



## United Nations General Assembly's Youth Resolution 2007

### *Youth in the global economy - promoting youth participation in social and economic development*

#### *A tool-kit for Youth Organisations*

#### 1. What is a UN Resolution?

A United Nations General Assembly Resolution is theoretically voted on by all member states of the United Nations in the General Assembly. In practice they tend to be adopted by consensus.

Although General Assembly resolutions are non-binding towards member states, internal resolutions may be binding on the operation of the General Assembly itself and for the UN Secretariat. Moreover they are strong lobby-tools towards National Governments that made the resolution pass and thereby supported the policy in it. You can refer to the policy text in your lobby-letters and gain credibility for your cause. Therefore the European Youth Forum initiated this tool-kit on how to use the resolution.

#### 2. ...and Youth Resolutions?

In 1995, on the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year, the United Nations formally strengthened their commitment to Ten Priority Areas directly affecting young people. It did so by adopting the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (WPAY). One of the priorities of this Programme is to encourage participation of young people in all levels of decision-making. In particular, it invites governments to strengthen the involvement of young people in international fora by embracing youth delegates into their national delegations. (A/RES/50/81, O.C. 107, 1995)

To monitor the progresses in the implementation of the WPAY and to keep high the commitment of the Member States it has been a practice to issue a "Youth" Resolution every two years, starting with the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the General Assembly (1997) until the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the GA in 2007<sup>1</sup>.

The last UN Youth Resolution "Promoting Youth Participation in social and economic development" endorsed a Supplement of the World Programme of Action for Youth and focused on the theme "Youth in the Global Economy". This is a quite important step as well because for the first time goals and target for the themes were set up as a tool to monitor the implementation of the WPAY and its Supplement.

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<sup>1</sup> Those are the reference documents for past UN Youth Resolutions: 52/83, 54/120, 56/117, 58/133, 59/148, 60/22.

The final text, which is attached to this Tool Kit, is the result of the negotiations among member states but also of the advocacy work jointly pursued by youth organisations and youth delegates.

### **3. How to use it?**

Having a resolution on youth issues at the General Assembly is certainly a very important recognition, but since they are not binding documents, follow-up and advocacy for their implementation is very important, in order to recall the Member States about the commitments that they took.

In this perspective the text of a Youth Resolution can be an excellent tool for the advocacy work that your organisation, being it a National Youth Council or an International Non-Governmental Youth Organisation does towards a National Government or an Intergovernmental Institution.

This tool-kit highlights the major issues covered by the most recent UN Youth Resolution in order to guide your organisation for using it and make it happen! Below you find a selection of quotes which can help you to use the Resolution. We have chosen some important paragraphs for you but also indicated where in the resolution you find more text on the same issue.

- ***Youth Participation***

*[The General Assembly]*

*13. Recognizes further that national youth councils or their equivalent bodies are effective channels of cooperation and information exchange between young people, their national Governments and other decision makers and that strong youth councils can provide opportunities for more young people to become active in decision-making and in shaping their societies, in this regard welcomes the political and financial support provided by Member States to their creation and sustained development, and invites all States to continue and to increase such support, where appropriate;*

*19. Recognizes the positive contribution that youth representatives make to the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies and their role as an important channel of communication between young people and the United Nations, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to adequately support the United Nations Programme on Youth of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat so that it can continue to facilitate their effective participation in meetings;*

See as well points 9, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23

- ***Funding***

*[The General Assembly calls upon the Member States to]*

*8. (c) Ensure adequate funding for formal and non-formal education, including programmes geared at fostering the acquisition of requisite skills by youth;*

See as well points 12 and 21

- ***Non Formal Education***

*[The General Assembly]*

*6. Reiterates the critical role of both formal and non-formal education in the achievement of poverty eradication and other development goals, as envisaged in the Millennium Declaration*

(...).

See as well points 8(c), 13

- **Formal Education**

*[The General Assembly]*

*7. Reiterates further the need to intensify efforts to implement effectively the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade and to integrate substantially those efforts in the Education for All process and other activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as other literacy initiatives within the framework of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;*

See as well points 6, 8(d), 8(f), 14

- **Employment**

*[The General Assembly calls upon Member States to]*

*8. (a) Integrate and protect youth in the global economy, including those who live in poverty, through the provision of policies that give them everywhere a real opportunity to find full and productive employment and decent work, including policies that promote the transition to work on the basis of equality and non-discrimination;*

See as well points 8(d), 8(e), 8(f), 14, 18

- **Development Policies**

In the preamble the Resolution recognises:

*That the implementation of the World Programme of Action and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, require the full and effective participation of young people and youth-led organisations and other civil society organisations at the local, national, regional and international level*

See also 4, 5, 6, 8(b), 8(d), 8(l), 12, 14, 15

- **Discriminations**

*[The General Assembly]*

*12. Urges Member States to involve young people and youth-led organizations in the development of national policies that affect them, where appropriate, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist, bearing in mind that girls, boys, young women and young men have the same rights;*

See also 8(h), 8(i), 10, 13, 16

- **Health**

*[The General Assembly calls upon the Member States to]*

*8. (k) Take all necessary measures to ensure the rights of young people to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and their access to sustainable health systems and social services, without discrimination, paying special attention to and raising awareness of nutrition, including eating disorders and obesity, and the effects of communicable diseases, and to sexual and reproductive health, including measures to prevent sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS;*

See also 8(l)

- **Information & ICTs**

*[The General Assembly calls upon the Member States to]*

*8. (g) Develop national strategies to overcome the “digital divide” in each country and ensure that young people are equipped with knowledge and skills to use information and communications technology appropriately, including the capacity to analyse and treat information in creative and innovative ways and to share their expertise, thus enabling them to overcome the barriers of distance and socioeconomic disadvantage, while also promoting youth involvement in creating, repairing, managing and maintaining information and communications technology and providing them access to information on a range of issues that directly affect them, including health, education and employment;*