/61 & E/2007/7)

2005

World Youth Report 2005 (A/60/61 & E/2005/7)

2005

Making commitments matter: young people's input to the 10-year review of the World Programme of Action for Youth (A/60/156)

2005

Global analysis and evaluation of national action plans on youth employment (A/60/133)

2003

Promoting Youth Employment (A/58/229)

2003

World Youth Report 2003 (A/58/79 & E/CN.5/2003/4)

2001

Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (A/56/180)

1999

Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (A/54/59)

1997

Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (A/52/60 - E/1997/6)

## Relevant Documents

Letter of the Government of Senegal to the General Assembly conveying the results of the fourth session of the Forum (A/C.3/56/2)

Dakar Youth Empowerment Strategy adopted at the fourth session World Youth Forum of the United Nations System

Lisbon Declaration and Braga Youth Action Plan (together in one file - A/53/378)

Guide to the Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth

World Youth Report – 2003, 2005, 2007 & 2009

Making Commitments Matter: A Toolkit for young people to evaluate national youth policy

Navigating International Meetings: A pocketbook guide to effective youth participation

Growing Together: Youth and the Work of the United Nations

Empowering Youth through National Policies (UNESCO):

Toolkit for Volunteerism - Volunteering the Youth Way (UNDP/UNV)

The Participation Rights of Adolescents: A strategic approach (UNICEF)





# TESTIMONIALS

YOUTH AT THE UN: A HANDBOOK FOR ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL YOUTH DELEGATE PROGRAMME TO THE UNITED NATIONS



UNIPA Photo

## **“Being the Australian Youth Delegate to the UN**

was a turning point for me. Before the role, I was passionate about the United Nations and its principles, and inspired by the hope that young people personify in our human family. However, the role increased this passion and inspiration ten-fold. When I traveled my country gaining a mandate to represent Australia’s children and young people, I focused on engaging the most vulnerable in the community. Educating children and young people in these disadvantaged circumstances about their right to be heard and to participate was an enormous privilege, because it is our awareness of the power of our voice that moves us from feeling powerless to empowered. To see young people’s horizons broadened by the mere knowledge that their best interests are expounded and protected under the framework of a family of nations known as the UN was incredible. To then deliver our voices and testimonies in UN statements, forums and negotiations was a great responsibility and honor that I continually hope to earn. From the entire experience, I learned that there is a special synergy between the UN and young people, since each is the other’s greatest asset. While the UN serves all people and places, it ultimately facilitates a better world for today’s youth and future generations. Similarly, the biggest supporters behind the UN are children and young people, since our clear perspective makes us the most capable of sharing its dream for humanity.”

- Chris Varney, Australian Youth Delegate, 2009

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## **“The beauty of being a youth delegate, in my opinion,**

lies not just in representing your country, but also in interacting with other talented youth delegates from around the world. You will come to realize there is so much to see and learn just by being in the United Nations. I strongly urge those countries without youth delegates to consider the benefits of engaging young people within their own delegations to the United Nations. As we, the youth, are the future representative who will one day come to voice the concerns of each nation, I believe having a Youth Delegate is a crucial indicator of country’s future effectiveness at the United Nations.”

- Hyunju Sim, Korean Youth Delegate, 2009



## **“It is such an amazing experience**

to carry the weight of the voice of youth of an entire nation on your shoulders. It is such pride. The Youth Delegate Programme affords youth the opportunity for open-minded dialogue on issues affecting youth on a global level and the experience allows one to make strategic inputs into local action and initiatives. This experience built my confidence and bolstered my aspirations towards contributing to the voice of young people at the global level. I am so grateful for this initiative.”

- Simeone Saint Azoska, Ghana Youth Delegate, 2009

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## **“Walking through the corridors of the United Nations,**

meeting with people from countries which I have never heard of before, and discussing challenging topics with other Youth Delegates were unique experiences for me. As the single Youth Delegate from a Muslim country, it was a “consciousness expanding” experiment for me to observe that people around the world are facing similar problems independent from their origin and religion. Problems such as global warming, youth unemployment, youth justice transcend cultures. All of us Youth Delegates from very different countries were able to discuss these topics and offer the United Nations the youth version of possible solutions.”

- Seyithan Ahmet, Turkish Youth Delegate, 2009





**Do you want youth from your country to be represented at the United Nations? Your government does not yet have a Youth Delegate Programme? This handbook will guide you through the process of developing a proposal and budget for a national Youth Delegate Programme, as well as taking you step-by-step through creating your own campaign for such a Programme. Our ultimate goal – significantly increased youth participation at the United Nations!**

*“The beauty of being a youth delegate, in my opinion, lies not just in representing your country, but also in interacting with other talented youth delegates from around the world. You will come to realize there is so much to see and learn just by being in the United Nations.”*

*- Hyunju Sim, Korean Youth Delegate, 2009*

*“While the UN serves all people and places, it ultimately facilitates a better world for today’s youth and future generations. The biggest supporters behind the UN are children and young people, since our clear perspective makes us the most capable of sharing its dream for humanity.”*

*- Chris Varney, Australian Youth Delegate, 2009*

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