



Resolution on sexual Harassment

**Adopted by the General Assembly
Salzburg, Austria, 1-4 October 1998**

**ASSEMBLY
D98-706**

As the resolution on „Practical steps towards the full participation of all delegates at Youth Forum meetings“ that Member Organisations received has been found confusing and mixing two different items, the members of the WOMCOM present in the GA have decided to withdraw it and to make the following document.

The „Gender equality and Women’s Policy“ paper states in its preamble: „This policy seeks to set out responsibilities and obligations for the Youth Forum in addressing these issues within its membership and beyond. It seeks support from its member organisations to initiate this process and sustain it. It calls for open and honest debate in order to assess the situation and the imagination to address it. (...) A practical and realistic approach has been taken in this regard and it is envisaged that this policy will be reviewed every year in order to ensure its relevance to the changing environment“.

And, following the idea, the chapter dealing with „Violence against young women“ mentions: „Violence against young women takes place in the context of a societal framework in which there is unequal power balance.

Being one of the specific recommendations of the mentioned policy to work on the Youth Forum Code of Conduct, the existing Women’s Committee considered more appropriate to present a resolution on sexual harassment, both towards men and women, as an annex to existing document bearing in mind both the specificity of the issue itself as well of the cases that the current Code of Conduct regulates.

Sexual harassment is any unwanted sexual manifestation which can include verbal, physical, or non-physical behaviour which results in humiliation, intimidation, degradation, or threaten to another man or woman by virtue of nothing more than their sex.

The WOMCOM of the Youth Forum will commit itself, till the end of its mandate, to set up a procedure to follow in case of sexual harassment and also measures to avoid the misuse of the Code of Conduct relating to this problem. The final version should be adopted in the next meeting of the Executive Committee,

We believe that the next Bureau should take upon itself to continue this work and support the significant task the WOMCOM has done in order to ensure equality, which is not only an internal matter but has also external implications and it affects both men and women. The WOMCOM also asks the Bureau to put in place the new Project Officer responsible for equality, (gender, conflict,

ASSEMBLY

D98-706

minorities and human rights) as soon as possible to assist both the Bureau and the Member Organisations of the YFJ in this fundamental field.