



1ST GLOBAL FORUM ON YOUTH POLICIES

REPORT

#youthpolicymatters

28-30 October 2014
Baku, Azerbaijan

The report of the First Global Forum on Youth Policies has been jointly prepared by Youth Policy Labs, the think tank running youthpolicy.org, with contributions from all co-conveners, the Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth (OSGEY), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Council of Europe (COE), with the support of the Ministry of Youth and Sports in the Republic of Azerbaijan.



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Complementing the report, videos summarize each day of the Forum: [Day 1](#), [Day 2](#), [Day 3](#).

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PART 1

OVERVIEW &
SUMMARY

#youthpolicymatters

28-30 October 2014
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THE FIRST GLOBAL FORUM ON YOUTH POLICIES

1. At a glance

28-30 October 2014	The first global event of its kind
> 700 participants	Youth ministers, youth policy leaders, youth representatives, youth experts and youth sector professionals
Convened by a broad institutional partnership	The Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Council of Europe (COE)
Hosted in Azerbaijan	By the Government's Ministry of Youth and Sports in the framework of Azerbaijan's Chairmanship of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers
Technical support	Provided by the team of youthpolicy.org

2. The context

A global framework for youth policy does exist.	The World Programme of Action For Youth, adopted in 1995, provided the first global blueprint and framework for youth policies. With the 20 th anniversary of the programme in sight, 122 countries now have current policies, with another 36 updating their youth policy.
So do more and more national youth policies.	
Too many youth policies frequently remain below their own potential.	While celebrating the progress of the past two decades, much remains to be improved: too many policies have little budget and are limited in scope and impact.

3. The question

What can we learn from the past 20 years of youth policy practice? What can—and must—be done to improve public policies for young people?

4. The ambition

The Forum sought to be a milestone in defining and exemplifying what it means to take youth policies forward in the twenty-first century.

THE FORUM'S DIVERSE GROUP OF PARTICIPANTS

Youth Ministers, Youth Policy Leaders, Youth representatives, and Youth Policy and Youth Sector Experts & Professionals

The First Global Forum on Youth Policies brought together and sought to engage a broad diversity of youth policy leaders, experts and professionals.

This included ministers and directors, activists and volunteers, researchers and young politicians—to name just a few of the occupational profiles in the youth sector—who discussed, engaged, explored and shaped youth policy in the interactive setting of the Forum.

Policy Professionals in related policy areas

The First Global Forum on Youth Policies also involved and engaged policy professionals in areas closely related to and with substantial impact on youth policies.

Frequently, policies in areas as diverse as health, housing, environment or justice have effects on youth populations that are not fully considered and often even unintentional. Extending youth policy knowledge and discourses is therefore crucial.

Policy-Interested Young Professionals

The First Global Forum on Youth Policies, last but not least, also involved and engaged young people/professionals who are policy-interested. Those who have an interest in youth policy and wish to participate in thematic debates were able to do so. While many youth policy professionals are young themselves, it is neither their defining feature, nor should their work be considered through that lens.

PREFACE BY AHMAD ALHENDAWI

CARRYING THE WORLD PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR YOUTH TO THE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDA IN 2015

On the eve of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the [World Programme of Action for Youth](#), the global youth community convened in Baku for three days. Stakeholders of different profiles gathered under the same roof to discuss and exchange ideas with a shared vision: making youth policies more effective, participatory, rights-based, goal-oriented, comprehensive and cross-sectorial.

The First Global Forum on Youth Policies succeeded in creating the largest platform of stakeholders and officials on youth issues since 1998, with 115 UN Member States represented at the highest-level government authorities responsible for youth. The Forum was attended by over 700 participants from 165 countries, including youth, decision-makers, and researchers, as well as representatives from international organizations, civil society and the donor community.

As the world leaders agreed on the global development agenda that will shape the future for the decades to follow, youth need to be recognized as equal partners in implementing this vision. They need to be properly consulted and actively engaged. We cannot decide and build the future of youth without involving them in meaningful conversations and tapping on the wealth of their immense knowledge and potential.

DEFINING KEY INGREDIENTS OF MODERN YOUTH POLICY FRAMEWORKS

Against this backdrop of changing paradigms of global development policies, the First Global Forum on Youth Policies revisited the progress achieved under the World Programme of Action for Youth as a blueprint document guiding the national youth policies. It focused on the key ingredients of modern youth policy frameworks and provided recommendations from regional perspectives. The Forum also called for a set of universal guiding principles that should be upheld by any government while creating and implementing youth policies and culminated with the adoption of the co-conveners Commitments.

The United Nations is committed to support Member States in rolling out youth policies that are **rights-based, inclusive, participatory, gender-responsive, comprehensive, knowledge-based and evidence-informed, fully resourced, and accountable.**

THE FIRST GLOBAL FORUM ON YOUTH POLICIES: A JOINT EFFORT AND A TRUE CROSS-SECTORIAL & CROSS-INSTITUTIONAL EVENT

My hope as we share this report is that we will continue the practice of convening global forums on youth policies and turn it into converging venue for youth, decision-makers, researchers, international organizations, civil society and donor community to meet and exchange best practices to consolidate improved programmes for youth.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all those who made the First Global Forum on Youth Policies a remarkable success. I would like to particularly acknowledge and emphasize tremendous role, dedication and support of our

fellow co-conveners, UNDP and UNESCO, with whom my Office delivered as one family, as well as the Council of Europe. My profound gratitude goes to the Government of Azerbaijan, in particular, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and H.E. Mr. Azad Rahimov, Minister of Youth and Sport for hosting the Forum. The legacy of the First Global Forum in Baku is laying the foundations for how youth policies should be in the 21st century.

I hope you enjoy reading this report.



Ahmad Alhendawi
UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth



FRAMEWORK, LOGIC & APPROACH OF THE FORUM

1: CONTEXT & BACKGROUND

THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

In 1995, the Member States of the United Nations directed the international community's response to youth issues by adopting the "World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (WPAY)". Complemented (officially) in 2007,¹ the WPAY not only provides a policy framework and practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of youth around the world, it also constitutes the first global blueprint for effective national youth policies.

The role of a National Policy on Youth is crucial in that it provides the overarching vision for all programs and activities relating to youth in one country. The 15 priority areas of the WPAY indicate the range of policy areas to be covered through its 15 priority areas: Education; Employment; Hunger and Poverty; Health; Environment; Drug abuse; Juvenile delinquency; Leisure-time activities; Girls and young women; Full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and in decision making; Globalization; Information and communications technology; HIV/AIDS; Armed conflict; and Inter-generational Issues.

In 2009, the UN Economic and Social Council has identified a series of goals and targets for monitoring the progress of youth in the areas covered by the World Programme of Action for Youth.² These goals and targets address youth as a specific socio-demographic group and focus on the issues that impinge directly on youth development. In 2012, the United Nations Secretary-General has made working with and for young people a priority of his Five-Year Action Agenda. He requested the Inter-agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD), a group of close to 40 UN entities working together to advance youth issues, to develop the first UN System-Wide Action Plan on Youth (Youth-SWAP). Endorsed in 2013, the Youth-SWAP provides a roadmap and strategic guidance to the UN system as a whole in its work with and for young people, based on the mandate of the WPAY, and incorporates an important focus on policy development and implementation with and for youth.

Developing and effectively implementing inclusive and participatory public policies on youth is not a simple task: it entails a cycle of actions, a series of parameters that cannot be objectively measured and significant challenges through-out the different stages of the process. Such policies require wide-based consultations, an effective and sustainable co-ordination among Ministries, as well as the integration of the National Policy on Youth in the National Development plans. At the same time, the effort to develop and implement inclusive and participatory policies on youth is by itself a step forward. Provided that it is followed up by effective measures and resources, it constitutes a long-term investment that opens up a series of opportunities for all stakeholders involved.

Developing and effectively implementing inclusive and participatory public policies on youth is not a

1. A/RES/50/81 (10 thematic areas) and A/RES/58/133 and A/RES/62/126 (5 additional thematic areas – supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth). The full World Programme of Action for Youth is available at <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/nyin/documents/wpay2010.pdf>.

2. The determination of these goals and targets was conducted through a participatory process involving experts from the various organizations of the UN System, academia and representatives of youth organizations. For further details: Commission for Social Development Res. 45/2; UN General Assembly Res. 62/162; Reports of the Secretary General on the follow-up to the WPAY (A/62/61/Add.1-E/2007/7 and A/64/61-E/2009/3).

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Such policies require wide-based consultations, an effective and sustainable co-ordination among Ministries, as well as the integration of the National Policy on Youth in the National Development plans. At the same time, the effort to develop and implement inclusive and participatory policies on youth is by itself a step forward. Provided that it is followed up by effective measures and resources, it constitutes a long-term investment that opens up a series of opportunities for all stakeholders involved.

THE POLICY CONTEXT

According to the "State of youth policy 2014", produced by youthpolicy.org, "as of April 2014, of 198 countries, 122 countries (62%) have a national youth policy, up from 99 (50%) in 2013. Across all continents, 37 states (19%) are either developing a new or revising their current youth policy, down from 56 (28%) in 2013. 31 countries have no national youth policy at the moment (16%), down from 43 (22%) in 2013. Of those, 14 are in Africa, 9 in Asia, 5 in the Americas, and 3 in Europe."³ These numbers show that national governments are becoming increasingly aware of the fact that adequate legislation and policies are needed to respond to young peoples' needs, aspirations and demands. The content of such policies can in turn inform national, regional and global youth initiatives, programs and projects of development partners that focus on youth issues.

At its sixtieth session, the General Assembly adopted a resolution (60/2) on policies and programmes involving youth, requesting that the United Nations establish a broad set of indicators related to youth, which Governments and other actors may choose to use to monitor the situation of young people related to the priority areas identified in the World Programme of Action for Youth. In December 2005, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, held an Expert Group Meeting to define a set of indicators.⁴

In spite of these advances and commitments, a number of challenges, including funding, legal and institutional frameworks, affect the efficiency and inclusiveness of National policies on Youth:

Firstly, currently, one can find numerous examples of countries where the National Policies on Youth are managed by Youth Ministries with limited political power and resources. At the same time, sectoral Ministries tend to act independently on issues that affect youth, without mainstreaming youth concerns in their interventions in line with the National Policy on Youth. In some cases, this is further exacerbated by significant institutional gaps between the legislative sector and the executive sector (e.g. Ministry of Youth Affairs, Youth Commissions, etc.). This reality of fragmentation is reflected in all stages of development of a National Policy on Youth and constitutes a significant drawback in the implementation, the monitoring and, ultimately, the effectiveness of the policy. It also directly relates to the lack of broad macroeconomic policies affecting youth that are integrated into national development plans, gaps in identifying clearly the costs of programs and sources of funding, as well as the lack of government capacity to undertake comprehensive monitoring and evaluative processes.

3. <http://www.youthpolicy.org/blog/2014/05/state-of-youth-policy-2014/>

4. <http://undesadspd.org/Youth/OurWork/Youthdevelopmentindicators.aspx>

Secondly, in many countries, youth participation structures are heavily challenged, both in terms of inclusiveness and in terms of efficiency. Opportunities for participation may be constrained or obfuscated and vary depending on a series of additional factors. Although certain avenues for participation are available through youth organizations, many of them lack funding and resources, and coordination across organizations tends to be absent or weak. Addressing these challenges is not only vital in terms of making decisions more relevant, sustainable and legitimate, but is equally needed in recognition of the special role that youth led-organizations play in giving young people power over their own lives. Legal, political and economic conditions for youth-led organizations need to improve and reflect their democratic and societal function.

Thirdly, the lack of reliable and accurate knowledge, as well as the lack of comparable data within and across countries and regions, remains a key challenge in the development of policies on youth. Coupled with the limited research specifically on youth issues, this severely hampers the development of evidence-based policies that can confidently and timely address specific concerns within specific contexts.

Further challenges include addressing vulnerable groups, counting on the appropriate resources (financial and other), and effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

2: CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

THE FIRST GLOBAL FORUM ON YOUTH POLICIES: KEY QUESTIONS

The frameworks developed and adopted by Members States, UN entities, and regional organizations, such as the African Union (African Youth Charter), the Council of Europe (Advisory Council on Youth, co-management system and Ministerial conferences) and the Organización Iberoamericana de Juventud (Iberoamerican Charter of Youth Rights), to advance youth issues stress the importance of putting commitments to action by developing or reviewing and implementing effective and inclusive youth policies. Key elements that need to be considered in this effort include:

- Common denominators for youth policies: What should the main elements of a youth policy be? Are there common denominators of what a youth policy should include, such as youth legislation, youth budget, youth information policy, youth research, and inter-ministerial cooperation? Should such elements cut across spatial levels, from local and subnational to national, regional and global? What should the role of regional frameworks be, both in informing national as well as global frameworks? Should a certain set of indicators be integrated in national, regional and/or global frameworks? There is clearly a need to develop a shared understanding of 'common denominators' as well as a coordinated approach by stakeholders including youth, government, civil society, the UN system and other development partners, in the development, implementation and monitoring of youth policy. This shared understanding should ideally include ways in which public policies define youth as well as key benefits, key rights and key protections that should apply to young people.
- Coherent cross-sectoral frameworks: Youth policy, by its very nature, cuts across many policy domains. In most countries, however, legislation and policies affecting young people remain deeply fragmented. In recent years there has been a recognizable shift towards revising national youth

policies away from thematic silos towards cross-sectorally integrated policy frameworks. Devising regional and global mechanisms, tools and processes that can support the creation of such youth policy systems and frameworks is going to be a key task of the coming years. Such support systems should help, among others, to adjust and expand existing methodologies for the development, implementation and assessment of youth policies in line with the emerging systemic and integrated approach to public policies for young people. They should also allow identifying effective and flexible mechanisms and processes to translate and implement national policy provisions at the subnational, community or local level, across and within policy sectors.

- Sincere participation and engagement structures: For youth policy to be empowering as well as effective, youth knowledge, expectations, frustrations and aspirations must be brought in to inform the development of appropriate interventions and services. A youth policy that is developed with the involvement of youth stands a much greater chance of success, as interventions will have greater relevance for and legitimacy among youth. Youth participation in political



processes also makes decisions more sustainable and easier to implement, while enabling young people to learn about and engage in democratic processes and at the same time developing and deepening democracy. Ideally, youth involvement would be framed by a set of mutually agreed principles of engagement. In constrained political and social environments, particular attention would need to be given to ensure that any youth policy ensures the inclusion and participation of the poorest and most disadvantaged young women and men.

- Transparent monitoring and evaluation mechanisms: Public policies targeting young people are as much subject to changing circumstances as any other policy instrument. Monitoring which elements work in practice and which don't is crucial to ensure adaptability and continued relevance and, through instruments ranging from peer assessment to external evaluation, provides the basis for accountability and transparency.
- Sharing experiences and practices: As reflected above, countries around the world are at various stages of youth policy development and implementation, with multiple ambitions and varied approaches, with different incentives and numerous frameworks – and in consequence also with diverse results, some intentional, others unexpected. Platforms for international, inter- and intra-regional cooperation need to be created to enable sharing of experiences and knowledge, as well as tools and mechanisms, so that stakeholders and partners may together advance inclusive, transparent and responsive youth policy around the globe.

THE FIRST GLOBAL FORUM ON YOUTH POLICIES: OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

The Global Forum on Youth Policy emerged from the need to provide a physical platform for youth policy stakeholders around the globe to discuss and respond to the key questions outlined above. The Forum was a true global expert gathering of around 700 youth policy practitioners to give a new impetus to evidence-based, inclusive, participatory and effective youth policies.



The Forum sought to address these five key objectives:

- To advance a current overview of the state of youth policy and a reflection on the social and developmental role of youth policies, particularly in view of the post-2015 period;
- To develop a common understanding of the needs for and rationales of systemic and cross-sectoral approaches to youth policy;
- To share experiences and examples of participatory and evidence-based youth policies, their rationales and realities, their successes and shortcomings;
- To build a common understanding of

guiding principles for integrated youth policy development and of the dynamics between concerned stakeholders at different levels;

- To share plans for follow-up and to develop a shared commitment to take youth policy forward.

For each of the above key objectives, the Forum aimed to deliver the following related key outcomes:

- A current overview of the state of youth policy and its relation to development frameworks;
- A shared understanding of rationales underpinning and principles guiding youth policy worldwide;
- A lively community spanning governmental, nongovernmental and research networks and experts;
- A strong commitment of that community of experts to integrated, participatory policy frameworks;
- A realistic set of follow-up activities with shared responsibilities to improve youth policies globally.

THE FIRST GLOBAL FORUM ON YOUTH POLICIES: PARTICIPANTS PROFILE

The Forum brought together more than 700 participants: Ministers, state secretaries and senior government officials from not only Youth but also Planning, Development and related Ministries and Agencies with responsibility for policy development and implementation that affect young people; Parliamentarians responsible for reviewing and allocating budgets and drafting and approving legislation affecting youth populations; Nongovernmental experts of youth-led organizations and movements working on youth policy; Youth experts of global and regional intergovernmental organizations working on youth policy; Research experts from institutes, universities and think tanks with a focus on youth policy; Development experts from organizations, agencies and institutions in the youth sector; Programming experts from donors active in supporting policy change in the youth field.



1ST GLOBAL FORUM ON YOUTH POLICIES

PART 2

KEY QUOTES & MOMENTS

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28-30 October 2014
Baku, Azerbaijan



"This is no time for business as usual. Our world has short of 2 billion young people. More than one third of them live in fragile and conflict-affected countries and territories, and 75 million are unemployed. Working with and for young people, particularly those who are vulnerable and in need, is indispensable if we are to achieve human development."

Magdy Martínez-Solimán, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP

"There are a number of challenges for youth policy that remained unanswered: from fragmented responsibilities for youth issues and challenged youth participation structures to the lack of reliable knowledge and the absence of appropriate resources. For that reason, today more than ever, we need a focused and participatory debate on youth policies, as well as concerted action."

Lalla Aïcha Ben Barka, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, a.i., UNESCO



"As of this moment, 127 countries have youth policies in place. But without adequate budgets these policies are not more than a mental exercise. The time has come to match political will with sufficient resources: show us the money you are willing to invest in young people and youth issues!"

Ahmad Alhendawi, United Nations Secretary General's Envoy on Youth

"Youth policy is central to any governance – it may be more or less visible; more or less explicit; well or not so well equipped with funds. But it needs to exist: a society without a perspective for its youth is a society without a clear perspective for its own future."

Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe



"Let's be honest: we are already running a little bit late here. Youth policy building should have started worldwide some years ago. A key issue we have yet to resolve is the quality of access to information to inform policy making. The time to change that, and the time to foster youth policy around the globe, is now. Let's make the most out of this chance – while we still have it."

Greta Rios, Ollin, Jóvenes en Movimiento (Youth in Motion)



"Today is a day to remember, because we are coming together to forge a collective commitment to youth policies that are effective, that are real, and that are taken seriously. Today we won't just talk; we won't just dream; today, we will act, we will build, we will cooperate. We shall set an example of collaboration that helps us usher in an era of inclusive decision making for policy development."

Bashar Hobbi, Global Youth Ambassador, A World At School

"The exchange of experience, of successes and failures, of the reasons for these successes and failures, is one of the most important aspects of international cooperation. We are proud to be part of the community to make this First Global Forum on Youth Policies happen here in Azerbaijan. This Forum will be important for youth policy makers and for young people all over the world."

Azad Rahimov, Minister of Youth and Sports, Azerbaijan



"We have been waiting, no, we have been pushing for this day for many years – the day when agencies and practitioners, donors and beneficiaries, governments and civil society, academics and activists, stop fighting or ignoring each other and start moving things forward. Let's be fast and furious, let's be courageous and visionary."

Andreas Karsten, Lead Facilitator of the Global Forum, Editor at youthpolicy.org, Research Director Youth Policy Labs



"With the Sustainable Development Goals, we are for the first time in the history of the United Nations not just putting bandages on the problems of the world, but we are looking at root causes. Young people are key to tackling these, and modern youth policies will need to provide a framework for young people to be active agents of change."

*Amina Mohammed, United Nations Secretary-General's
Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning*

"We managed to take stock of where we are at, and started to look forward, trying to define common denominators. What makes a youth policy good? But we don't want yet another Forum where we just sit and talk, we want action! We have the opportunity to define a global framework for youth policy, to shape the outcome, to take the next steps."

*Tavarrie Smith, Attorney and Researcher,
The Juvenile Justice Project Bahamas*



"Rather than requesting something, we wanted to commit ourselves. That is why the co-conveners have put their commitments to youth policy on the table, a commitment we ask others to subscribe to and match. The time of youth policy is now – not in ten years or twenty, but today. Let's not miss the chance to substantively change how policies for young people are made."

*Ahmad Alhendawi, United Nations
Secretary General's Envoy on Youth*

"Let me say how pleased we are to collaborate with all of you: young leaders, student leaders, experts, researchers, government representatives, and co-conveners. This is the most important youth forum of the decade. We need to seize the opportunity and make it happen."

Magdy Martínez-Solimán, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP





1ST GLOBAL FORUM ON YOUTH POLICIES

PART 3

OUTCOMES OF THE GLOBAL FORUM

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28-30 October 2014

Baku, Azerbaijan

1: THE BAKU COMMITMENT TO YOUTH POLICIES

A COMMON CAUSE

Marking the 20th anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond and reaffirming its importance as an overarching global youth policy framework, and recalling the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, the First Global Forum on Youth Policies specifically aimed at elevating the youth policy debate, with the particular purpose of advancing youth policy development and its full and effective implementation at all levels.

This global event was co-organized by the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, and the Council of Europe, with the support of youthpolicy.org and hosted by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in Azerbaijan in the framework of Azerbaijan's Chairmanship of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers.

Bringing together over 700 participants from 165 countries, with a strong participation of ministers responsible for youth, as well as experts, youth advocates, civil society representatives, United Nations agency representatives and international and regional organisations, to discuss youth policies through three different lenses (thematic, structural and region-specific), the Forum responded to the crucial importance of looking at youth policy work in a holistic and multi-stakeholder perspective.

The Forum provided an unprecedented platform for these diverse stakeholders to take stock of progress made in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of youth policies at various levels since the United Nations General Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth in 1995: it distilled lessons learned and good practices and also identified remaining gaps and challenges, in particular within the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Throughout the three days of the Forum, the participants debated youth policy-related issues by looking at key thematic areas, guiding principles and common denominators as well as regional frameworks and priorities of youth policies.

The outcome of all these discussions helped shape a common understanding of key guiding principles for integrated and inclusive youth policy development that will serve as a milestone in defining and exemplifying what is needed to advance youth policy development and implementation with and for youth.

FORUM'S FINDINGS

Within the context of ongoing social transformations, sustainable human development depends on the well-being of youth and on how far their concerns and aspirations are addressed with and for them, through participatory and inclusive policies. At all levels, youth policies should be guided by, and promote, a set of key guiding principles that are indispensable to meaningful, inclusive youth policy development and implementation.

Youth Policies should be:

Rights-based – designed and implemented within a human rights-based framework, in line with the country's global and regional commitments.

Inclusive – ensuring equal opportunities for every young person to achieve their full potential in life, including the elimination of barriers of inclusion, especially of vulnerable groups and enabling civic participation of all young people.

Participatory – designed, developed, implemented, monitored and evaluated with the meaningful participation of young people, and with the involvement of all concerned stakeholders, from the local to the national level, in both rural and urban settings, and in all development contexts, including post-conflict and transition situations.

Gender-responsive – enabling specific actions to promote gender equality, ensure young women are equal partners to young men, and to address gender-based disparities in all settings, from political to socio-economic and cultural.

Comprehensive – adopting a holistic approach to youth development, through increased collaboration across policy sectors, ministries and other relevant entities as well as by providing an integrated strategic framework that guides legislation and measures affecting youth.

Knowledge-based and evidence-informed – developed and regularly updated, based on the collection, analysis and dissemination of quantitative and qualitative information on the situation, needs, challenges and opportunities of young women and men in a given context.

Fully resourced – have adequate, transparent and dedicated resources for implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and maximizing available resources through coordination and by enabling multi-stakeholder partnerships and shared ownership

Accountable – nationally and locally owned and led, and regularly monitored and evaluated, against specific youth development targets and indicators, with the active participation of youth.

COMMITMENTS

Based on the above findings emanating from the First Global Forum on Youth Policies, the co-conveners commit to and call for:

- Further promoting and supporting the implementation of the *World Programme of Action for Youth*;
- Promoting synergies between youth policies and broader development policies and frameworks, particularly in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and means of implementation thereof;
- Establishing a Global Initiative on Youth Policies to support the development and implementation of youth policies through technical assistance, sharing of expertise and knowledge, and advocacy;
- Regular convening by the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth of an International Stakeholders Meeting on Youth Policies, bringing together the main regional and global actors to enhance global partnerships and coordination on youth policies;
- Strengthening regional and cross-regional collaboration and partnerships in the field of public policies on youth;
- Designing and implementing processes and fostering partnerships that enable inclusive, and multi-stakeholder involvement in youth policies;
- Strengthening the promotion and application of governance mechanisms that encourage transversal and cross-sectoral coordination and work, as well as efficient and effective national-to-local implementation;
- Further developing tools, indicators, methodologies and practical research, including the identification of successful practices, that would allow to build and maintain a solid knowledge and evidence-base for effective, inclusive and gender-responsive youth policies;
- Further promoting and supporting youth civic engagement and meaningful participation in decision-making and political processes and institutions, including by promoting youth involvement through informal networks, platforms and channels; and by making specific efforts to promote young women's participation;
- Enabling greater youth involvement in strong, sound and inclusive youth policy monitoring and evaluation systems.

2: THE GLOBAL INITIATIVE ON YOUTH POLICIES

THE INITIATIVE

The Baku Commitment on Youth Policies highlights 8 guiding principles for youth policy development and puts forward 10 concrete commitments with a view to support the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of youth policy. This commitment aims to ensure that youth policies are rights-based, comprehensive, inclusive, participatory, gender-responsive, knowledge-based and evidence-informed, fully resourced, and accountable, while also pledging to further promote synergies between youth policies and broader development policies and frameworks, particularly in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. Among the Forum's commitments, one of the key commitments is the development of a Global Initiative on Youth Policies to support Member-States in implementing the WPAY and ensuring the efficiency of their youth policies.

The Global Initiative on National Youth Policies (GINYP) is expected to address three very specific gaps affecting youth policy development, from the global to the national level:

- Firstly, the Initiative will provide a robust, joint, consolidated and comprehensive policy and technical support to governments that are in the process of developing and implementing national youth policies;
- Secondly, it will broaden and strengthen the knowledge-base and research proficiency of youth policy work;
- Thirdly, it will strengthen and expand current advocacy around youth policies, drawing greater political attention and investment to youth issues.

The implementation of GINYP (2015-2017) will be based on the following guiding principles:

- Contribution to, and alignment with, international development goals and commitments, including the the World Programme of Action for Youth;
- Contribution to the implementation of the United Nations Secretary-General's 5-year Action Agenda;
- Contribution to the strategic frameworks of the respective UN entities;
- Application and promotion of (i) rights-based approaches; (ii) gender equality and non-discrimination; (iii) a focus on reaching vulnerable and marginalized youth; (iv) youth participation in the development of initiatives affecting them; (v) intergenerational dialogue and youth-adult partnerships;
- Country ownership, commitment and engagement for the activities at national level, as well as contribution to, and alignment with national development plans.

- Coordinated and integrated action leveraging on, and maximizing, existing expertise and capacities across and within relevant UN System entities.
- Inclusiveness of processes and participation of all concerned stakeholders, particularly young women and men, at each stage of the GINYP
- Promotion of south-south and triangular cooperation

The GINYP will comprise of three main strands of activities that will be rolled out in parallel, while at the same time mutually informing and enriching one another: technical assistance & capacity development; knowledge building and management and advocacy. The objectives, outputs and indicators outline below present what the GINYP entities will seek to produce and deliver within the GINYP period, through both leveraging ongoing work and actively fundraising and mobilizing partnerships.

Strand 1: national governments supported in developing, implementing and reviewing inclusive and effective national youth policies with the participation of youth and/or youth-led organizations.

In the context of the GINYP, the GINYP partner-entities will accompany national governments in developing, implementing, monitoring, evaluating and/or reviewing rights-based, gender-sensitive and cross-sectoral national youth policies, following inclusive and evidence-informed processes. This will include a host of joint UN interventions and services, ranging from provision of expert policy advice to capacity development of national decision-makers, institutions and youth organizations. As a UN-led initiative, this work will leverage existing expertise and technical capacity across the UN System, in a coordinated and integrated manner, while also capitalizing on strategic partnerships and collaborations with major global and regional non-UN actors in this field.

The GINYP partners will bring to the table the comparative advantage of the UN on knowledge of normative standards, demographic analysis on the situation of young people and identifying the most marginalized, and lessons learned from experiences of what works and what does not work, without suggesting a one-size-fits-all approach. The UN will also serve as a facilitator of young people's participation and national capacity development of youth-led organizations and networks to engage in the policy process.

Strand 2: Strengthened knowledge and evidence base for the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of inclusive and effective national youth policies.

The need for enhanced research and data collection, as well as data disaggregation to better understand the diversity of youth needs has been identified as a major challenge by the United Nations entities working on youth policies.

The GINYP will strengthen the knowledge and evidence base on youth policies, by gathering, compiling and generating existing research and data relevant to youth policies and establishing a one-stop hub which will provide easy access to actors in the youth policy field. It will also facilitate access to and exchange of successful practices and lessons learned around the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national youth policies.

Partnerships with research centers, institutions and youth networks focusing on youth policy and youth issues will be established in order to support the collection, analysis, interpretation and regular update of the knowledge and evidence available for policy making. Such collaboration would also seek to establish and facilitate greater cooperation between researchers and policy-makers at the different stages of the policy process.

Strand 3: Strengthened advocacy on inclusive and effective national youth policies

As reflected above, countries around the world are at various stages of youth policy development and implementation, with multiple ambitions and varied approaches, with different incentives and numerous frameworks – and in consequence also with diverse results. Key principles:

1. All countries should have evidence-based and inclusive youth policies
2. All policies should be fully funded
3. All National development plans should prioritize and allocate budgets for youth development
4. All Multi-sectoral partnerships including with youth-led organizations and networks
5. Robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks and accountability

Advocacy and awareness raising of what a youth policy should look like and of the principles that should guide its development and implementation, is crucial in supporting stakeholders and partners to advance inclusive, transparent and responsive youth policy development.

GINYP will strengthen global advocacy to elevate the attention to, and status of, youth policies by highlighting the importance of youth policies as a sine qua non for effective youth development but also as a requirement for achieving sustainable development, raising awareness on its inter-linkages with key national development sectors.

The Global Initiative on National Youth Policies (GINYP) will emphasize on the benefits of developing needs based responsive and inclusive youth policies and programmes, and of mainstreaming youth into national plans, policies and budgets guided by the WPAY and based on the principles identified in the First Global Forum on Youth Policies.

3: STAKEHOLDERS MEETING ON YOUTH POLICIES

THE CALL FOR POLITICAL WILL

The day preceding the First Global Forum on Youth Policies, a meeting of international stakeholders on youth policies was organized by the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, Ahmad Alhendawi. The meeting aimed to provide a strategic opportunity to engage key stakeholders on youth policies as one of the key milestones in the year that kicked off the 20-year anniversary of the UN World Programme of Action for Youth.



The stakeholders meeting provided a platform for a select group of representatives from 45 key international, regional and sub-regional fora and networks, international and regional inter-governmental organizations, UN agencies, as well as development partners and foundations with expertise and demonstrated leadership in the area of youth issues and youth policies, to discuss youth policy, its implementation worldwide, and a way forward.

The meeting featured presentations from attendees followed by intimate working group discussions to: 1) dialogue around key issues of youth policies and to jointly strategize and identify ways to strengthen the global, regional and national commitments to the development, implementation, scaling up, monitoring and evaluation of such policies; 2) to strengthen communication and coordination among main actors of youth policy; 3) to encourage discussion around the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1995 and the commemoration of its 20th anniversary, and to discuss and identify ways for strengthening its implementation; and 4) to explore modalities for continued engagement and collaboration of the international stakeholders beyond this specific meeting and the First Global Forum on Youth Policies in order to ensure continuity and follow through on the commitment to youth issues going forward.



1ST GLOBAL FORUM ON YOUTH POLICIES

PART 4

COMMON DENOMINATORS OF YOUTH POLICY

#youthpolicymatters

28-30 October 2014

Baku, Azerbaijan

INTRODUCTION: CONTEXT & FRAMEWORK

COMMON FEATURES, BUT NO PRESCRIPTIVE FORMULA

Overall, there is no prescriptive formula that has to be followed when describing what a national youth policy should look like. Each country must determine the preferred structure and content, the parameters and the scope, as a response to its specific political set-up, social situation and cultural patterns. As per the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes¹,

“the formulation and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes and actions in favour of young women and young men are the responsibility of each country and should take into account the economic, social and environmental diversity of conditions in each country, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values, cultural backgrounds and philosophical convictions of its people, and in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms”.

Despite this cautionary note there are some common key denominators and structural features that are found in most national youth policies. The 2nd Day of the Forum therefore put the spotlight on them, seeking to discuss in depth the risks, challenges and opportunities, as well as to share and identify successful experiences that could be replicated for these common denominators.

The morning plenary was an opportunity to open the debate around these denominators, to set the tone and discuss the overarching and strategic questions and issues that were later further discussed within the specific working sessions. It also allowed to present innovative practices from across the world and reflect on how to promote the exchange of such practices as well as inter- and intra-regional collaboration.

The morning was kicked off by a keynote speech by Howard Williamson, who explored some of the overarching and strategic questions and issues relating to ensuring and applying common denominators within and across youth policies.

Professor Williamsson began by sketching the historical context of youth policies and their emergence as a tool of policy-making, starting from the idea for an integrated policy approach in the 1960s² to the political relevance gained by the 1995 World Programme of Action for Youth and the 1998 Lisbon Declaration at the World Conference of Youth Ministers.

Adding the perspective of civil society, which called for national youth policies that take on an “overarching coordination role and give direction to all policies that directly and indirectly affect young people and their development as members of society,”³ the keynote went on to contrast the ambitions laid out in policy documents, young and old, with current policy realities.

1. The Declaration was adopted by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, convened by the Government of Portugal, in cooperation with the United Nations, in Lisbon from 8 to 12 August 1998. Until the Baku Commitment, the Declaration was the only such global document that focuses specifically on the content of youth policies. <http://www.unesco.org/cpp/uk/declarations/lisbon.pdf>

2. The 1964 UNESCO International Conference on Youth in Grenoble discussed youth policy mostly through the lense of out-of-school education. See UNESCO (1964). International Conference on Youth. Grenoble, France, 23 August-1 September 1964. Final Report. Available online at <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0012/001263/126358EB.pdf>.

3. National youth policies – towards an autonomous, supportive, responsible and committed youth was a policy paper by the so-called Big Six: YMCA, YWCA, WOSM, WAGGGS, IFRC and IAA. Today the Big Six are also referred to as the ‘Alliance of Youth CEOs’. The paper is available at www.youth-policy.org/library/documents/national-youth-policies-a-working-document-from-the-point-of-view-of-non-formal-education-youth-organizations/.

The keynote was entitled “Sense and nonsense in rhetoric and realities about youth policy?,” a question examined by comparing the claims we make with the positions we take. Using a variety of examples from around the world, Professor Williamson exposed some of the irrationalities and contradictions of policies directed towards and affecting different groups of young people.

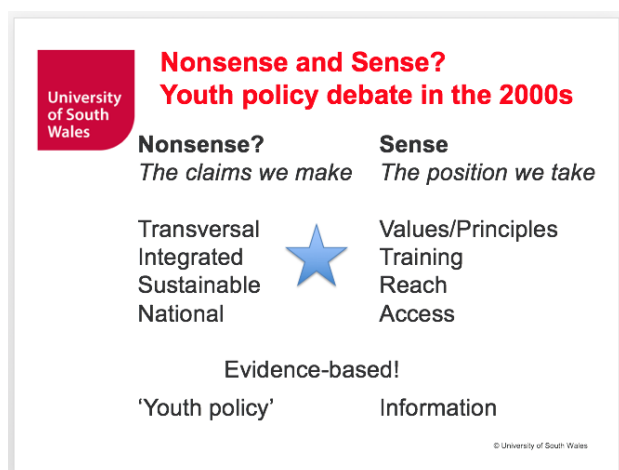
Drawing on the components and dynamics of youth policy,⁴ the speaker argued that a coherent, transversal and opportunity-focused youth policy should offer and provide:

- Flexible learning and development pathways
- A meaningful youth guarantee for education, employment and training (EET)
- Civic engagement opportunities for young people
- Democratic participation processes in schools, communities, institutions and society
- Proportionality, positioning and prevention in response to youth ‘pathologies’
- An approach of universality that can be differentiated according to need



This, argued the speaker, would maximise the reach of positive opportunities and limit the reach of negative interventions. He concluded by calling on the Forum and its stakeholders to build frameworks for youth policies that have the promise of producing more certainty, more coherence, more continuity and more confidence in positive and purposeful policy and practice for young people.

Following the plenary, the working sessions explored three categories of denominators, namely on (1) building youth policy frameworks, (2) governing youth policy frameworks, and (3) implementing youth policy frameworks.



The following pages contain a summary of these working sessions, on legal frameworks and instruments and maintaining an evidence-base, on participation strategies and making youth policy transversal and cross-sectorial, and on political commitments and resources and monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

4. The components and dynamics of youth policy, also known as the C-s and D-s of youth policy, have emerged from the series of intergovernmental national youth policy reviews by the Council of Europe. They are detailed in “Supporting young people in Europe – Volume 2 – Lessons from the ‘second seven’ Council of Europe international reviews of national youth policy”, which is available online at <http://www.youthpolicy.org/library/documents/supporting-young-people-in-europe-volume-2/>.

1: BUILDING YOUTH POLICY FRAMEWORKS

1.1: LEGAL FRAMEWORKS AND INSTRUMENTS



In terms of their normative basis, youth policies could stem from youth-specific legislation or, in many cases, from more generic laws or legislative measures that affect different categories of population or different policy areas, and, thereby, also youth. In all cases, in terms of the content of the national youth policy, this should be coherent not only with the provisions of the national, regional and international normative instruments that guarantee fundamental rights for all⁵, but also of those that are specifically addressed to youth⁶.

Indeed, most national youth policies attempt to align with key normative documents at national, regional and international such as:

- The national constitution
- The national codes or legislation within specific policy areas addressed by the youth policy
- The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights
- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- International Labour Organization resolutions concerning young people
- The UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers

In addition to these, specific frameworks have been developed by regional organizations, such as the African Union (African Youth Charter), the Council of Europe (Advisory Council on Youth, co-management system and Ministerial conferences) and the Organización Iberoamericana de Juventud (Iberoamerican Charter of Youth Rights),⁷ to guide the development of Youth Policies.

Further on, while there is not one single legally binding international instrument addressing the full range of human rights of youth⁸ (like is the CRC for the rights of children), some policies are also guided by soft

5. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the two Optional Protocols, Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all migrant workers and members of their families.

6. Convention the Rights of the Child, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, Convention against discrimination in Education, African Youth Charter. 7. The frameworks adopted by these regional organizations are all available online: African Youth Charter ([pdf](#)), the European Agenda 2020 ([pdf](#)) and the Ibero-American Convention on the Rights of Youth ([pdf](#)).

8. Independent of the various understandings of which age-range the notion of young people should cover, which differs greatly across countries and oftentimes within countries across policy areas.

instruments of international youth policy that already exist. These include [The World Programme of Action for Youth \(pdf\)](#) and the regular reports of the Secretary General on its implementation (2012, 2010, 2008, 2006, 2005, 2001, 1999, 1997); the resolutions of the General Assembly on policies and programmes involving youth (2014, 2012, 2010, 2008, 2005, 2004, 2002, 2000, 1979); thematic resolutions and declarations on youth-relevant issues (such as the [Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples](#) in 1965 or the [Global Analysis and Evaluation of national Action Plans on Youth Employment](#) in 2005); as well as the results of ministerial conferences, such as the [1998 World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth](#) (Lisbon, Portugal), the [2010 World Youth Conference](#) (León, Mexico) and the [2014 World Youth Conference](#) (Colombo, Sri Lanka).⁹

Against this backdrop, the working session on legal frameworks and instruments focused on two complementary issues: 1) the legal framework and normative basis from which a national youth policy stems; 2) the normative instruments (national, regional, international) that a policy on youth refers to, incorporates and contextualizes. By doing so, it sought to explore the relationship between policy and law, and to share knowledge and experience on legal frameworks and instruments.

Sparked by short opening interventions, the discussions explored a number of key issues:

- The interrelationships between global, regional, national and local frameworks and instruments, their various types and characteristics, their potentials and shortcomings;
- The difficult choice between general legislation, occasionally with implementation measures specifically targeted at young people, versus youth-specific legislation;
- The power of legal frameworks and instruments versus the difficulty to meaningfully involve young people in their development and design without being merely tokenistic;
- The difficulty in building and sustaining an evidence-base that inform legal frameworks and instruments, rather than the occasional singular study or disconnected report;
- The need to have a small core group of enthusiasts that push forward with new frameworks and instruments versus the need to involve a variety of stakeholders sustainably;
- The tendency, in some cases stronger than in others, to codify obligations of young people in laws, while placing commitments to young people in vague, underfunded policies;
- The related dilemma, paraphrased as ‘a policy to involve and inspire, a law to mandate and require,’ that policies are often harder to fund, whereas laws are often harder to change;
- The difficulty to coordinate laws and monitor their implementation without governmental or parliamentary structures that are specifically responsible for youth issues;
- The tension between parliaments having budgetary authority, on the one hand, but often not being involved in the drafting or even adoption of legal frameworks and instruments;
- The narrowing focus on youth laws as the main legal instrument, while there are many ways in which legal frameworks and instruments can be established and become useful;
- The often overlooked need for a youth policy system surrounding a legal framework, from youth representation and youth knowledge to independent monitoring and evaluation.

⁹. Youthpolicy.org (2015): Youth policy at international level. In About youth policy and youth policies, available at <http://www.youthpolicy.org/faq/>.

While not all of these issues could be explored in full, some recommendations emerged:

- Legal frameworks and instruments can be meaningful when embedded in larger system as well as when standing on their own. It is crucial for youth legislation to consider and draw on existing political and legal traditions: if separate laws are made for most policy areas, it may not be helpful to try and enforce a cross-sectoral, integrated approach; if separate laws are the exception, it may be useful to explore youth-specific implementation measures.
- When it comes to youth rights, however, many examples were shared where the rights of young people were ignored, diminished, or violated, because of the absence of a law. This, many of the experts argued, is one of the larger deficits of the youth sector, in that it lacks an enforceable, recognised instrument specifying and protecting the rights of young people.
- Enforcement of legal frameworks requires resources and instruments: if there are no lawyers available, the right to a lawyer does not help any young person, it becomes hollow and meaningless. It would thus be important to develop a database of youth law and corresponding jurisdiction, and to train lawyers and make sure they are both competent, in legal terms, and empathic, in more general terms.

A comprehensive youth policy system is more than legal frameworks and instruments, but it should be built on a set of well-functioning and well-funded legal instruments.

1.2: MAINTAINING A CONSISTENT EVIDENCE-BASE



Building and maintaining a consistent evidence base is indispensable to ensure that the youth policy is both relevant and efficient, at any moment. The development of the evidence-base of the policy should be context specific to the country and should be linked to existing national plans in order to enable the policy to feed directly into those plans.

There can be different types and levels of consolidated evidence:

Youth profile/situation analysis, incorporating

both qualitative and quantitative data and information on youth, as well as providing insights into at least three basic questions: who are youth? Where are youth? What are youth doing? In terms of *quantitative information*, the analysis requires data on social and economic living conditions, demand and supply data on the different areas affecting youth development in the country, government budget. It is important to collect disaggregated data by going to the smallest possible units of measurement and getting as close to the individual as possible. Through disaggregating national data by different categories – male/female, ur-

ban/rural, geographic divisions, religions, ethnic groups, etc – the contextual analysis can already identify patterns of inclusion or exclusion, inequities and gaps to address. In terms of collecting *qualitative information*, this refers to techniques for gathering non-statistical data could be applied, including in-depth interviews, opinion polls, perception studies, focus groups, participant observation and others. Participatory, qualitative assessments can be a way to better understand young people's perspectives on development within their own reality. Surveys and other polling methods, for example, offer people the opportunity to express their aspirations, and participate in advocating for policies that reflect them.



Stakeholders' analysis, key in identifying those who influence and/or can be affected by the policy change that the policy on youth is aspiring to. Stakeholders are persons or organizations with vested interest in engaging in policies affecting youth and may include: youth-led and youth-focused organizations; international donors; national political (legislators, governors); regional and local political leaders; elected officials who have made this a priority; public officials; labor unions; religious leaders; academic scholars; commercial/private for-profit; nonprofit, non-governmental organizations (such as NGOs, foundations); other civil society actors; and representatives of socially excluded or marginalized groups/persons. The stakeholders' analysis should look into and reveal: the nature and magnitude of their preferences; the mechanisms through which they can impact the policy; which groups are empowered/disempowered by the policy. Such analysis can be used to identify the key actors and to assess their knowledge, interests, positions, alliances, and importance related to the youth policy. An institutional analysis is also needed, particularly in terms of analyzing how national and local bureaucracies work, what the bureaucratic culture is, and how it performs under pressure.

Overall environment analysis, including international and regional commitments of the country, particularly in terms of human rights instruments; the broad political context and its impact in terms of the realization of rights; the nature of the political system – multi-party, consensus or conflictual; political and cultural attitudes to youth development or specific areas therein; the strength of civil society.

Against this backdrop, the working session on maintaining a consistent evidence-base focused on a number of key issues, among them challenges in collecting quantitative and qualitative data, in capturing the complexity of the policy environment, and in sustaining and updating an evidence-base.

Sparked by short opening interventions, the discussions explored a number of key issues:

- The tension between seeking to inform stakeholders of a political process, on the one hand, and the desire to stay neutral within political territory, on the other hand;

- The risk of oversimplifying data and blurring the complexity of youth realities versus the risk of over-complicating issues and burying crucial insights under mountains of data;
- The lack of agreement on what to measure, how to measure it and how to interpret data: targets, indicators, and their meaning, are disputed academically and politically;
- The ambiguity of nuanced findings and careful interpretations by researchers being taken by policy makers with their need to translate these findings into arguments;
- The difference between rationales, and how youth rights, youth needs, and youth wants each influence the evidence-base typically informing decisions under each rationale;
- The need to control and define data points globally versus the desire for and charm of building data sets through citizen action and youth participation.

While not all of these issues could be explored in full, some recommendations emerged:

- A system of building and maintaining an evidence-base should be established within each country, so that data can be systematically gathered and be continually provided. These systems should ideally be guided and framed by global standards. Longitudinal and comparative studies should be part of such a system.
- The roles of research and policy should be clarified and expressed through a code of conduct, to avoid suspicions about 'policy-driven evidence-making' and to ensure that research stays both relevant and independent.



- The enormity of the data gap for youth-specific data will require a gigantic effort of all stakeholders in the coming years. As part of that effort, ideally—and to avoid misinterpretations and misrepresentations—data should always be made open-source.
- There also is an enormous difference between the quality and quantity of data available in various parts of the world. Developing and maintaining a consistent evidence-base should become a major focus of youth-centred development work.
- Young people should always have access to data collected about them, and should always

be part of the effort to interpret such data. Participation in data collection, data verification and data interpretation cannot be tokenistic.

- There is a tendency to limit the understanding of and call for youth-specific data to the domain of civil society. Other crucially important areas of policy-making that affect young people, but over which they tend to have little influence, should no longer be ignored.

An evidence-base should always seek to illustrate the situation of young people and go beyond the policy framework that is addressed at them. Ideally, it would follow a universally agreed template and pattern, which would make data internationally comparable.

2: GOVERNING YOUTH POLICY FRAMEWORKS

2.1: MAKING YOUTH POLICY TRANSVERSAL & CROSS-SECTORAL

While young women and men are a specifically identifiable group, their aspirations, rights and needs cut across all policy sectors: from education to employment, from social development to health, from culture and sports to communication. This implies that any policy which aspires to holistically address youth concerns needs to provide an integrated strategic framework that both (i) foresees youth-specific action within each of these policy sectors individually (education, employment, health, etc) and (ii) allows for interaction and cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration across these different policy sectors around concrete youth development objectives.



So far, attempts to apply a silo approach to youth policies have not only had limited efficiency, but they have also created situations where the government entities responsible for youth (Ministries or Secretariats for Youth) did not have the status, budget and capacity to coordinate with line ministries and to hold them accountable for youth work within their respective policy sector. Yet, these government entities responsible for youth (Ministries or Secretariats for Youth) have a key role to play as the initiator and guarantors of the youth policy. In recent years there has been a recognizable shift towards revising national youth policies away from thematic silos towards cross-sectorally integrated policy frameworks.

Against this backdrop, the working session on making youth policy transversal and cross-sectoral focused on discussing concrete ways to ensure that a youth policy is transversal and cross-sectoral from its very development through to its implementation; on how to ensure that it is translated at the subnational, community or local level, across and within policy sectors; and on how to devise regional and global mechanisms, tools and processes that can support the creation of such youth policy systems and frameworks in line with the emerging systemic and integrated approach to public policies for young people.

Sparked by short opening interventions, the discussions explored a number of key issues:

- Working transversally and cross-sectorally often stands against organisational cultures and hierarchies, in particular in public administration. Cutting across those hierarchies is not easily done, and requires political as well as administrative support.
- The investment needed to make transversal and cross-sectoral cooperation a reality is often missing, and the required funds, time and energy have to be summoned from existing resources, which is not a sustainable approach or permanent solution.

- Transversal and cross-sectoral cooperation can be made to work at a particular level of governance, but there are very few examples of making it work across governance level, e.g. by connection the national with the local level.
- The underlying rationale of youth policy tends to be at odds with rationales underpinning other policy areas. Aligning those rationales, and in particular not letting holistic youth policies be swallowed by more narrowly focused sectoral policies, is a major challenge.
- Moral panics are particularly difficult. The permanent and ongoing problematisation of young people has led to a stigma that is hard to break and is often deeply embedded in organisational cultures and personal beliefs.

While not all of these issues could be explored in full, some recommendations emerged:



- Transversal and cross-sectoral approaches to youth policy should be clearly named and framed in a youth policy's legal base to make it binding. It should be followed up on with clear implementation measures, in particular with adequate human resources at all levels.
- Transversal and cross-sectoral approaches make youth participation more challenging: the thematic breadth and depth requires more substantive strategies for youth empowerment and youth involvement, giving young people a voice, and places for it to be heard.

- Examples of good practice from around the world to implement transversal and cross-sectoral approaches frequently feature cross-ministerial working groups with a clear political mandate and resources and an independent youth policy review process.
- It is crucial to consider the benefit of every actor in a transversal set-up: What can other policy areas and their stakeholders gain from engaging with youth policy? How can cross-sectoral cooperation become a mutually beneficial learning experience for all actors?

Soft regulations have proven too weak in practice: cross-sectoral approaches to youth policy need a clear legal base with a mandate that cannot be negotiated or ignored.

2.2: STRATEGIES FOR YOUTH AND STAKEHOLDERS' PARTICIPATION

For youth policy to be empowering as well as effective, youth knowledge, expectations, frustrations and aspirations must be brought in to inform the development of appropriate interventions and services. A youth policy that is developed with the involvement of youth stands a much greater chance of success, as interventions will have greater relevance for and legitimacy among youth. Youth participation in political processes also makes decisions more sustainable and easier to implement, while enabling young people

to learn about and engage in democratic processes and at the same time developing and deepening democracy. Ideally, youth involvement would be framed by a set of mutually agreed principles of engagement.¹⁰ In constrained political and social environments, particular attention would need to be given to ensure that any youth policy ensures the inclusion and participation of the poorest and most disadvantaged young women and men.



Successful youth engagement and participation strategies require that youth have genuine and meaningful opportunities to work with each other and with policymakers to impact issues of importance. Effective initiatives respect the value of young people in public problem-solving. They also provide young people and adults with information, tools and support to work effectively together as partners, allowing opportunities for youth to take ownership of parts of the process, mobilize others and become powerful role models. It is important to be inclusive in planning and working with youth, placing particular emphasis on engaging young people who have not traditionally been included in community youth development opportunities and recognizing and valuing diversity (including ethnic, racial and socio-economic).¹¹ The recognition and participation of different groups of youth (age, gender, vulnerability, ethnicity etc.) in the policy process would indeed allow to direct action towards solutions for youth in different sectors – disaggregated according to their age, gender, etc. These would then be integrated – through the policy – into the overall development plan of the country.

Other than the government and the youth groups, a number of other categories of stakeholders are influenced by, or can influence and contribute to, the national youth policy. The main purpose of putting into place strategies and methods for stakeholder participation is to ensure representation, enable greater ownership of the policy by all parties and facilitate consensus building, capacity development, resource availability and mobilization, and, ultimately, efficient and sustained operationalization of the policy. Such strategies may be complementary or adjacent to youth participation strategies. Also different actors may be invited to participate at various levels and stages of the policy process (development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, review etc). At an operational level, stakeholder participation can be manifested in four types:

1. *Information-sharing: stakeholders are informed in order to facilitate collective and individual action.*
2. *Consultation: stakeholders are consulted and interact with an organization, which can take account of their feedback.*

¹⁰. Examples of such principles include the principles of UNDP's Youth Strategy "Empowered Youth, Sustainable Future", "Working together: Partnership Principles" by Oxfam (2012), and "Guidelines on Partnerships with Southern CSOs" by Dóchas, the Irish Association of NGOs (2013).

¹¹. "Youth Summits: Capturing Youth Voice in Public policy Debates", Bloom, J (2000) and Results-based public policy Strategies for Promoting Youth Civic Engagement, Center for the Study of Social policy, November 2011.

3. *Decision-making: stakeholders contribute to decision-making processes on specific issues relating to the policy or a specific project therein.*
4. *Initiating action: stakeholders are proactive and able to take the initiative that can influence the policy or a specific aspect within the policy.*

Against this backdrop, the working session on strategies for youth and stakeholders' participation focused on debating and examining how to best engage young people specifically and stakeholders more widely throughout all stages of the policy process, and on the challenges typically associated with that.

Sparked by short opening interventions, the discussions explored a number of key issues:

- There is a growing disparity between the claims that young people are apolitical and unengaged, on the one hand, and an increasing variety, creativity, but also sincerity and resolve of youth participation and youth activism across the globe.



- The public discourse on youth participation is heavily skewed by stereotypical perceptions among many policy makers about apathetic young people, and heavily mediated by sensationalist media portrayals of rioting young people.
- At the same time, the discourse about power and politics among young people is equally skewed and mediated: there is little trust in the ability of governments to design policies fit to address the problems of young people – and little trust more generally.

- Many young people individually and youth movements collectively are seeking to figure out ways of political engagement that do not take the status quo for granted, neither in terms of policies nor in terms of structures. They want, and seek, change.
- There are many hidden dimensions of and obstacles to participation. Across the globe, many minority groups are stigmatised and marginalised, and youth participation is often mainstreamed to cater to and represent 'the average'.
- There are some examples of 'walking the talk' – participation is a catch-all phrase, but there is very little commitment to giving it permanent shape or form. Co-management remains an island at the Council of Europe; youth quota in Parliaments are rare.

While not all of these issues could be explored in full, some recommendations emerged:

- The key to making stakeholder participation sustainable is to share power. Only where real decisions can be made, where real influence can be had, will there be enough interest, and enough engagement, to make participation a non-tokenistic exercise.
- There is no golden rule, no one-fits-all-strategy, on how to organise participation. What works is highly contextual, and highly fluid, but needs to be inclusive. Rigid structures and inflexible approaches will always limit and more often than not entirely quell participation.

- Taken to extremes, the indifference and/or conflicts between political actors and youth movements can not only obstruct the development of inclusive societies, but end in devastating spirals of violence. Participation can only function properly when these negative dynamics are broken.
- The mantra about apathetic young people is a myth, and we should tear it apart. The variety and creativity of political engagement is enormous, and should be portrayed, fostered, and appreciated much more pro-actively and widely.
- The effects of migration are often not considered enough: many young people do neither participate in their country of origin nor their destination, and are caught in the limbo between two societies. More needs to be done to address those realities.
- Many strategies and discourses on youth participation seem centred on urban environments. How participation can work outside larger cities, and how young people living in rural areas can be involved, remains an underexplored issue.
- While accountability is key, there are few examples from around the world where governments and administrations are successfully held accountable for their involvement or non-involvement of young people. More experimentation is needed and welcome.

Meaningful strategies for non-tokenistic participation are contextual and non-generic, but they all seek to share power *in earnest*. Young people are not apathetic, but they do not fall for empty phrases or biased conditions.

3: IMPLEMENTING YOUTH POLICY FRAMEWORKS

3.1: POLITICAL COMMITMENTS AND MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES

Ensuring an efficient and sustained coordination and collaboration among the Ministries concerned by the youth policy is a fundamental precondition for successful transversal and cross-sectorial youth policies. Youth-specific programmes conducted through Sectorial Ministries should be aligned with the national youth policy and reported to the body that coordinates the policy (Ministry of Youth or Secretariat for youth). Ownership of the youth policy objectives among the sectorial ministries, as well as the establishment of clear accountability lines could be pursued through the



development of action plans for the implementation of the policy, as has been the case in many countries. This also raises the issue of capacity gaps, both within the coordinating body and within the sectorial ministries. Finally, it is important to ensure that interministerial cooperation practices also incorporate youth participation mechanisms and processes.



Resource mobilization is crucial in ensuring that the operationalization of the policy is funded and that the policy does not remain latent. This means that a national youth policy should be budgeted with clear budget allocations for its different programmes and activities. An interesting option - with significant returns in terms of finding creative solutions to issues that can result in cost savings and better value for money - would be to enable participatory youth budgeting which will also act as a further accountability mechanism. This would be largely run by youth.

Ensuring resource mobilization begins from the very development of the policy, where, if proper advocacy efforts are made during the development and consensus-building processes, resource mobilization for its implementation will be greatly enabled and facilitated. In the majority of cases the primary financing comes from the national budget itself and would either be distributed among sectorial ministries with clear budget lines for youth programmes therein, or be entirely provided to the Ministry responsible for Youth. This relates to the level of interministerial cooperation and the institutional architecture in place for the implementation of the policy. It also brings up the role or involvement of the Ministry of Finance/Budget in the national youth policy process. Other than the national budget, financing or in-kind contributions and resources could also be sourced through partnerships with different youth-development stakeholders in the country.

Against this backdrop, the working session on political commitment and the mobilisation of resources focused on the challenges of achieving sustainable and efficient interministerial cooperation throughout the policy cycle, and on concrete ways and examples of overcoming these challenges; and on issues relating to budget development and distribution, as well as how to best mobilize and optimize resources for the implementation of a national youth policy.

Sparked by short opening interventions, the discussions explored a number of key issues:

- While the number of comprehensive youth policy frameworks across the globe is increasing, many modernised and new youth policies still suffer from insufficient resources and a lack of political will to implement what has been put on paper.
- The youth sector oftentimes misses the necessary infrastructure to implement comprehensive policy frameworks, from trained professionals and dedicated spaces to recognition mechanisms and evaluation approaches.
- While the adoption of the World Programme of Action for Youth 20 years ago was a sign of hope for political commitment, the slow adoption and low reporting rates of Member States have shown just how much more work remains to be done.
- There are an increasing number of regional examples of charters and instruments that document a

political will, but while the will of youth policy makers might be there, it is often difficult to embed these instruments into overall government policy.

- Political will for youth policy is hard to organise in times where the idea that each individual is responsible for themselves has taken such a strong hold in many arenas of political discourse and policy making.

While not all of these issues could be explored in full, some recommendations emerged:

- Good practice from around the globe shows that the legal basis of youth policies should be complemented with action plans, and should be equipped with a transparent and accountable budget for its implementation.
- A global overview of how much governments are spending on youth more generally and on youth policies more specifically is currently being built. In addition to such evidence, an accountability mechanism would be needed.
- Political will has to be built everywhere: in Parliament, in Government, and in Jurisdiction; but also in youth organisations, youth movements and among young people. Without such shared political will, youth policies can hardly be successful.
- Even when policies seek to include groups of marginalised and disenfranchised young people, resource distribution tends to favour organised and active young people. Paying attention to the alignment of policy aims and spending is crucial.
- Accountability, as well as comparability, could work through defining indicators for an enabling environment for young people. In other words: systemic indicators might be a better way forward than trying to define indicators during each policy cycle.

National youth policies without concrete action plans and accompanying budgets remain hollow documents. To avoid such paper tigers, a global comparison of spending levels & an accountability mechanism are needed.

3.2: BUILDING MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEMS

Public policies targeting young people are as much subject to changing circumstances as any other policy instrument. Monitoring which elements work in practice and which do not is crucial to ensure adaptability and continued relevance and, through instruments ranging from peer assessment to external evaluation, provides the basis for accountability and transparency.

In terms of tools that can be used to facilitate or guide the monitoring and evaluation of the policy, the General Assembly, at its



sixtieth session, in October 2005, adopted a resolution on policies and programmes involving youth¹², requesting the United Nations to establish a broad set of indicators related to youth, which governments and other actors may choose to use to monitor the situation of young people related to the priority areas identified in the WPAY. In December 2005, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, held an Expert Group Meeting to define a set of indicators.¹³



In 2009, the UN Economic and Social Council identified a series of goals and targets for monitoring the progress of youth in the areas covered by the WPAY.¹⁴ These goals and targets address youth as a specific socio-demographic group and focus on the issues that impinge directly on youth development. Use can also be made of the reporting mechanisms for the different international conventions such as CRC and CEDAW, and also the other conventions with a specific youth focus. This is another area where the rest of the UN system can

also play a key role, together with the World Bank and UNDP through their governance programmes.

Against this backdrop, the working session on building monitoring and evaluation systems focused on how to incorporate monitoring and evaluation systems into the policy document for all stages of policy implementation, as well as into the sectorial plans, based on clear objectives and indicators; how to ensure that these systems are participatory and clarifying the role of the government and other institutional actors and stakeholders; how to identify and measure indicators and identify and address capacity gaps; and on how to ensure links between the monitoring and evaluation system of the youth policy with overall monitoring and evaluation indicators, e.g. of national development strategies and poverty reduction strategies.

Sparked by short opening interventions, the discussions explored a number of key issues:

- While the need and demand as well as the potency and urgency of systematic evaluation of youth policy implementation is widely recognised, there is no agreement and not enough evidence on how to approach the development of youth-specific monitoring and evaluation systems.
- Recent initiatives to build a global evidence-base for youth policy – including two new global indices, the Youth Development Index (YDI) and the Youth Wellbeing Index (YWI) – have showcased the data gaps constraining the youth sector.¹⁵

12. Resolution 60/2, adopted on 6 October 2005: <http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/RES/60/2>

13. See <http://undesadspd.org/Youth/OurWork/Youthdevelopmentindicators.aspx> for more information.

14. The determination of these goals and targets was conducted through a participatory process involving experts from the various organisations of the UN System, academia and representatives of youth organisations. For further details: Commission for Social Development Res.45/2; UN General Assembly Res.62/162; Reports of the Secretary General on the follow-up to the WPAY (A/62/61/Add.1- E/2007/7 and A/64/61-E/2009/3).

15. The Youth Development Index is available at <http://youthdevelopmentindex.org>, the Youth Wellbeing Index at <http://www.youthindex.org>, and the team of youthpolicy.org has documented some of the data gaps: "Gaps, Gapes and Gulfs: Data (or the lack thereof)" <http://www.youthpolicy.org/blog/participation-global-governance/gaps-gapes-and-gulfs-data-or-the-lack-thereof-on-how-youth-participate-around-the-world/>.

- Much of the ongoing evaluation seems donor- and funding-induced and thus mostly designed to portray projects and programmes in relation to specific funding goals, rather than the overarching youth policy framework in which a project or programme is situated.
- The majority of monitoring and evaluation approaches seems to have difficulty to meaningfully involve young people in their design and implementation. Some good practice exists, but there is no consistency or sustainability to these few examples.
- There have been a few attempts to define indicators, but none of them have gained traction in the sector, so that the question of what should be monitored and evaluated remains largely unanswered, along with how such monitoring and evaluation should be done.

While not all of these issues could be explored in full, some recommendations emerged:

- The evidence-base of the youth sector, currently under construction with a number of formidable efforts, remains too thin and too stretched. Resources should be mobilised to courageously and sustainably fund both existing and emerging initiatives.
- A systemic approach to the monitoring and evaluation of youth policy systems should be developed, ideally one that can be applied to multiple approaches, for example by focusing on measuring and monitoring indicators for an enabling environment.
- The emerging post-2015 framework for sustainable development should be explored in relation to youth-specific data points that could be and collated through the frameworks' monitoring mechanisms, instead of duplicating efforts to collect data.
- In addition to conceptual and methodological development, this area of youth policy needs a sustained effort to train and empower all stakeholders. Monitoring and evaluation, to this day, remains too sporadic, too singular, and too simplistic.



The currently absent systemic approach to evaluating youth policy measures and their impact calls for a sector-wide initiative to strengthen monitoring & evaluation beyond a specific project or programme to capture enabling environments for young people.





1ST GLOBAL FORUM ON YOUTH POLICIES

PART 5

THEMATIC AREAS OF YOUTH POLICY

#youthpolicymatters

28-30 October 2014

Baku, Azerbaijan

1: EDUCATION

The World Programme of Action for Youth emphasises the importance of education for children and youth, to support “young people in the transition to full adulthood, active citizenship and productive and gainful employment.” Proposals include actions to raise the level of basic education and literacy, vocational and enterprise training, programmes for youth work and youth leaders, and human rights education that addresses fundamental freedoms and promotes peace, tolerance, heritage and solidarity.

At the Global Forum on Youth Policies, the following observations were noted:

- Young people today are beneficiaries of the global push on education – particularly primary – as part of the Millennium Development Goals. As part of the Sustainable Development Goals, quality education, equity and gender equality – as well as a focus on secondary education, access to higher education and non-formal education - need to be incorporated into the Sustainable Development Goals.¹
- Exacerbated by the 2008 financial crash, education has an increasing duality between a tool to support the transition to employment and the role of education as part of civic involvement and inclusion.
- Future educational provision needs to aspire to greater levels of inclusiveness, particularly for marginalised communities such as women and girls, LGBT youth, disabled youth, refugees, ethnic minorities and those living with HIV/AIDS.
- There is a need to improve the quality of – as well as the access to – educational opportunities through a locally relevant curriculum that has a transformative impact on young people. Learning should move beyond core subjects, such as numeracy and literacy, and include sexual and reproductive health education, entrepreneurial education or global citizenship education.²
- Young people should be supported, through formal and non-formal educational approaches, to assist their transition from school to employment and civic life. Peer-to-peer learning and non-formal learning need to be recognised for their value and contribution in providing a holistic approach to education for young people.

1. UNICEF & UNESCO, 2013, Envisioning Education in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, http://en.unesco.org/post2015/sites/post2015/files/Post-2015_EN_web.pdf

2. Global Education First Initiative, <http://www.globaleducationfirst.org/220.htm>

2: EMPLOYMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The World Programme of Action for Youth notes the global nature of unemployment for young people, and recognises it as part of the “larger struggle to create employment opportunities for all citizens.” Written after the worldwide recession in the mid-1990s, the text is particularly relevant after the global financial crash of 2008. The proposals for action include opportunities for self-employment, voluntary service programmes, access to technological innovations and a focus on marginalised groups that are specifically prone to unemployment or underemployment.

At the Global Forum on Youth Policies, the following observations were noted:

- Youth unemployment and underemployment are serious challenges for young people, who seek decent, quality jobs as part of a sustainable livelihood.³ This impacts on the short-term and long-term outcomes for young people, as well as national development, economic situation, industrial growth and educational provision.
- Young people have been impacted by the 2008 financial crash, and suffer from precarious working environments and informal employment arrangements.
- Simultaneously, young people suffer from a lack of technically relevant skills and competencies needed by the labour market, and – particularly in Europe, North America and Oceania – are over-qualified for employment opportunities that are available.⁴
- While a significant number of jobs need to be created in the next two decades, there is a need to ensure that education and training is not only targeted at the current labour market needs, but recognises the changing nature of employment and is future skilled orientated. This includes new competences, transferable skills, new forms of governance, technological innovations and the promotion of sustainable economies.
- National strategies need to be adopted to provide strong foundations for youth employment programmes. These need to be cross- and multi-sectoral and provided with the resources to make sustainable impact. Emphasis needs to be placed on the ability of such programmes to produce immediate jobs for young people as well as challenge the long-term structural issues of youth unemployment.
- Entrepreneurship is often seen as a panacea to youth unemployment, however even though young people are optimistic and skilled to start their own enterprise, they lack the enabling environment, with poor access to financing and credit, limited land rights, and sporadic enterprise-focused education and training, and support by national and international policy and trade frameworks. This is additionally necessary for female entrepreneurs who face additional legal, social and economic barriers.⁵

3. ILO, 2013, Global Employment Trends for Youth 2013: A generation at risk http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_212423.pdf

4. CSIS, 2015, Key Considerations in Youth Workforce Development, http://csis.org/files/publication/150129_Goldin_YouthWorkforce_Web.pdf

5. Kelley, D., Brush, C., Greene, P., Litovsky, Y., (2012), Global Entrepreneurship Monitor 2012 Women's Report, <http://www.gemconsortium.org/docs/download/2825>

3: ENVIRONMENT

The World Programme of Action for Youth declared that “young people have a special interest in maintaining a healthy environment because they will be the ones to inherit it.” It called for the furthering of environmental education, access to information and innovative technologies, the elevation of environmental issues amongst young people, and their participation in all aspects of sustainable development.

At the Global Forum on Youth Policies, the following observations were noted:

- Young people will be most affected by climate change as the cumulative impact is yet to be fully realised. Though it remains an important and urgent threat for the future, the effects of climate change presently impact young people -particularly those in the Pacific region and low-lying states - and therefore immediate action is required.
- Despite the Sustainable Development Goals, advocated for at the Rio+20 Summit in 2012, becoming an integrated aspect of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the environment has lost priority within the youth agenda. This is seen in the My World 2015 survey, where climate change ranks in 16th position – last place – amongst youth.⁶ The more immediately impacting issues of healthcare, education, employment and governance are seen as more pressing priorities.⁷
- Through the Major Group for Children and Youth, YOUNGO (the youth constituency of the UNFCCC), and youth structures at UNEP, young people have been active participants in the sustainable development negotiations and demonstrated their willingness to meaningfully contribute to discussions and actions on environmental issues.⁸
- Young people are active members of civil society and activist groups focusing on the environment, most prominently on climate change and sustainable development. In contrast, at the United Nations, only limited numbers of young people are involved in negotiations as part of member state delegations, resulting in exclusion from framework and policy design at a global level.
- Environmental issues require a cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach, which requires action in numerous policy areas, across the public, private and voluntary sector, and at global, national and local level.

6. Data accessed on 08/05/2015 from <http://data.myworld2015.org/>

7. <http://www.youthpolicy.org/blog/participation-global-governance/post-2015-the-signal-from-the-noise/>

8. http://www.youthpolicy.org/library/wp-content/uploads/library/2014_MGCY_SDG_Position_Paper_Children_Eng.pdf

4: GENDER EQUALITY

The World Programme of Action for Youth notes that “one of the most important tasks of youth policy is to improve the situation of girls and young women.” Many of the proposals for action centre on the elimination of discrimination and the promotion of gender equality in the spheres of education, health and employment, and the protection of girls and young women from violence and abuse. The WPAY calls for the adoption of all other human rights obligations towards women and girls, such as the Fourth World Conference on Women.

At the Global Forum on Youth Policies, the following observations were noted:

- Girls and young women continued to face significant barriers to gender equality in employment, secondary and tertiary education, civic and political participation, legal rights and freedoms. They remain legally, socially and culturally discriminated against, and suffer physical, emotional and sexual violence in many countries.⁹
- Gender equality will likely be a standalone goal in the Sustainable Development Goals Framework, however gender equality needs to be recognised throughout all other development goals, targets and indicators. UN Women has advocated for a Gender goal that focuses on freedom from violence, equality in the distribution of capabilities, and gender equality in decision-making with public and private institutions.¹⁰
- The 20th anniversary of World Programme of Action for Youth coincides with the anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on Women¹¹ and is an important time to consider the successes and limitations to date.
- The Beijing Platform for Action¹² provides a gender equality framework that can be applied to youth policy making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Youth policies can advance the goals of gender equality as envisioned by the Beijing Platform for Action by ensuring that young women, girls, and all gender identities, are equal partners and beneficiaries of youth policy. Gender sensitive policymaking, with specific mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the impact for girls and young women should be included.
- The engagement of boys and young men as allies for gender equality, such as through the United Nations’ *He for She*¹³ campaign, should be promoted to ensure men are active participants in the fulfillment of gender equality and the end of all forms of violence and discrimination against girls and women.

9. United Nations, <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/gender.shtml>

10. UN Women, 2013, A transformative stand-alone goal on achieving gender equality, women’s rights and women’s empowerment, <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2013/7/post-2015-long-paper>

11. United Nations, 1995, Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/Beijing%20full%20report%20E.pdf>

12. United Nations, 1995, Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/pfa_e_final_web.pdf

13. <http://www.heforshe.org/>

5: HEALTH

The World Programme of Action for Youth argues that poor health is “often caused by an unhealthy environment, by missing support systems in everyday life for health-promoting patterns of behaviour, by lack of information and by inadequate or inappropriate health services.” Proposals were plentiful, and include provision of basic health services, health education, promotion of health services and information (particularly for sexual and reproductive health), support for youth with HIV/AIDS, promotion of sanitation and hygiene practices, promotion of healthy lifestyles, elimination of sexual abuse and combating malnutrition.

At the Global Forum on Youth Policies, the following observations were noted:

- Young people’s health issues have been incorporated into wider health and youth policies. Out of 109 countries that have a national Health Strategic Plan, 92 countries reference adolescents, with 53 countries including adolescents in health targets, goals and/or indicators.
- Out of 42 analysed national youth policies, 40 countries mentioned health aspects, 33 included sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS, 24 mentioned tobacco or illegal substances, 25 included healthy lifestyles and 22 included mental health. Despite road traffic being the primary cause of youth mortality globally¹⁴, only 4 countries included road traffic within national youth policies.
- Young people with mental illness face stigma and discrimination, with mental conditions frequently not legally recognised or culturally accepted. This is despite high levels of risk factors, such as social marginalisation, violence and conflict, bullying, sexual abuse and domestic violence, and poverty, occurring in many countries. Mental health needs to be given parity with physical health, both in terms of cultural attitudes and in legal frameworks, particularly in the sphere of employment, education and overcoming stigma and discrimination. This needs to be accompanied by the promotion of information, removing institutional barriers, social integration, youth participation in mental health services, and awareness raising through formal and non-formal awareness raising programmes.¹⁵
- Policies and programmes to promote sexual and reproductive health (SRH), including HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, abortions and family planning, risky behaviours, sexuality education, harmful cultural practices such as female genital mutilation, and violence against women, face challenges due to humanitarian and conflict crises, poor health infrastructures, legal restrictions and cultural taboos.¹⁶ Good practices – including those advocated for in the Cairo Declaration¹⁷ – such as integration of SRH into national youth policies, mobilisation of resources, role of civil society and grassroots organisations, inclusion in formal and non-formal curriculum, adult/parental-focused awareness raising, should be further promoted and encouraged.
- Risky behaviours leading to non-communicable disease (chronic diseases), such as those from over consumption of alcohol, tobacco, unhealthy foods, or illicit substances, are serious problems across the developed and the developing world, though disproportionately affect low- to middle-income countries.¹⁸ Youth-led and community programmes are low-cost interventions that can lead to a reduction in youth exposure to unhealthy risk factors.

14. WHO, 2012, 10 facts on youth and road safety, http://www.who.int/features/factfiles/youth_roadsafety/en/

15. UNDESA, 2014, Mental Health Matters, <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/youth-mental-health.pdf>

16. The Lancet, 2006, Executive Summary of Lancet Sexual and Reproductive Health Series, http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/general/lancet_exec_summ.pdf

17. ICPD Beyond 2014, 2013, Cairo Declaration, http://icpdbeeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/cairo_declaration_eng.pdf

18. WHO, 2015, Noncommunicable diseases Fact Sheet, <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs355/en/>

6: INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION

The World Programme of Action for Youth notes that information and communication technology (ICT) “can empower youth by providing them with the opportunity to overcome the barriers of distance and socio-economic disadvantage.” Proposals for action include ensuring that ICT is available to young people and that they have the skills to use it, protection from harmful practices (e.g. child pornography), promoting ICT amongst marginalised groups, and the empowerment of young people to use ICT as a tool for inclusion in a wider, information society.

At the Global Forum on Youth Policies, the following observations were noted:

- For many, ICT is an integrated tool in the daily life of young people, and is used as part of education, healthcare, employment, training and entrepreneurship, civic and political participation, leisure, personal and professional relationships, access to financial and legal services, news gathering, and information sharing. It can be a liberating tool for young people – and adults – and connect individuals to a range of services, information, and communities.
- Young people account for a majority of the world’s Internet users and new social research notes that a third of young people are “digital natives” – young people who have always had access to the Internet¹⁹.
- Access to ICT varies significantly within and between countries, and therefore is at risk of creating digital inequality and further exacerbating prevailing inequalities in society. Rural populations are more likely to have less access to ICT than urban communities, and ICT availability (due to infrastructure) is largely correlated to national income and development levels.²⁰ Similarly, there exists a disparity in affordability and quality of services, particularly data connections and international calling, within and amongst different countries.
- Young people, and the broader community of ICT users, need to be protected from harmful practices, such as cyber-bullying, harassment, revenge porn, identity theft, online account hacking, as well as legal and illegal surveillance by governments and third parties.
- ICT, particularly social media, has been a useful tool in civic and political participation, especially in mobilisations and protests. Notably, democracy protesters have used social media across the Arab world, and also in North America, Europe and Asia. Social media has allowed – and expanded – a space for dialogue, online organising and freedom of expression and has been strengthened by the blending of online and offline networks.²¹

¹⁹. CSIS, 2014, Youth Wellbeing Index Full Report, <http://www.youthindex.org/reports/globalyouthwellbeingindex.pdf>

²⁰. Ibid.

²¹. Mason, P., 2011, Twenty reasons why it's kicking off everywhere, http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/legacy/newsnight/paulmason/2011/02/twenty_reasons_why_its_kicking.html

7: LEISURE

The World Programme of Action for Youth notes that the “importance of leisure-time activities in the psychological, cognitive and physical development of young people is recognized in all societies.” Proposals for actions include ensuring that leisure activities are integrated components of national youth policies and educational programmes, that urban planning and rural design considers youth leisure facilities, and for the media to promote social integration.

At the Global Forum on Youth Policies, the following observations were noted:

- Despite recognition of “leisure, play, and culture” in the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child²² and the 1959 declaration – and widespread acceptance that leisure activities are an important factor in human development – they frequently lack recognition within formal education systems and government programmes.
- Youth work provision, based on the principles of voluntary participation, non-formal learning, democratic practice and relationship building, are often under resourced, and lack the recognition and value of more formalised youth provisions. Professional training programmes and recognisable qualifications are needed for youth sector professionals, particularly those working directly with young people.
- Leisure activities are often focused on sports – particularly seen with the combination of “Youth & Sports” ministries – and there is a need to broaden leisure programmes to include non-formal education, life skills, participation, self-development, arts and culture.
- Gender inequality and discrimination against certain groups of young people (such as disabled, migrant youth, those in conflict with the law) hinders access to existing leisure activities, and on broader social cohesion and integration. Similarly, financial resources, can limit the leisure opportunities available to young people – especially those in poverty or low-income families.

22. UNICEF, 1989, Convention of the Rights of the Child, http://www.unicef.org/crc/files/Rights_overview.pdf

8: PARTICIPATION

The World Programme of Action for Youth noted that, young people “bring unique perspectives that need to be taken into account.” Linking the inclusion of young people in the “building and designing of the future”, proposals for actions include the promotion of rights and responsibilities, the creation of youth associations, the consideration of youth in national policymaking, and the representation of youth in international events, specifically noting the UN Youth Delegates Programme.

At the Global Forum on Youth Policies, the following observations were noted:

- There has been significant growth in the number of international youth events, formal processes and opportunities for young people to participate at national and global levels. Young people’s participation and activism is often at a community level, focusing on immediate local priorities.
- Of 198 countries, 131 countries (66.2%) have a national youth organisation / association that are recognised as the representative structure for young people by governments. Youth associations should be strengthened to provide accountability of governments, be legitimate representatives of youth, enable increased diversity amongst those involved, and broaden their work with young people who are not involved in formal structures.²³
- National youth councils and regional youth forums are often based upon legal provisions, with legislation providing a framework and legitimacy for national and local participation. Legislation needs to provide the freedom for youth associations to operate independently without fear of reprisals.
- 190 governments having a dedicated authority (ministry, department, or office) responsible for youth, though these are often political weak, have limited resources, and face difficulty in providing a coordinated response to youth.²⁴ Young people’s participation requires a cross-sectoral and coordinated approach across governmental policy areas beyond what is commonly perceived as the youth sector.
- Youth participation in formal political processes is seen as declining, with young people increasingly involved in social change agendas through social media, informal networks and protest movements across various geographic, demographic and legal environments.

²³. <http://www.youthpolicy.org/blog/youth-policy-reviews-evaluations/state-of-youth-policy-2014/>

²⁴. Ibid.

9: PEACE & SECURITY

The World Programme of Action for Youth notes that “development, peace and security and human rights are inter-linked and mutually reinforcing.” Children and young people are often the “main victims of armed conflict”, being killed, orphaned, injured, mentally traumatised, and illegally recruited as child soldiers. Proposals for action include protecting children from direct involvement in armed conflict, providing rehabilitation and reintegration of young ex-combatants, and promoting the participation of young people in peace building.

At the Global Forum on Youth Policies, the following observations were noted:

- Young people can play a crucial role in sustainable peace building, and their active involvement should be promoted alongside fostering democratic governance, civic engagement, and in accordance with the Guiding Principles on Young People’s Participation in Peacebuilding.²⁵
- Peace-building requires numerous dimensions, particularly a human-rights based approach, and requires strong partnerships based on mutual recognition and respect for young people to design, implement and evaluate interventions that contribute to the alleviation of poverty, promote economic growth and foster social inclusion.
- Youth radicalization and commitment to commit violence is “complex and difficult to anticipate and predict” and, counter-terrorism needs to be inline with human rights frameworks, and ensure that legislation and surveillance actions do not exacerbate feelings of frustration rather than prevent them.²⁶ Tackling the short-term contributors to youth radicalization, such as poverty, education, social exclusion and radical ideology is vital within the broader context of conflict and violence.²⁷
- A significant portion of the world’s youth are directly affected by conflict. The lack of an institutional framework hinders the further promotion of young people’s positive role in conflict-affected areas, and a United Nations Security Council resolution on Youth, Peace and Security could provide recognition and mandate for furthering the “various roles that youth can play”.²⁸
- Global Campaigns, such as the United Network of Young Peacebuilders, have focused on strengthening youth peacebuilding through the training of youth practitioners, advocating for youth engagement in conflict resolution, advocacy through storytelling and promoting gender sensitivity and mainstreaming in the work of youth organisations involved in peacebuilding activities. Global campaigns are needed to continue advocating for young people’s vital role in peacebuilding programmes.²⁹
- Young people, particularly in post-conflict states, need places for leisure and professional support, such as the “One-Stop” centres of UNHABITAT, to improve livelihoods and skills, promote civic engagement and participation, access basic services and provisions, and provide psychological support systems needed for rehabilitation and reconciliation.³⁰

25. UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development’s (IANYD) Subgroup on Youth Participation in Peacebuilding, 2014, https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Guiding-Principles_EN.pdf

26. European Parliament, 2014, Preventing and Countering Youth Radicalisation in the EU, [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/etudes/join/2014/509977/IPOL-LIBE_ET\(2014\)509977_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/etudes/join/2014/509977/IPOL-LIBE_ET(2014)509977_EN.pdf)

27. Africa Centre for Strategic Studies, 2012, Preventing Youth Radicalization in East Africa, <http://africacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/PreventingYouthRadicalizationProgramReport-2012.pdf>

28. United Network of Young Peacebuilders, <http://unoy.org/what-we-do/youth-peace-and-security/>

29. United Network of Young Peacebuilders, <http://unoy.org/what-we-do/>

30. See <http://unhabitat.org/youth/>

10: SOCIAL INCLUSION

Social inclusion is a crosscutting issue throughout the World Programme of Action for Youth, particularly in the areas of poverty, juvenile delinquency, participation, and urbanisation. The impact on globalisation is noted, with many young people “marginalized from the global economy” due to “inadequate education, limited skills, unemployment and poverty.” Young migrants often face challenges of social exclusion, and proposals for action include guaranteeing “that young migrants enjoy full respect for their human rights.” Migration also causes intergenerational issues, “where many young people are cut off from their families” due to urbanisation and economic requirements.

At the Global Forum on Youth Policies, the following observations were noted:

- Youth as a social category is “a life stage when young people make the transition from family dependence to autonomy within the larger society under rapidly evolving circumstances”,³¹ and is particularly challenging to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- There are specific groups that are at greater risk of social exclusion, including young people with disabilities, migrants, self-employed, those in informal or precarious employment, those in conflict with the law, marginalised identity groups and ethnic or caste minority groups.³²
- Young people’s rights must be promoted and realised to ensure that they are able to fully participate in society. This should include human rights and fundamental freedoms, cultural and religious diversity, social justice, special needs of vulnerable and disadvantage groups, and democratic participation.
- Social exclusion often arises as a result of other thematic issues, such as lack of employment opportunities, poor housing, limited access to welfare and social services, low quality education and low levels of civic participation and political engagement.³³
- Youth work and non-formal education can play an important role in combating social exclusion, particularly with young people from marginalised groups. Youth work requires formal recognition, training professional staff, and an institutional and regulatory framework to ensure programmes and services are well designed, delivered and properly monitored and evaluated.³⁴

31. Kovacheva, S., n.d., EU-CoE youth partnership policy sheet: social inclusion, <http://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents/1017981/1668219/Social+inclusion+by+Siyka+Kovacheva/651cf755-ca79-486d-9648-5ae89542650b>

32. United Nations, 1995, World Summit for Social Development, <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N95/116/51/PDF/N9511651.pdf?OpenElement>

33. http://www.youthpolicy.org/library/wp-content/uploads/library/2013_2014_Structured_Dialogue_Third_Phase_Eng.pdf

34. Ibid.

11: URBANISATION & HOUSING

Housing and urbanisation are not individual thematic areas in The World Programme of Action for Youth, but featured extensively throughout other areas. The issue of housing is seen within youth unemployment, which “deprives young people of the opportunity to secure independent housing.” Homelessness and inadequate housing are manifestations of poverty, with specific groups, such as those with HIV/AIDS, migrants, and rural youth particularly affected.

Many countries, particularly developing nations, face “unprecedented rates of rural-urban migration by young people”, which exacerbates existing problems in rural areas. Increased public services, leisure activities, digital access, education and employment opportunities are proposals for actions that are required to “discourage young people from migrating to urban areas.”

At the Global Forum on Youth Policies, the following observations were noted:

- Since the 2nd United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development – commonly known as Habitat II - in Istanbul in 1996, there is the recognition, ahead of Habitat III in 2016, that the world is now an urbanised environment and there is a need to better harness this “transformative potential.”
- Young people are more likely to move from rural to urban settings than older generations, and an increasingly young demographic means urban areas face a “youth bulge” – where young people make up a significant portion of the entire adult population.³⁵ This results in young people facing limited quality education, employment, housing and leisure opportunities due to the cities inability to respond as rapidly as the urban youth population is growing.
- Cities are increasingly seen as the centre for social action, with youth simultaneously presented as leaders of a “process of transformation” throughout the Arab Spring, but also as instigators of political violence due to grievance and deprivation of opportunities.³⁶ To mitigate this, better opportunities, particularly economic opportunities, should be provided for young people through national youth policies.
- The World Urban Youth Assembly³⁷ supports the recommendations outlined in the State of Urban Youth 2012/2013 for national and city level policies, equitable employment opportunities, vocational and technical training, business support, soft skill investment, raise productivity, create youth apprenticeship training, and provide educational opportunities for the low-skilled.³⁸

35. Cities Alliance, 2012, Youth: the face of Urbanisation, https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/citiesalliance.org/files/CIVIS_January2012.pdf

36. Urdal, H., 2012, A clash of generations? Youth bulges and political violence, UNDESA, http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/expertpapers/Urdal_Expert%20Paper.pdf

37. <http://www.youthpolicy.org/blog/structures/world-urban-youth-assembly/>

38. UN-HABITAT, 2012, State of Urban Youth 2012/2013, <http://mirror.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=3455>

12: VOLUNTEERISM

Volunteerism is a crosscutting theme throughout the World Programme of Action for Youth, primarily through the establishment and work of youth organizations, educational programmes and employment opportunities. The largest section calls for the promotion of voluntary community service programmes, such as youth camps, community projects, and international exchanges and cooperation. Such programmes, “could provide alternatives to military service, or might constitute a required element in educational curricula, depending on national policies and priorities.”

At the Global Forum on Youth Policies, the following observations were noted:

- Volunteering has different meanings within different contexts, particularly between developed and developing countries, conflict states, and those affected by natural disasters. However, as the Youth Wellbeing Index demonstrates, volunteer frequency is not necessarily correlated to country income, with low- and middle-income countries often having high levels of youth volunteering, and less engaged young people in high-income countries.³⁹
- Volunteering opportunities need to be meaningful and impactful, but also accessible for young people from lower socio-economic groups. While volunteering opportunities can be utilised to reduce social exclusion, marginalisation and inequality,⁴⁰ many young people are excluded from opportunities because of family and employment commitments.
- In the context on human development, volunteering “can transform the pace and nature of development”, with the United Nations Volunteers partnering with governments, the private sector, and non-profit organizations to foster volunteering within development programmes.⁴¹
- Volunteering policies need to have public and private sector engagement, particularly given that many volunteering opportunities provide skills and experiences required by employers. Similarly, schools, families and youth organizations need to be involved in the design of national policies and the implementation of opportunities at various levels.
- Online spaces can promote volunteering opportunities, such as through the UN Online Volunteering Service⁴², as well as provide online opportunities that eliminate “the need for volunteerism to be tied to specific times and locations, thus greatly increasing the freedom and flexibility of volunteer engagement.”⁴³
- Young people need to be protected from exploitation, through volunteering and internship opportunities that require long-term commitment and undertake work that would otherwise be completed by a paid member of staff.

39. Goldin, N., 2014, Citizen participation in the Global Youth Wellbeing Index: Interesting trends and findings, [youthpolicy.org](http://www.youthpolicy.org/blog/justice/citizen-participation-global-youth-wellbeing-index/), <http://www.youthpolicy.org/blog/justice/citizen-participation-global-youth-wellbeing-index/>

40. UN Volunteers, 2011, State of the World's Volunteerism Report, http://www.unv.org/fileadmin/docdb/pdf/2011/SWVR/English/SWVR2011_full.pdf

41. <http://www.unv.org/what-we-do.html>

42. <https://www.onlinevolunteering.org/>

43. UN Volunteers, 2011, State of the World's Volunteerism Report, http://www.unv.org/fileadmin/docdb/pdf/2011/SWVR/English/SWVR2011_full.pdf

13: YOUTH & JUSTICE

The World Programme of Action for Youth notes that while youth crime is a global problem, the “approaches to the prevention of violence and crime should thus include measures to support equality and justice, to combat poverty and to reduce hopelessness among young people.” Proposals for action include preventative measures of the causes of criminality (e.g. lack of education, poor housing, poverty, migration and chaotic family arrangements), prevention of violence (including racism, xenophobia, racial discrimination and intolerance) and services and programmes for rehabilitation.

At the Global Forum on Youth Policies, the following observations were noted:

- As well as perpetrators of crimes, many young people are victims and are often the same age and gender as their attackers. Young men are more likely to be both victims (with the exception of sexual and domestic abuse) and committers of crimes than women, and are considerably more likely to be the victims and perpetrators of homicide.⁴⁴
- Young people’s access to justice, including legal representation, can be challenging, especially for young women, refugees, migrants, and LGBT youth. Education on the legal rights of young people and provisions for their protections should be promoted to ensure that youth are able to claim their rights when in conflict with the law or when being held by criminal authorities.
- National criminal legislation should be in accordance with international standards and legal minimums. The legal minimum age of criminal responsibility varies across countries⁴⁵, but in many remains below the age of 10 years. Similarly, there is disparity between youth justice systems, detention with adults, and the ages at which children can be tried as adults rather than adolescents.
- Young people face illegal detention, extra judicial proceedings, threat of violence and torture when involved in protest movements, civil society organisations, and anti-government campaigns. The documenting of human rights abuses, particularly the detention of and abuse suffered by young people in custody, should be promoted with all countries committed to – and held accountable for – international obligations and treaties.
- Young people access justice systems in various ways, not just as part of juvenile justice or as victims of crime. This could include land rights, inheritance issues, registering a new enterprise or accessing financial credit.

⁴⁴. WHO, 2015, Youth violence Fact Sheet, <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs356/en/>

⁴⁵. See <http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/> for a full country breakdown



1ST GLOBAL FORUM ON YOUTH POLICIES

PART 6 (I)

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

#youthpolicymatters

28-30 October 2014
Baku, Azerbaijan

DAY 1 // TUESDAY // 28 OCTOBER 2014

1. Morning programme

OPENING SESSION

The urgency of progressing youth policies globally

The opening session will feature high-level speakers from the United Nations and the host government as well as voices of young people and stakeholders the First Global Forum on Youth Policies.

PLENARY SESSION

Where do we stand? Looking back & taking stock: 20 years after the World Programme of Action for Youth

Why is youth policy important today? How far has the global youth policy agenda come 20 years after the World Programme of Action for Youth was adopted? Where, how and why we need to make further progress?

2. Afternoon programme

THEMATIC SESSIONS

INTERACTIVE DISCUSSIONS

Exploring youth policy achievements and challenges across thematic priority areas

Thematic sessions will consider the current state of play and strategies to respond to challenges in relation to their theme. Discussions will focus on features of enabling environments and how to maximise them. Sessions will cover:

Education	Leisure
Employment & Entrepreneurship	Participation
Environment	Peace & Security
Gender equality	Social inclusion
Health	Urbanisation & Housing
Information & Communication Technologies	Volunteerism
Intergenerational dialogue	Youth & Justice

3. Evening programme

RECEPTION & DINNER

Reception hosted by the Minister of Youth and Sports of Azerbaijan, followed by the inaugural Forum Dinner

DAY 2 // WEDNESDAY // 29 OCTOBER 2014

1. Morning programme

PLENARY SESSION

The key ingredients of a modern youth policy framework: exploring common denominators

Keynote and
Panel Debate

What should the main elements of a modern framework for youth policies be? How should these elements be defined, planned, financed, implemented and evaluated?

THEMATIC SESSIONS INTERACTIVE DISCUSSIONS

The scope, meaning & application of common denominators for youth policy frameworks

In thematic sessions, the Forum will examine various common denominators throughout the entire day, discussing aspects such as applicability and scalability as well as risks, potentials, and good practices.

2. Afternoon programme

THEMATIC SESSIONS CONTINUED

The scope, meaning & application of common denominators for youth policy frameworks

The thematic sessions on common denominators will cover the following six larger areas:

BUILDING YOUTH POLICY FRAMEWORKS

- Legal frameworks and instruments
- Maintaining a consistent evidence-base

GOVERNING YOUTH POLICY FRAMEWORKS

- Making youth policy transversal & cross-sectoral
- Strategies for youth and stakeholders' participation

IMPLEMENTATING YOUTH POLICY FRAMEWORKS

- Political commitments and mobilization of resources
- Building monitoring and evaluation systems

3. Evening programme

DINNER & SIDE-EVENTS

Dinner will be offered at a Baku restaurant

Side-events may be organised in any of the recommended hotels during this evening.

DAY 3 // THURSDAY // 30 OCTOBER 2014

1. Morning programme

PLENARY SESSION

Guiding Principles for Youth Policy Development

This session will address principles that should guide & inform youth policy development, implementation and monitoring at local, national, regional and global levels.

REGIONAL SESSIONS

Regional realities and regional frameworks

Regional sessions will explore how the common denominators and guiding principles discussed throughout the Forum can be translated into regional contexts across the globe. Facilitated by the UN regional commissions, these sessions will also feature overviews of the regional status quo in relation to youth policy & youth policy frameworks.

2. Afternoon programme

SPECIAL SESSION VIDEOCONFERENCE

Mobilising young people in the response to Ebola

A session about the efforts of young people in the fight against Ebola – with youth participants from the region.

CLOSING SESSION

Taking youth policies forward: the next 5 years

The final session will review and take stock of the First Global Forum on Youth Policies. A summary by the reporting team and reflections by the General Rapporteur of the Forum will be followed by statements of and discussions with the Forum's main stakeholders, focusing on the way ahead and actions needed to be undertaken in the coming years to take youth policies forward.

3. Evening programme

RECEPTION & DINNER

The Farewell Reception will be followed by the final Dinner of the First Global Forum on Youth Policies



1ST GLOBAL FORUM ON YOUTH POLICIES

PART 6 (II)

DETAILED
PROGRAMME

#youthpolicymatters

28-30 October 2014
Baku, Azerbaijan

DAY 1 // TUESDAY // 28 OCTOBER 2014

10:00-
11:00 OPENING SESSION
AUDITORIUM

The urgency of progressing youth policies globally

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

- **Ahmad Alhendawi**, Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, United Nations

OPENING STATEMENTS

- **H.E. Azad Rahimov**, Minister of Youth and Sports, Azerbaijan
- Video message by **H.E. Ban Ki-moon**, Secretary-General of the United Nations
- **Magdy Martínez-Solimán**, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP
- **Lalla Aïcha Ben Barka**, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO
- **Snežana Samardžić-Marković**, Director-General of Democracy, Council of Europe
- **Bashar Hobbi**, Global Youth Ambassador, A World At School
- **Greta Rios**, Ollin, Jóvenes en Movimiento (Youth in Motion)

11:00-
11:15 GROUP PHOTO
AUDITORIUM

Group photo & introduction to the Forum's approach

INTRODUCTION TO THE METHODOLOGY OF THE FORUM

- **Andreas Karsten**, Lead Facilitator

11:15-
13:00 PLENARY SESSION
AUDITORIUM

Where do we stand? Looking back & taking stock: 20 years after the World Programme of Action for Youth

MODERATOR

- **Magdy Martínez-Solimán**, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP

Keynote and
Panel Debate

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

- **Anne-Birgitte Albrechtsen**, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director (Management), UNFPA

PANELISTS

- **H.E. Azad Rahimov**, Minister of Youth and Sports, Republic of Azerbaijan
- **H.E. Erion Veliaj**, Minister of Social Welfare and Youth, Albania
- **H.E. Eugene Lenn Nagbe**, Minister of Youth and Sports, Liberia (by videoconference)
- **Alejo Ramírez**, Secretary-General, Ibero-American Youth Organization (OIJ)
- **Tendai Concilia Wenyika**, Secretary-General, Pan-African Youth Union
- **Hanan Bihi**, Vice-chair, Advisory Council on Youth (Council of Europe)

13:00-
14:30 BREAK

Lunch break

DAY 1 // TUESDAY // 28 OCTOBER 2014

14:30-
16:00

THEMATIC SESSIONS
INTERACTIVE DISCUSSIONS

Where do we stand? Looking back & taking stock: 20 years after the World Programme of Action for Youth

EDUCATION
AUDITORIUM

UNESCO
UNICEF

Moderated by **Anna Susarenco**, Member of the Youth Advocacy Group, Global Education First Initiative. With opening statements by:

- **Christian Cosmin**, State Secretary of Youth Policies, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Romania
- **Howard Williamson**, Council of Europe Expert, Professor of European Youth Policy at the University of South Wales
- **Lauren Greubel**, Analyst, Youth Engagement, Global Partnership for Education
- **Dejan Bojanic**, Member of the Youth Advocacy Group, Global Education First Initiative

EMPLOYMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP
BAKU CONFERENCE ROOM

ILO
UNIDO

Moderated by **Monica Carco**, Chief of Investment and Technology Unit, UNIDO and Co-chair, UN Inter-agency Network on Youth Development. With opening statements by:

- **Andreas Schneider**, Head of International Youth & Family Policies Division, Federal Ministry for Families and Youth, Austria
- **Maria Prieto**, Youth Employment Specialist, ILO
- **Jeremy Liddle**, Australian President for G20 Young Entrepreneurs Alliance
- **Rim Mikhail**, Technical Professional, German Development Cooperation (GIZ), Egypt

PEACE & SECURITY
SHEKI CONFERENCE ROOM

PBSO
SFCG

Moderated by **Saji Prelis**, Director, Children & Youth Programmes, Search for Common Ground. With opening statements by:

- **H.E. Khalid Omar Ali**, Minister of Youth and Sports, Somalia
- **Jon-Andreas Solberg**, Strategy and Policy Advisor, Youth and Livelihood Unit, UN-HABITAT
- **Matilda Flemming**, United Network of Young Peace builders

HEALTH
NAKHCHIVAN CONFERENCE ROOM

UNAIDS
UNFPA
WHO

Moderated by **Jane Fergusson**, Department of Maternal, New Born, Child and Adolescent Health, World Health Organization. With opening statements by:

- **H.E. Rollen Dany Antoine Faure**, Vice President, Seychelles
- **George Patton**, Professor of Adolescent Health Research, University of Melbourne
- **Dakshitha Wickremarathne**, Member of the Sri Lanka UN Youth Advisory Panel and Y-PEER

PARTICIPATION
SHUSHA CONFERENCE ROOM

UNDP
UNFPA
UNDESA
COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Moderated by **Nato Alhazishvili**, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Azerbaijan. With opening statements by:

- **H.E. Erdene Sodnomzundui**, Minister of Population Development and Social Protection, Mongolia
- **Muhammad Najib Azca**, Professor and Director, Youth Studies Centre (YouSure), University of Gadjah Mada, Indonesia
- **Laurence Hermand**, Chairperson, Joint Council on Youth (Council of Europe)
- **Lombe Tembo**, Member, Youth Governance and Accountability Task Team at Restless Development

VOLUNTEERISM
GANJA CONFERENCE ROOM

UNV

Moderated by **Kawtar Zerouali**, Regional Program Manager, Arab Youth Volunteering for Better Future Program, UNV. With opening statements by:

- **Andy Rabens**, Special Adviser for Global Youth Issues, Office of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, United States of America
- **Vinicius Tsugue**, President, AIESEC International
- **Petra Stipanic**, Youth Trainer, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)

ENVIRONMENT
LACHIN CONFERENCE ROOM

YOUNGO
YOUTHPOLICY.ORG

Moderated by **Alex Farrow**, Researcher on Public and Youth Policy, Youth Policy Labs and **Kyle Gracey**, Co-Founder, YOUNGO. With opening statements by:

- **Moa Herrgård**, Youth Global Task Force Coordinator, Disaster Risk Reduction
- **Ali Shahbaz**, Youth Delegate, United Nations Environment Programme
- **Jeroni Vergeer**, Steering Committee Member, Global Young Greens

DAY 1 // TUESDAY // 28 OCTOBER 2014

16:00- 16:30	BREAK	Coffee and tea break
16:30- 18:00	THEMATIC SESSIONS INTERACTIVE DISCUSSIONS	Where do we stand? Looking back & taking stock: 20 years after the World Programme of Action for Youth
	<p>GENDER EQUALITY BAKU CONFERENCE ROOM</p> <p>UN WOMEN UNDP UNFPA</p>	<p>Moderated by Urjasi Rudra, Communications Analyst and Youth Focal Point, UN Women. With opening statements by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Thesele John Maseribane, Minister of Gender, Youth, Sports and Recreation, Lesotho • Yvonne Akoth, Member, The Kenya Girl Guides Association • Jayathma Wickramanayake, Third Committee Expert: Youth, Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the UN, Member of Sri Lankan Youth Parliament
	<p>JUSTICE SHEKI CONFERENCE ROOM</p> <p>UNDP</p>	<p>Moderated by Noëlla Richard, Youth Policy Specialist, UNDP. With opening statements by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mordekai Shumba, President, Organization of African Youth • Irma Salčin, Expert Associate, Institution of Human Rights Ombudsman, Bosnia and Herzegovina • Sofie Kindahl, Research Officer, Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society • Tavarrie Smith, Attorney, The Juvenile Justice Project Bahamas
	<p>URBANIZATION & HOUSING NAKHCHIVAN CONFERENCE ROOM</p> <p>UN-HABITAT</p>	<p>Moderated by Joao Felipe Scarpelini, Youth and Community Expert, Brazil. With opening statements by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Khalid Omar Ali, Minister of Youth and Sport, Somalia • Dana Podmolikova, UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board • Tone Vesterhus, UN Youth Delegate on Urbanization, Children and Youth Council, Norway
	<p>SOCIAL INCLUSION SHUSHA CONFERENCE ROOM</p> <p>COUNCIL OF EUROPE UNDESA</p>	<p>Moderated by Marta Medlinska, Coordinator of the partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the field of Youth. With opening statements by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S. Mahendra Dev, Professor, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, India • Dianne Kambanei, Executive Director, Young Women's Christian Association, Papua New Guinea • Sanja Vuković Čović, President, The European Youth Information and Counselling Agency
	<p>INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES // GANJA ROOM</p> <p>UN-DPI UNDP</p>	<p>Moderated by Maher Nasser, Acting Head of the Department Public Information, United Nations. With opening statements by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Taimor Shah Ishaqzai, Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs, Afghanistan (tbc) • Janet Jobson, Portfolio Manager, Leadership for a Winning Nation Programme, DG Murray Trust (South Africa) • Liam O'Doherty, Community Partnerships Coordinator, TakingIt Global
	<p>LEISURE LACHIN CONFERENCE ROOM</p> <p>UNESCO</p>	<p>Moderated by Alexander Schischlik, Head of Youth and Sport Section, UNESCO. With opening statements by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juliet Kavetuna, Deputy Minister of Youth, National Sport and Culture, Namibia • Marta Vieira da Silva, UNDP Good Will Ambassador (FIFA World Player of the year 2006-2010) • Yassine Isbouia, General Coordinator, Forum Méditerranéen pour la jeunesse et l'enfance
19:00	RECEPTION	Official reception

DAY 2 // WEDNESDAY // 29 OCTOBER 2014

10:00-10:30	SPECIAL ADDRESS AUDITORIUM	H.E. Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan
10:30-11:00	OPENING AUDITORIUM	Opening remarks and introduction to the day INTRODUCTION TO DAY 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andreas Karsten, Lead Facilitator REPORT FROM DAY 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jonathan Bowyer, General Rapporteur
11:00-13:00	PLENARY SESSION AUDITORIUM	The key ingredients of a modern youth policy framework: exploring common denominators MODERATOR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maria Kypriotou, Youth Development Specialist, UNESCO KEYNOTE ADDRESS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Howard Williamson, Council of Europe Expert, Professor of European Youth Policy at the University of South Wales PANELISTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Chishimba Kambwili, Minister of Sport, Youth and Child Development, Zambia • H.E. Berenice Alcalde Castro, Deputy Director of the Institute of Youth, Mexico • Fethi Touzri, Independent Youth Policy Expert (Former Secretary of State for Youth and Sports of Tunisia) • Nicole Goldin, Director of the Youth, Prosperity, and Security Initiative, The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) • Tarusila Bradburgh, Coordinator, The Pacific Youth Council • Lawrence Ndambuki Muli, former Policy Advisor, African Observatory for Policy Practice & Youth Studies
13:00-14:30	BREAK	Lunch break
14:30-16:15	THEMATIC SESSIONS INTERACTIVE DISCUSSIONS	The key ingredients of a modern youth policy framework: exploring common denominators (I)
16:45-18:30	THEMATIC SESSIONS INTERACTIVE DISCUSSIONS	The key ingredients of a modern youth policy framework: exploring common denominators (II)
19:00	DINNER	Evening activities ☞ side events

DAY 2 // WEDNESDAY // 29 OCTOBER 2014

14:30-
16:15

THEMATIC SESSIONS
INTERACTIVE DISCUSSIONS

The key ingredients of a modern youth policy framework: exploring common denominators (I)

LEGAL FRAMEWORKS
AND INSTRUMENTS

BAKU CONFERENCE ROOM

Moderated by **Cristina Bacalso**, Senior Policy Analyst, Youth Policy Labs, and **John Muir**, Programme Director, Youth Policy Labs. With opening reflections by:

- **Fuad Muradov**, Member of the Parliament, Azerbaijan
- **Zdeňka Mašková**, Director of the Youth Department, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Czech Republic
- **Daniel Sullivan**, Youth Advisory Board Representative, UN-Habitat
- **Bruce Ntatenza**, Youth Representative, African Union Commission

MAINTAINING A
CONSISTENT EVIDENCE-BASE

SHEKI CONFERENCE ROOM

Moderated by **Alex Farrow**, Researcher on Public and Youth Policy, Youth Policy Labs and **Marta Medlinska**, Coordinator of the partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the field of Youth. With opening reflections by:

- **H.E. Percival Cendaña**, National Youth Commissioner, Philippines
- **Tasfia Zaman**, Policy Researcher, Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center
- **Sonja Miokovic**, Research Team, Youthful Cities, Canada
- **Manfred Zentner**, Pool of European Youth Researchers (Council of Europe)

MAKING YOUTH POLICY
TRANSVERSAL & CROSS-SECTORAL

NAKHCHIVAN CONFERENCE ROOM

Moderated by **Maria Kypriotou**, Youth Development Specialist, UNESCO. With opening reflections by:

- **Horacio Chavira Cruz**, Deputy-Director International Affairs of the Institute of Youth, Mexico
- **Christian Sorensen**, Advisory Council on Youth (Council of Europe) and ICMYO
- **Kathy Edwards**, Royal University of Melbourne

STRATEGIES FOR YOUTH AND
STAKEHOLDERS' PARTICIPATION

SHUSHA CONFERENCE ROOM

Moderated by **Noëlla Richard**, Youth Policy Specialist, UNDP and **Christopher Dekki**, Coordinator, UN New York Advocacy Team, PAXROMANA. With opening reflections by:

- **H.E. Erion Veliaj**, Minister of Social Welfare and Youth, Albania (tbc)
- **Karima Rhanem**, Civil Society and Youth Policy Specialist, Morocco
- **Gloria Alcocer Olmos**, Executive Director, Organización Fuerza Ciudadana

POLITICAL COMMITMENTS AND
MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES

GANJA CONFERENCE ROOM

Moderated by **Farhad Hajiyev**, Executive Director of the Youth Foundation, Azerbaijan and **Sergio Belfor**, Advisory Council on Youth (Council of Europe). With opening reflections by:

- **H.E. Adna Bambang Ismanto Prijo Atminoto**, Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs, Suriname
- **H.E. Alieu Jammeh**, Minister of Youth and Sports of The Gambia
- **James Cote**, Professor of Sociology, University of Western Ontario
- **Lyndah Kgaswane**, Resource Mobilization Manager, Botswana National Youth Council

BUILDING MONITORING
AND EVALUATION SYSTEMS

LACHIN CONFERENCE ROOM

Moderated by **André-Jacques Dodin**, Head of Youth Policy Division, Youth Department, Council of Europe. With opening reflections by:

- **Katherine Ellis**, Director of Youth Affairs, Commonwealth Secretariat
- **Khairunissa Ash'ari**, Community Engagement Director, Brunei Youth Council
- **Aashish Khullar**, UN Major Group for Children and Youth
- **Sergey Pospelov**, Head of Federal Agency on Youth Affairs, Russian Federation

DAY 2 // WEDNESDAY // 29 OCTOBER 2014

16:45-
18:30

THEMATIC SESSIONS
INTERACTIVE DISCUSSIONS

The key ingredients of a modern youth policy framework: exploring common denominators (II)

LEGAL FRAMEWORKS
AND INSTRUMENTS

BAKU CONFERENCE ROOM

Moderated by **Cristina Bacalso**, Senior Policy Analyst, Youth Policy Labs, and **John Muir**, Programme Director, Youth Policy Labs. With opening reflections by:

- **Alejandra Hernandez Quan**, Vice Minister for Security, Honduras
- **Nguyen Van Tuyet**, Vice-Chairman, Committee for Culture, Education, Youth, Adolescents and Children, National Assembly, Viet Nam
- **Yael Ohana**, Co-founder, Frankly Speaking, Germany
- **Tavarrie Smith**, Coordinator, National Youth Policy Team, Bahamas

MAINTAINING A
CONSISTENT EVIDENCE-BASE

SHEKI CONFERENCE ROOM

Moderated by **Alex Farrow**, Researcher on Public and Youth Policy, Youth Policy Labs and **Marta Medlinska**, Coordinator of the partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the field of Youth. With opening reflections by:

- **H.E. Rene Achahuanco**, National Youth Secretary, Peru
- **Maurice Devlin**, Director of the Centre for Youth Research and Development, Maynooth University, Ireland
- **Palazuelos Prieto**, Co-Founder, African Youth Observatory, Cabo Verde
- **Megan Arthur**, Policy Analyst, World Policy Analysis Center, United States of America

MAKING YOUTH POLICY
TRANSVERSAL & CROSS-SECTORAL

NAKHCHIVAN CONFERENCE ROOM

Moderated by **Maria Kypriotou**, Youth Development Specialist, UNESCO. With opening reflections by:

- **Jayathma Wickramanayake**, Third Committee Expert: Youth, Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the UN, Member of Sri Lanka Youth Parliament
- **Antje Rothemund**, Head of the Youth Department, Council of Europe

STRATEGIES FOR YOUTH AND
STAKEHOLDERS' PARTICIPATION

SHUSHA CONFERENCE ROOM

Moderated by **Noëlla Richard**, Youth Policy Specialist, UNDP and **Christopher Dekki**, Coordinator, UN New York Advocacy Team, PAXROMANA. With opening reflections by:

- **Abdul Muqtader Nasary**, Director of Policy and Planning, Independent Directorate of Local Governance, Afghanistan
- **Kimlay Leav**, UN Youth Advisory Panel, Cambodia
- **Sara Bittar**, Independent Researcher and Research Analyst for the Arab Knowledge Report - UNDP

POLITICAL COMMITMENTS AND
MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES

GANJA CONFERENCE ROOM

Moderated by **Farhad Hajiye**, Executive Director of the Youth Foundation, Azerbaijan and **Sergio Belfor**, Advisory Council on Youth (Council of Europe). With opening reflections by:

- **H.E. Levan Kipiani**, Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs, Georgia
- **Ditta Dolejsiova**, Executive Coordinator, Universidade da Juventude (UNIJUV) in Brazil
- **Belinda McEnery**, Independent Youth Policy Expert, Australia

BUILDING MONITORING
AND EVALUATION SYSTEMS

LACHIN CONFERENCE ROOM

Moderated by **André-Jacques Dodin**, Head of Youth Policy Division, Youth Department, Council of Europe. With opening reflections by:

- **Nadir Guluzadeh**, Independent M&E Expert, Azerbaijan
- **Yvonne Akoth**, Member, The Kenya Girl Guides Association
- **Tatiana Zuluaga Orozco**, Director of the National Youth Institute of Chile
- **Stacey Cram**, Head of Global Policy & Practice, Restless Development
- **Mr. Ahmed Adamu**, Chair of the Commonwealth Youth Council

DAY 3 // THURSDAY // 30 OCTOBER 2014

09:30-
10:00

OPENING
AUDITORIUM

Opening remarks and introduction to the day

INTRODUCTION TO DAY 3

- **Andreas Karsten**, Lead Facilitator

REPORT FROM DAY 2

- **Jonathan Bowyer**, General Rapporteur

10:00-
11:30

PLENARY SESSION
AUDITORIUM

Guiding Principles for Youth Policy Development

MODERATOR

- **Saskia Schellekens**, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, United Nations

Keynote and
Panel Debate

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

- **Luiz Loures**, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for Programme, UNAIDS

PANELISTS

- **H.E. Buti Manamela**, Deputy Minister in the Presidency: Performance Monitoring and Evaluation responsible for Youth Development as well as the Administration of the Presidency, Republic of South Africa
- **H.E. Angela Guimarães**, Deputy National Youth Secretary, Brazil
- **Ingibjorg Gisladdottir**, Regional Director for Europe & Central Asia, UN Women
- **Dina Krauskopf**, Director, Latin American Youth Collective, Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO)
- **Pradip Pariyar**, Founder and Chairperson, Nepal Policy Centre
- **Alex Farrow**, Researcher on Public and Youth Policy, Youth Policy Labs

11:30-
12:00

BREAK

Coffee and tea break

12:00-
13:00

REGIONAL SESSIONS
INTERACTIVE DISCUSSIONS

The Next 5 Years: How to take forward youth policy?

13:00-
14:30

BREAK

Lunch break

DAY 3 // THURSDAY // 30 OCTOBER 2014

14:30-
15:30

REGIONAL SESSIONS
INTERACTIVE DISCUSSIONS

The Next 5 Years: How to take forward youth policy?

AFRICA

BAKU CONFERENCE ROOM

Moderated by **Amal Elebeshbishi**, Social Affairs Officer at UNECA and **Bruce Ntatenza**, Youth Representative in the Bureau of the Chairperson, African Union. With opening reflections and comments by:

- **Abdul Rahman Lamin**, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa
- **Maja Hansen**, Regional Adolescent and Youth Program Specialist, UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Office.
- **Yershen Pillay**, President, Pan African Youth Council (tbc)
- **Ibrahim Ceesay**, Chairman, African Youth Panel

ARAB STATES/WESTERN ASIA

SHEKI CONFERENCE ROOM

Moderated by **Karima El Korri**, Chief of Population and Social Development Section, UNESCWA. With opening reflections by:

- **Linda Haddad**, Programme Specialist, Regional Bureau for Arab States, UNDP
- **Phinith Chanthalangsy**, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Office in Rabat
- **Khaled Louhichi**, Independent expert
- **Bader Zamareh**, Executive Director, Synergos Social Innovator, Sharek Youth Forum
- **Noura Kamel**, Youth Policies Researcher and Manager of the Policy Program, Silatech

ASIA AND PACIFIC

NAKHCHIVAN CONFERENCE ROOM

Moderated by **Patrik Andersson**, Chief of Social Integration Section, UNESCAP and **Beniam Gebrezghi**, Programme Specialist, Civil Society and Youth, Asia and Pacific, UNDP. With opening reflections by:

- **H.E. Laisenia Bale Tuitubou**, Minister for Youth and Sports, Fiji
- **Eunice Smith**, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Office in Beijing
- **Rey Asis**, Programme Officer, Asia Pacific Youth Association
- **Tarusila Bradburgh**, Coordinator, Pacific Youth Council
- **Angga Dwi Martha**, Indonesian Youth Participant with UNFPA

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

SHUSHA CONFERENCE ROOM

Moderated by **Elise Drouet**, Board Member, European Youth Forum and **Laurence Hermand**, Chair, Joint Council on Youth (Council of Europe). With opening reflections by:

- **H.E. Dmitry Bulatov**, Minister of Youth and Sport, Ukraine
- **Natalia Pshenichnaya**, Head of Youth Department, Ministry of Education of Belarus; Secretary of the Committee on Youth of the Commonwealth of Independent States
- **Hannah Kroksson**, National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations
- **Heimo Laakkonen**, Regional Director, UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- **Vinai Saldanha**, Director for Regional Support Team, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, UNAIDS (tbc)
- **Antje Rothemund**, Head of the Youth Department, Council of Europe

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

GANJA CONFERENCE ROOM

Moderated by **María Nieves Rico**, Officer in Charge of the Social Development Division, UN ECLAC and **Sherwin Stephenson**, Programme Manager, Crime and Security, CARICOM. With opening reflections by:

- **Esteban Caballero**, Deputy Regional Director, Latin American and the Caribbean, UNFPA and the chair of the regional interagency network on youth.
- **Ahmimed Charaf**, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Office in San Jose
- **Pablo Gago**, Youth Focal Point for LAC, UNDP
- **Malena Fama**, President, Latin American Youth Forum (FLAJ)
- **Timothy Ferdinand**, Chairman, Caribbean Regional Youth Council
- **Alejandro Blancas**, President, Ibero American Youth Space (tbc)
- **Max Trejo**, Deputy Secretary General, Ibero-American Youth Organization

DAY 3 // THURSDAY // 30 OCTOBER 2014

16:00-
16:30 SPECIAL SESSION
AUDITORIUM

Mobilising young people in the response to Ebola

MODERATOR

- **Ahmad Alhendawi**, Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, United Nations

PANELISTS // VIDEOCONFERENCE

- **Morris Wilmot Lakpa**, Federation of Liberian Youth
- **Victor Momoh**, Centre for Sustainable Development and Research, Sierra Leone
- **Philippe Lust**, Technical Specialist, Adolescents and Youth, UNFPA, Sierra Leone
- **Chernor Bah**, Youth Advocacy Group, UN Global Education First Initiative

16:30-
17:15 REPORTS
AUDITORIUM

Reporting back from the regional sessions

FEEDBACK FROM REGIONAL SESSIONS

- **Session moderators**

VIDEO MESSAGE

- **Amina Mohammed**, Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning

17:15-
18:45 FINAL SESSION
AUDITORIUM

Conclusions, commitments and actions

MODERATOR

- **Rui Gomes**, Head of Division, Education and Training, Youth Department, Council of Europe

THE WAY FORWARD

- **Ahmad Alhendawi**, Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, United Nations

SHOW US YOUR COMMITMENTS

- **Interventions from the floor (10 minutes)**

COMMITMENTS
AND ACTIONS

SPEAKERS

- **H.E. Azad Rahimov**, Minister of Youth and Sports, Azerbaijan
- **Maher Nasser**, Acting Head, Department of Public Information, United Nations
- **Antonius Broek**, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Azerbaijan
- **Alexander Schischlik**, Head, Youth and Sport Section, UNESCO
- **Antje Rothemund**, Head of the Youth Department, Council of Europe
- **Ahmad Alhendawi**, Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, United Nations

19:30 RECEPTION

Farewell reception