



New York, 7th October 2008

REPORT ON CURRENT STATUS OF YOUTH DELEGATES
TO HONOURABLE SECRETARY GENERAL BAN KI MOON

Since 1979 the UN General Assembly has invited Member States to take up young people as Youth Representatives to their delegations in order to ensure youth participation in UN bodies. This invitation has been renewed numerous times (52/83, 54/120, 56/117, 58/133, 59/148, 60/2, 62/126). Youth Delegates provide a unique channel for young people to raise their voices at the UN, and they effectively communicate UN resolutions or programmes at the grass-root level.

During the last decade there has been a growing support for Youth Delegates, especially in 2005 to the 10th anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and beyond. However, regrettably the number of Member States sending Youth Delegates never surmounted 30. Still most of the Youth Delegates originate from European or countries of a Western influence with a few exceptions only. Some countries such as Canada, Italy or Russia have sent Youth Delegates on an irregular basis, but especially developing countries have been underrepresented.

Growing support
for Youth
Delegates, but
under-
representation
of developing
countries.

THIS YEAR 16 MEMBER STATES SENT YOUTH DELEGATES:

Australia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Slovakia, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland and Thailand. In Egypt, Poland, Serbia a.o. youth organisations are negotiating to set up a Youth Delegates Programme.

PREPARATION TO UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

Over the last years programmes have professionalized greatly: Youth Delegates organise extensive consultation processes in order to reach a profound understanding of national youth issues. Youth Delegates from Australia, Germany, Romania, and The Netherlands organised tours through their home countries visiting schools, youth organisations, attended conferences, panel debates a.o.. A vast majority of Youth Delegates consulted with the relevant youth organisations, National Youth Councils and other similar youth-led organisations where they exist in order to become experts on national youth politics. Many attend meetings of their national decision making bodies and coordinate their work with their ministry of foreign affairs and the responsible youth ministry.

Extensive
consultation
processes
through national
tours or
consultations
with youth
organisations

In addition through an international preparation meeting numerous Youth Delegates could meet before and discuss common matters of concern.

WORK AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY:



Youth Delegates to the 63rd UN General Assembly

www.unyouthdelegates.org

The amount of time during which Youth Delegates are present at the General Assembly varies greatly from 1-2 weeks to 2 months. A growing number of Youth Delegates can deliver statements to the 3rd Committee of the GA, but very few can speak on the behalf of the government during informal meetings, and through that fully realize their office as a Youth Representative.

Before, during and after the UN GA Youth Delegates work together closely online with a view at raising greater awareness on youth issues. This applies especially to the publication of a newsletter, a common website (www.unyouthdelegates.org), joint events, content coordination with regional youth organisations and knowledge transfer.

Numerous speeches before to the 3rd Committee, but only few can speak on behalf of their governments during informals.

SELECTION PROCEDURES ON NATIONAL LEVEL:

Youth Delegates as requested in 62/126 shall be selected through a transparent process. Most of them are selected in cooperation with a national Youth Council, its equivalent body or a national UN Youth Organisation Association and the responsible ministries.

In approx. half of the countries the selection procedure is designed as a national open call/ competition open to all young people within a certain age range. In the Netherlands Youth Delegates are even selected through a TV casting show.

Diverse selection procedures: From nominations of national youth councils to a casting show!

COOPERATION WITH PERMANENT MISSIONS:

Mutual feedback from the missions and Youth Delegates has been widely positive. Most of the countries that have established Youth Delegates Programs see their Youth Delegates as a resource and a unique link to the young people of their nations. Nevertheless, priority must still be given to ensure continuity of the existing programmes and to establish Youth Delegates in developing countries in order to finally implement A/RES/62/126, para. 18.

Latest Call for Youth Delegates: **A**/RES/62/126, para. 18.

The UN General Assembly "*Stresses also* the importance of ensuring that young people are recognized as active agents in decision-making processes and for positive change and development in society, urges Member States , in this regard, to consider including youth representatives in their delegations to all relevant discussions in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, bearing in mind the principles of gender balance and non - discrimination, and emphasizes that such youth representatives should be selected through a transparent process which ensures that they have a suitable mandate to represent young people in their countries"

We thank you for Your attention,

THE YOUTH DELEGATES 2008



Youth Delegates
to the 63rd
UN General Assembly

www.unyouthdelegates.org

Australia	Elizabeth Shaw and Melanie Poole
Azerbaijan	Araz Gasimli and Rovshan Muradov
Bulgaria	Elizabeta Petrova
Finland	Anna Ranki
Germany	Astrid Schrader and Nicolas Klein
Ghana	Andrew Poku-Bonsu, Ransford Addo and Hagar Korantemaa
Jamaica	Odale Mulgrave and Traci-Ann Johns
Mexico	Raymundo Tamayo
Netherlands	Wouter Thiebou
Norway	Ingrid Grov Mannsverk and Petter Hojem
Romania	Alexandra Martin and Bogdan Covaliu
Slovakia	Michal Onderco
South Korea	Young Joe Hur
Sweden	Marie Wickberg
Switzerland	Jonas Rey
Thailand	Roazita Ma and Tanawat Phaovibul