



## Youth Resolution finally adopted

Weeks of negotiations and redrafting has come to an end. The Resolution focusing on Youth in the Global Economy is now a reality.

### MDGs + WPAY + Youth = TRUE Development

The resolution recognizes that the achievement of the MDGs requires the full participation of youth and youth-led organizations.

### Door-opener in PRSP processes

- We see the resolution as an important tool for Youth Organisations when it comes to lobbying for youth chapters in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and for National Youth Policies, says Christoffer Grønstad, Bureau Member of the European Youth Forum (YFJ). YFJ will develop a tool for Member Organisations and partners on how to use the resolution.

### Important recognition of NFE and NYCs

Through the resolution the Member States recognize the critical role of non-formal (and formal) education (NFE) in the work to eradicate poverty.

The resolution also calls upon Member States to ensure adequate funding for formal and non-formal education and to support National Youth Councils (NYCs) and similar structures both politically and financially.

### Anti-discrimination

The Youth Delegates have been working hard to ensure the focus of non-discrimination throughout the resolution.

- We are happy with the strong focus on anti-discrimination in the resolution but a little disappointed about the attitude of some of the Member States, says the Norwegian Youth Delegate Marianne Nerland.

- We expect the Member States to ensure ALL young people equal rights when implementing the World Program of Action for Youth, she continues.



**18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child:**

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## Children Rights are Human Rights!

By Jonathan Mack, German Youth Delegate

**The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child turned 18 on November 20th. Being ratified by 193 States, only missing the USA and Somalia, the CRC is the most widely recognized human rights agreement in the world.**

The Convention states that everyone under the age of 18 (the definition of a child), regardless of gender, origin, religion or possible disabilities, needs special care and protection because children are often the most vulnerable.

The 54 articles are guided by four principles: non-discrimination (art.2), the best interest of the child (art.3), survival, development and protection (art.6) and participation (art.12).

However, 18 years later we ask what has happened since? The position of children and youth has hardly been strengthened, their rights are still not granted and very few are informed about them.

Children and young people are still not recognised as independent individuals and cannot fight for their rights in front of a court!

They are granted special protection and support, but still constitute the most vulnerable group of our societies. And moreover, in large parts of the world they do not have any political rights in the decision-making process!

18 years later we remember everyone that the promises are a legally binding convention, and all countries, all governments and all societies shall do their best in order that all children around the world can enjoy their rights!

[www.unicef.org/knowyourrights](http://www.unicef.org/knowyourrights)

**To the right: Two Youth Delegates with a critical view on the work with children's rights: Sandra van Beest (NL, back in New York for the review of the CRC) and Jonathan Mack (GER).**

## Supplement adopted as a whole

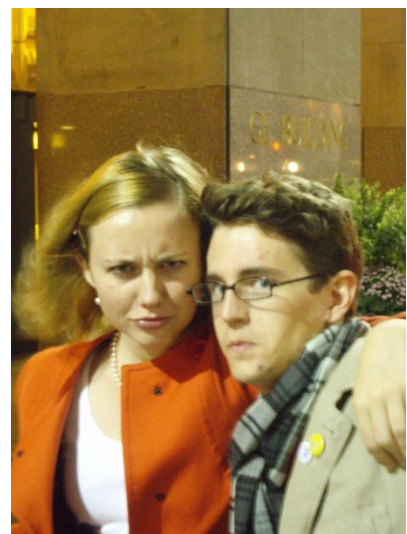
One of the main priorities of the Youth Delegates participating at the UN General Assembly was to get the Supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) adopted without further weakening.

Sandra van Beest, the 2007 Youth Delegate from the Netherlands, took part in the negotiations on the supplement in the Commission for Social Development in February:

- It feels good to know that this tool now can be used by Governments and Youth Organisations all over the world and may improve the lives of young people, she says.

The supplement elaborates the new priority areas adopted at the UN General Assembly in 2005, namely globalization, ICT, youth in armed conflict, HIV/AIDS and intergenerational issues.

Read more about the WPAY and the supplement at [www.un.org/youth](http://www.un.org/youth)



## Youth Delegate – how does it work? We asked Adina Rom, Youth Delegate of Switzerland

### How was your time as a Youth delegate at the UN General Assembly?

It was just great! I could meet so many nice and interesting people, which want to make a difference. We had a “super team” of Youth Delegates from over 20 countries and also the support I got from the Swiss Mission and the “Youthrep Team” (the other Youth Delegates and the National Youth Council) back in Switzerland was really great.

### What do you think was the most important thing this year’s Youth delegates achieved in the UNGA?

Through our great speeches, the numerous side events and meetings with different UN Agencies we could show everyone “without Youth no development”. And that that we as young people are capable and willing not only to be a target group but also agents for the social and economical development.



**Above:**  
*Adina Rom co-speaking with Ban Ki-Moon at the International Day to Overcome Poverty.*

### What is your advise for countries who do not have Youth Delegates?

It is shocking that despite 85% of all Young people live in developing countries, there are no YDs representing them. In order to have effective participation at the UNGA we as Youth Delegates need to have a clear mandate that includes an intense interaction with a lot of different young people back home and a good preparation and follow-up after the activities at the UN.

### Other things you want to say?

Whenever you have the chance to take influence and to be listened, bear in mind the millions that are poor, hungry, ill, explored and mistreated and do not forget that it is only by coincides we aren't in their position. It is our obligation to make their voices heard. We have to keep our eyes and ears open and we have to stand up and speak out against injustice. Because everybody can make a difference!



Read more about the UN Youth Delegates on [www.un.org/youth](http://www.un.org/youth)

### **NEXT in Youth Delegates – how does it work: Thailand**

In the next edition of Young News we get to meet the Youth Delegates from Thailand to hear about their experiences! Want to receive the newsletter? Let us know, e-mail [christoffer.gronstad@youthforum.org](mailto:christoffer.gronstad@youthforum.org)



Ben



Karsten



Marah



Hanna

## News about Youth Delegates

The Netherlands already selected their 2008 UN Youth Delegate: Wouter Thiebou was elected at a great UN Day show on October 24. Wouter is already in New York with Sandra van Beest, the delegate of this year, to work on the 5-year review of "A World fit for Children".

Rumors say Ben Groom, the Youth Delegate from Australia, is now working on putting up an Australian Youth Council.

In November Denmark's Youth Delegate Karsten Lauritzen was elected member of the Danish Parliament, where he will work on development issues. December 2 Denmark's 2005 Youth Delegate, Martin Justesen, was elected president of the Danish Youth Council (DUF).

Marah Koeberle (Germany) took part in an MDG seminar in Stockholm. One of the aims of the seminar was putting up a Global Alliance of Youth for the MDGs. The seminar was organized by the European Youth Forum and the National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations (LSU).

Eekku Aroma (Finland), Ivaylo Stoimenov (Bulgaria), and Jonathan Mack (Germany) are participating in the Africa-Europe Youth Summit. 1 boy and 1 girl from each country in the two continents will advise the Heads of States Summit of the European Union and African Union at the end of next week. Christoffer Grønstad and Giuseppe Porcaro, representing YFJ at the UNGA, are involved in organizing the Summit.

In November Sweden's 2005 Youth Delegate Hanna Hallin was re-elected president of LSU. Hanna also took part in the UNESCO Youth Forum in October.

Christopher Malano, representing Pax Romana at the UN General Assembly, has moved to Paris, where he is taking on his duties as Secretary General of the organization. He will work towards the Paris-based UN institutions.