

# YOUNG UN NEWS



Young people at the 46th Commission for Social Development – Newsletter #Issue 1 February 13

## Youth at CSocD:

### Young statements at the Commission for Social Development (CSocD)

*"Thank you to the distinguished Youth Delegate of the Republic of Korea. I welcome youth participation at the Commission".*

H.E. Mr. Alexei Tulbure, Chairperson of the 46<sup>th</sup> session of the CSocD



Official **Youth Delegates** from Bulgaria, Republic of Korea, Romania and Tanzania and Youth NGOs from all over the world are attending the 46<sup>th</sup> Session of CSocD.

On Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup> some of them held their statements at the Commission. Andrei Mehedintu, Youth Delegate from **Romania**, spoke about the right of young people to work and problems they are facing to enter the labour market. Young Joe Hur, Youth Delegate from the **Republic of Korea**, emphasized the important role of Information- and Communication Technology (ICT) and youth participation to become an active member of society.

Formal and non-formal education as key to employment was highlighted in the statement of the **European Youth Forum** and **WOSM** (World Organization of the Scout Movement). They mentioned the important role of youth-led organizations in policy-making, job-creation and entrepreneurship and criticized the lack of youth participations and Youth Delegates at the 46<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting.

A statement of different **Youth NGOs** attending CSocD included vocational training, youth participation in decision making and formal and non-formal education on entrepreneurship.

Member States and Youth NGOs stated the crucial importance of employment for youth, and young people urge Member States to strengthen the resolution to the priority theme regarding young people, taking into account the measurable **goals and targets** presented by the Secretary General in 2007 and the **Resolution on Youth in the Global Economy**, adopted at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the General Assembly (A/RES/62/126)

## New MDG Target on Youth Employment

A revised MDG monitoring framework has recently been adopted. It includes a **new target on achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all**, including women and young people, under Goal 1. The inclusion of this new target is a recognition of the importance of decent and productive work as an effective anti-poverty instrument.

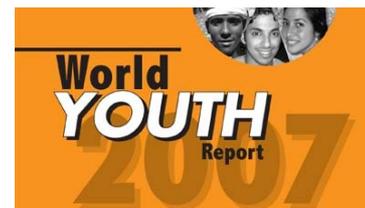
In addition to the target on full and productive employment, three other targets (on access to reproductive health services, access to HIV/AIDS treatment, and biodiversity) have been added. New list of targets and indicators:

<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Host.aspx?Content=Indicators/OfficialList.htm>

## Youth Employment Network (YEN)

47% of the world's unemployed are youth between 15 and 24 (ILO)

YEN is an initiative of the former Secretary General Kofi Annan. The partners of the YEN are the World Bank, the ILO and the UN Secretary. Linked to this work there is a **Youth Consultative Group** consisting of youth organizations.



## World Youth Report 2007

On December 18th, 2007 the World Youth Report 2007 titled **„Young People's Transition to Adulthood: Progress and Challenges"** was presented by UN General Secretary Ban Ki-Moon to the public.

The most important trends in youth development are analyzed in 8 chapters with a regional perspective. Since 2003 a World Youth Report has been published every second year in order to examine the challenges and possibilities for approx. 1.2 million young people around the world in the age between 15 and 24 years. The WYR is based on the World Program on Action for Youth (WPAY).

According to the WYR 2007 today's young people are overall the best educated generation of youth in history. However, for many young people, the transition to adulthood is slowed down by poverty and their inability to find decent work. With youth unemployment rates high in most countries, many young people turn to the informal economy where they work long hours, are paid low wages and lack social protection.

The Report calls for policy makers to address as a matter of priority the obstacles that continue to limit youth participation in the development of their societies. The Report maintains that youth are not passively waiting for solutions to be handed to them; they are actively searching for solutions. Review the full report at [www.un.org/youth](http://www.un.org/youth)

## A world fit for children

**Wouter Thiebou and Sandra van Beest, official Youth Representatives of the Netherlands and Darko Petrovic from Poland and Serbia had the chance to participate in the Commemorative High Level Plenary Meeting on Children's Issues:**

"A World Fit For Children! That was the title and the aim of the high level plenary meeting in December. Sandra, Darko and I, Wouter, were present. It was my first task as the new Youth Delegate from the Netherlands. At the World Fit For Children summit five years ago governments committed to a set of specific goals in four priority areas. Progress has been made, but not to the level they committed to. Sandra and I worked together with 89 children between 11 and 17 that were present at the summit. Their input was invaluable and I was deeply inspired by them. Sandra had the possibility to do a short intervention during the roundtable on HIV/Aids. The Assembly's two-day high-level meeting concluded with the adoption of a short declaration reaffirming global and national commitments. I was rather impressed by the summit, but cynicism did kick in. The input of the children and youth was very small and some of them even rebelled and mentioned their frustration during the second roundtable. The whole meeting seemed rather symbolic. Nevertheless I hope that the renewed commitment will focus again on the most important population group, the children."

## Youth all over: Action towards the MDGs

Mirta Moragas, 24 (Paraguay) and her youth organization "**Las Ramonas**" are working towards MDG number 3 "Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women":

"We are a feminist organization of young women named "**Las Ramonas**". We want to participate in the feminist debate, to make it more creative, to break conservative practices and create "another world", with justice and equality between men and women. We want to diversify the ways of conception of the feminism and to see that equality in relations between man and women can be created in different ways in the society."

### What are your experiences with this work?

We work in networks and campaign, as the **legalization of abortion in Latin America and the Caribbean**, a campaign against gender violence and violence against women. At **regional level** we are participating at a program of UNIFEM on leadership of young women in the region and are working in networks, which create spaces of reflection and formation on the young feminism and its way to face a project of social transformation. At **local level** we are engaged in a network against all kinds of discrimination, which prompts a government bill that guarantees mechanisms for effective eradication through public politics.

**What is your motivation?** We believe in building a fair and just world; it is indispensable to eliminate the asymmetries in the relations between man and women. We cannot conceive a different society while half of its population - the women - are discriminated and receive a differentiated negative treatment, only because they are woman.

*"The Ramonas" are working at national level, but also we want to share experiences with other youth organizations that are interested in changing the forms of relations among people. We invite them to visit our site [www.lasramonas.wordpress.com](http://www.lasramonas.wordpress.com) and to contact us at [lasramonas@gmail.com](mailto:lasramonas@gmail.com)*

## To establish a Youth Delegate Programme: How to make it happen in your country



We interviewed Malgorzata Nawrocka (22) and Darko Petrovic (22), two interns at the United Nations, about their efforts, struggles and successes to establish a Youth Delegate Programme in their countries of origin – Poland and Serbia.

### How did you take up this initiative?

As students of International Relations and European Studies we share much sympathy with the United Nations and as such we were very engaged in promoting its work and ideals through the establishment of a United Nations Student Association in Maastricht during our studies. This is how we got to know the YD programme and why we got eager to make it happen also in our countries.

### What was the motivation to take up the challenge?

First of all, it is the recognition of the fact that the world which we want to see in the future depends first and foremost on *our effort* to make it happen. It is also for the reason that we are tired of hearing from the older generation that we are a 'problem'. The YD Programme is such an opportunity, where the young can have an impact – especially in decision-making – and prove that they can be a part of the solution to many challenges we face nowadays.

### How far did you bring forward the programme in your countries? What is the current status of your work?

In Poland we got a very good way forward! We managed to get crucial support from the United Nations Information Centre in Warsaw which will take up the necessary steps in the design and implementation of the programme. In Serbia, we have together with the UNA of Serbia designed the entire programme already in July and since then we are bringing the proposal forward to the Serbian government and in particular its MFA. The response we got so far is very positive but unfortunately the current political realities in the region hinder further steps to be taken

**Malgorzata, Darko, thank you for your time!**