

## Division 43

Health, Education, Social Protection

### Sectoral Project

"Promotion of children and youth  
as a target group in development cooperation"



## COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL YOUTH POLICIES

im Auftrag des

**Division 43**

Health, Education, Social Protection

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## **COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL YOUTH POLICIES**

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**Sectoral Project**

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## Preface

Children and young people up to the age of 24 account for up to 70% of the population in many developing countries.

Of the estimated 1.9 billion children (0–18 years) in developing countries, 1 billion live in poverty (UN Youth Programme, 2002). More than a billion people in the world live on less than \$1 a day, of whom 209 million are young people aged between 15 and 24. A further 2.7 billion people live on less than \$2 a day, 515 million of them young people (figures from UN World Youth Report 2005). The majority of these young people live in developing countries.

The demographic picture in the industrialised world is somewhat different, but youth poverty is on the increase here too. The share of Europe's population accounted for by young people (15–24 years) is expected to drop from 12.6% to 9.7% between 2005 and 2050<sup>1</sup>.

Youth poverty (young people aged between 16 and 24) in Europe lies at 19% compared with 12% among the 15 to 64-year-olds (ibid.).

The unemployment rate among young people aged between 16 and 24 is 17.9% compared with 7.7% among the 25 to 64-year-olds (ibid.).

Poverty goes hand in hand with insufficient access to health services, education, employment, information and knowledge. Other factors include a lack of opportunities to participate in economic, social and political life, higher risks, discrimination and violation of human dignity. Girls and young women are particularly severely affected. Poverty and its effects destroy the prospects of girls and boys and prevent them from developing their potential and playing a role in political and social development processes.

In the UN Millennium Declaration, the states emphasise their obligation to promote the ratification and complete implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on child trafficking, child prostitution and child pornography.

To promote young people and implement their rights, however, appropriate framework conditions are required. Youth policies create these conditions.

A National Youth Policy (NYP) is a declaration and commitment of the priorities, directions and practical support that a country intends to give to the development of its young men and women. It clearly defines the place and role of youth in society and the responsibility of society to youth and should be supported by the following three universal concepts: 'Participation', 'Equity' and 'Cohesion'. (P. Kenyon, ICNYP)

The importance of policies and programmes to promote young people is being emphasised at international level. The UN General Assembly: "*Calls Upon* all States, all United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned ... to make every possible effort ... aiming at cross-sectoral youth policies by integrating a youth perspective into all planning and decision-making processes relevant to youth" (United Nations General Assembly Resolution 56/117, 19th December 2001).

Youth policies help mainstream the concerns of girls and boys in various sector ministries and in overarching international, regional, national and local strategies. It is not only states that are called upon to take action here; the policies must be embedded in the institutions

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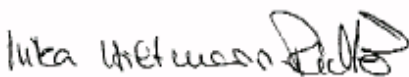
<sup>1</sup> Commission of the European Communities: Communication from the Commission to the Council on European policies concerning youth – Addressing the concerns of young people in Europe – implementing the European Youth Pact and promoting active citizenship, 2005

too. They should not be adopted as isolated policies, but should instead be integrated into more general national and international poverty reduction and development strategies.

However, a National Youth Policy on its own is not sufficient. It is also essential to have an action plan for policy implement with appropriate budgeting. Youth participation is a core element in the development, implementation and evaluation of youth policies.

The present publication gives experts from national and international development organisations, youth organisations and specialist institutions an overview of how youth policies are integrated at international and national level. It also presents good practices and discusses the problems involved in developing, implementing and evaluating youth policies at national level.

Bill Angel  
Secretary General of the  
International Council on National Youth Policy



Inka Hiltmann-Richter  
Project Coordinator  
Sectoral project "Promotion of Children  
and Youth as a Target Group in  
Development Cooperation"

## About the Editor and Project Staff

William D. Angel was the Editor of this study. He is Secretary General of the International Council on National Youth Policy (ICNYP), since January 2002, and Coordinator, United Nations Training Study on National Youth Policy (2001), and Chief of the United Nations Youth Unit at UN Headquarters, New York (1996-2000). He has a specialization in national youth policy and has undertaken advisory service missions to over 20 countries to support national youth policies and programmes.

He worked in the United Nations for 25 years in the social development field with approximately 10 years in the United Nations programme on youth, 10 years in the United Nations programme for the advancement of women and 5 years in UN programmes concerned with juvenile delinquency, family and ageing.

He has published several international reference books on youth: *International Law of Youth Rights* (Kluwer Law International, The Netherlands, 1995), *Global Situation of Youth* (UN, New York, 1993) *Youth Movements of the World*, Longman, UK, 1990) His specialty is: Youth Policy and Youth Participation/Service, Youth Rights/Law, His citizenship is: UK and USA and he is a permanent resident in Austria, UN languages: English and French.

The Project Staff, consisted, in addition to the Project Coordinator, of young people under 25 years of age who were ICNYP Student Interns: Ana Castellano (Spain), Xavier Foulquier (France), Peter Vandor (Austria) and ICNYP Youth Policy Experts: Hayo de Vries (The Netherlands), Penny Foley (South Africa) Rezaul Karim (Bangladesh) and Opimbi Osore (Kenya). Details on their tasks are given in Annex II.

## List of abbreviations

<b>ACMYS</b>	<b>Arab Council of Ministers of Youth and Sports</b>
<b>ASEAN</b>	<b>Association of South East Asian Nations</b>
<b>AU</b>	<b>African Union</b>
<b>BMZ</b>	<b>German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development</b>
<b>ECA</b>	<b>Economic Commission for Africa</b>
<b>ESCAP</b>	<b>Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific</b>
<b>ECLAC</b>	<b>Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean</b>
<b>ESCWA</b>	<b>Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia</b>
<b>EU</b>	<b>European Union</b>
<b>CYP</b>	<b>Commonwealth Youth Programme</b>
<b>COE</b>	<b>Council of Europe</b>
<b>CDEJ</b>	<b>COE Steering Committee for Intergovernmental Cooperation in the Youth Field</b>
<b>CONFESJES</b>	<b>Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports of the French-speaking Communities</b>
<b>ICNYP</b>	<b>International Council on National Youth Policy</b>
<b>ILO</b>	<b>International Labour Organization</b>
<b>GTZ</b>	<b>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit GmbH</b>
<b>NYP</b>	<b>National Youth Policy</b>
<b>NYS</b>	<b>National Youth Service</b>
<b>NYPA</b>	<b>National Youth Programme of Action</b>
<b>OIJ</b>	<b>Ibero-American Youth Organization</b>
<b>UN</b>	<b>United Nations</b>
<b>UNDP</b>	<b>United Nations Development Programme</b>
<b>UNFPA</b>	<b>United Nations Population Fund</b>
<b>UNICEF</b>	<b>United Nations Children's Fund</b>
<b>UNESCO</b>	<b>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</b>

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Annex II: List of Research Staff

Annex III: List of Interviews and Research

Annex IV: Country Analysis on Actions to Promote National Youth Policy  
(Interviews) The interviews are available as a separate document.

## **African region**

A. South Africa

B. Kenya

## **Asian Region**

A. Malaysia

B. Pakistan

## **European Region**

A. Austria

B. Hungary

C. Germany

## **Latin American and Caribbean Region**

A. Colombia

B. Jamaica

C. Uruguay

## **Western Asian Region**

A. Bahrain

B. Jordan

## Executive Summary

The International Council on National Youth Policy (ICNYP) Secretariat has undertaken this study in cooperation with the GTZ/BMZ sectoral project "Promotion of children and youth as a target group in development cooperation" from 1 November 2004 to 31 May 2005.

Mr. William D. Angel, Secretary General of the ICNYP, served as the Coordinator of the Study and was assisted by both a team of ICNYP Student Interns and ICNYP Youth Expert Members as cited in Annexes I (List of Research Staff) and Annex II (List of Interviews and Research).

The study is quite unique as no such study has ever been undertaken on this topic on an international basis and with both adults and young people in a joint undertaking, and with a methodology which included both research and interviews with representatives of Governmental Ministries responsible for Youth and national youth NGO coordinating platforms on the impact of National Youth Policies.

The outline of the study undertaken by the ICNYP Secretariat follows:

- 1: Review of International Standards on National Youth Policy;
- 2: Global Analysis on Actions to Promote National Youth Policy;
- 3: Regional Analysis on Actions to Promote National Youth Policy;
- 4: Criteria for Country Analysis on National Youth Policy;
- 5: Comparative Analysis of Country Actions to Implement National Youth Policies;
- 6: Presentations of Best Practices on National Youth Policy and Programmes;
- 7: Proposal on Criteria, Conditions and Steps for the Implementation of National Youth Policies.

On the global analysis of actions to implement national youth policies, the ICNYP estimates that about 30% of the countries of the United Nations, which have formulated national youth policies (155 countries in 2001) have cross-sectoral national youth policies. The other 70% of countries with NYPs have restricted sectoral national youth policies confined to the Government's Ministry responsible for Youth without linking to other youth-serving Ministries such as on Education, Employment and Health. And about a third of the countries that have cross-sectoral NYP have an active youth participation in the NYP process. The other two-thirds of countries have NYPs that are mostly controlled and dominated by the respective Governments with no roles and places for youth participation in their NYPs.

About two-thirds of the 168 estimated UN countries in 2001 cited with national youth coordinating bodies have no role and place in the bodies for youth NGOs. Only about a third of the countries cited have national youth councils and committees with support from the Government, but an independent voice and role for such youth NGOs. And about two-thirds of the 116 estimated UN countries in 2001 with programmers of actions do not connect the actions to the implementation of the NYPs. Most countries with NYPs have not put into place an effective system of evaluation to measure the impact of NYPs in practical terms. In most cases, from a global perspective, such NYPs are mere statements on guidelines of the respective Governments on how to deal with young people, but little on action plans and evaluation tools to enhance youth participation in all phases of the NYP process and involvement in concerned governance of such youth policies and programmes.

At the regional level much action has been undertaken since International Youth Year (1985) to promote cross-sectoral and integrated national youth policies and programmes, but progress has been uneven, with advancement especially in Commonwealth countries (due to the initiative of the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) and the Commonwealth Youth Minister Meetings since 1990) and in Western European countries (due to the initiative of the Council of Europe's Directorate of Youth and Sports and its European Conference of

Ministers responsible for Youth and later to the EU Youth Programme and its White Paper on Youth). In fact, the Council of Europe's Directorate of Youth and Sports is currently running a project for the evaluation of national youth policies in some of its member states. On the basis of an extensive national evaluation report, the COE sends a study visit to the countries concerned and a COE expert team drafts an international evaluation report and study, which is presented to the COE Steering Committee for Intergovernmental Cooperation in the Youth Field (CDEJ) and the Minister responsible for youth at a public hearing. The COE NYP Reviews have been sent thus far to: Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Spain and Sweden. No other intergovernmental organization has such a comprehensive national youth policy evaluation process.

NYPs, in fact, look quite different if one looks at COE, CYP and other models. The CYP has a larger coverage of countries, when compared to other regional intergovernmental organizations, as it has 54 member countries from Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Europe, and Pacific. The CYP model has been applied to countries such as Kenya South Africa and Uganda in Africa, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Pakistan in Asia, and Jamaica and Dominica in the Caribbean.

Despite much progress in those above-cited regions, there has been little progress in Western Asia, Francophone Africa and Eastern Europe due to several problems.

First, the Arab Council of Ministers of Youth and Sports (ACMYS) and the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports of the French-speaking Communities (CONFESJES) have given more sustained attention to youth and sports than to youth policy issues.

Second, the problem of developing an active civil society in Western Asia and Eastern Europe has presented major problems for countries in those regions to develop national youth policies with a major focus on youth participation. Without an active civil society, many countries have problems developing and implementing an effective cross-sectoral national youth policy with youth participation in all phases. There have been political constraints in those regions.

In Latin America, the Ibero-American Youth Organization (OIJ) has placed more emphasis on youth legislation than youth policy as such, but a number of Latin American countries have used such youth legislation processes to prepare national youth policies and programmes.

However, one of the most important results of the International Youth Year (IYY: 1985) was to create a new network of regional and sub-regional IGO standing conferences of ministers responsible for youth initially as a follow-up to the IYY. Examples of some of those conferences are given below, especially in connection with their recommendations on national youth policy.

Regarding comparative analysis of country actions to implement national youth policies, the ICNYP reports that several Governments, as those from South Africa and Kenya as well as recently Bahrain, took into account the views and visions of young women and young men for inclusion in the formulation and design of the National Youth Policy of their countries and made a priority to encourage the active participation of youth in decision-making and in the life of society as part of the NYP.

However, many Governments have not taken such a pro-active approach to involve young people in this NYP process. An example is Poland, which, although supporting the creation of the Polish Youth Council, turned to a team of university professors to prepare the draft NYP and had no active youth participation in the NYP process. This is quite typical of the approach of many countries, which view youth participation as a threat to the NYP process. And surprisingly there are several countries in Europe that have no NYPs, but only a collection of pieces of a NYP and no political will to put the pieces together into a comprehensive and integrated NYPs with full youth participation.

About a third of the countries with NYPs have a National Youth Policy adopted by parliament, but two-thirds by ministerial council and/or by head of State. Several countries with National Youth Policies that became a law devoted some part of the development of youth law for support of youth associations, youth participation, youth service. That was the case in several Latin American countries as Colombia and Mexico and in Africa as in South Africa and in Kenya, and in Europe recently in Kosovo.

In terms of format and content, there are also some basic differences in the examples provided in youth legislation. In some cases, as in some Latin American countries (as Colombia, Bolivia, Costa Rica, and Ecuador), the youth laws have both a broad and cross-sectoral frameworks and contain sections on definition of youth, rights of youth, system of youth policies and programmes, level of Governmental body responsible for youth (minister or vice-minister, secretary of state for youth etc), national voluntary service, coordination, national youth NGO council and youth participation in decision-making, financing, outreach in provinces and municipalities. In other countries (as Chile) the youth law simply describes the purposes, functions, organization, staffing, financing etc of a national youth body of the Government responsible for youth (as a Youth Institute or Centre or Council).

A few governments (e.g. Kenya, Malaysia, Colombia, Austria) have noted the progress that has been made and the obstacles that have been encountered regarding the impact of the previous National Youth Policy (NYP). They have also identified the impact of the National Youth Policy on improving: a) society, b) the situation of young people in general and c) the situation of sub-groups of youth.

However, results chains and indicators to measure the results of national youth policies have not been systematically drawn up. Youth policy consultancy should also address this issue to a greater extent in the future. Within the policies, implementation plans and youth promotion programmes, it is important to define specific results indicators to enable results to be measured. There are indicators at national, community and target group level that could be used to do so.

Bahrain, Colombia, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Pakistan, South Africa, Uganda, and Uruguay have evaluated their respective National Youth Policy and Action Plans on an irregular basis and performance indicators have seldom been used. In the review made in the present study, only Malaysia has developed a set of indicators and a methodology to evaluate the impact of its NYP and made several revisions and adjustments in its NYP over the past 20 years. Most of the countries reviewed in the present study are either at the beginning of the NYP process or have not developed such a set of indicators and a methodology to evaluate the impact of their respective NYPs. In a few countries there has been sufficient attention to the full participation of young people in this evaluation and re-direction process, but many more countries need to take such action.

The main **lessons learned** regarding the formulation, adoption, implementation and evaluation of the National Youth Policy and Action Plan are that more countries need to first give greater attention to active youth participation in all aspects and to a sustained and sufficient budget commitment and an action plan to implement the NYP in effective ways.

Another lesson learned is the need to have a realistic legal definition of youth for the planning and implementation of a NYP. For example, in South Africa, the National Youth Policy defined young people as young women and men aged between 14 and 35. The National Youth Development Policy Framework, developed by the National Youth Commission adapted this to young women and men aged between 15 and 28 in 2002. There is ongoing confusion on this issue in South Africa. Almost no government departments observe either of the definitions proposed. The definition does not impact in any significant way for example on the way the correctional services system engages with youth offenders. That is also a major problem in several countries. The South African Youth Council still uses the 14-35 age

definition as the majority of their member organizations still use this definition. The Umsobomvu Youth Fund, the main financing agency for youth development also continues to use the wider definition.

In many countries with NYP experiences, the following problems have been cited:

- ❗ inadequate political will, visionary leadership and legislative and policy direction to deal with both the problems and potentials of youth on an inter-sectoral basis in a national youth policy and mainstreamed in national development plans;
- ❗ lack of a conceptual framework and follow-up plan to design, implement and evaluate an integrated national youth policy drawing on the various youth-related policies of the sectoral ministries and departments of the national Government and its provincial and local agencies as well as counter-part youth NGOs at all levels;
- ❗ low budgetary support for the design and delivery of such national youth policies to the target constituencies at all levels and marginalization of youth issues and potentials in national development;
- ❗ lack of sufficient participation of all stakeholders (especially youth and youth organizations) in the process of formulation, visions and strategies as well as plans for implementing and evaluating integrated national youth policies;
- ❗ insufficient training opportunities for personnel from youth-related ministries and departments of Governments as well as from youth NGOs to design, implement and evaluate a national youth policy and to deal effectively with the needs and aspirations of young women and young men;
- ❗ problems in defining youth and its subgroups as well as in determining their needs and aspirations and in distinguishing children and youth in that regards and not confusing the two groups as the same;
- ❗ lack of systematic national review of the problems and needs of youth with base-line data and with cross-sectoral as well as sectoral indicators;
- ❗ insufficient linkage of the priority youth issues of education, employment and health as well as poverty-alleviation, social integration, and citizenship-building in the NYP process;
- ❗ lack of a time-bound action plan to implement a NYP with a phased time-elements enabling youth participation in all NYP aspects;
- ❗ absence of knowledge of models of best practices for involving youth in all aspects of a NYP process and of actions to promote such youth participation.

In that regard, the NYP experiences of South Africa, Kenya, Malaysia and India, Panama and Colombia, Bahrain and Jordan, and Sweden and Germany can be used as models of best practices for youth participation in a NYP.

Regarding conclusions, a national youth policy can provide both a new vision to improve the situation of youth in a country as well as an action programme to implement that vision by the Government in partnership with youth organizations. It is hoped that this study has provided the reader with a good comparative analysis on national youth policy to show the alternative ways and means to proceed to formulate, adopt, promote, implement, evaluate and re-direct a National Youth Policy.

It is important that a national youth policy is not treated in isolation of major priority issues of the Government and Society concerned (such as: human rights, democratic reform and good governance, sustainable development, poverty alleviation, employment promotion, educational reform, health services for all, environmental protection etc.). The NYP should promote active youth participation of young people in the priority issues confronted by the Government and Society.

## **CHAPTER 1: REVIEW OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL STANDARDS ON NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY**

### **INTERNATIONAL LEVEL**

#### **UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY: 1969-2005.**

The General Assembly has, since 1969, adopted important mandates on national youth policy and the United Nations Secretariat has promoted the implementation of such mandates on national youth policies since that time.

#### **A. UNITED NATIONS LONG-TERM POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL YOUTH POLICIES (1969)**

In its resolution 2497 (XXIV) of 28 October 1969, the General Assembly endorsed long-term policies and programmes for youth in national development (as presented in Economic and Social Council resolution 1407 (XLVI) of 5 June 1969). The Assembly recommended that Governments, in formulating national youth policies, should ensure a more coordinated approach to meeting the needs and aspirations of youth. It further recommended to Governments that, especially during the Second United Nations Development Decade, youth and youth organizations should be given an appropriate opportunity to participate in the preparation and implementation of national development plans and in programmes of international co-operation.

The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies engaged in various studies and programmes on the problems and needs of youth and its participation in national development to identify separately the problems and needs of youth in the developing countries and suggest possible solutions accordingly. (Was there a differentiation between girls and boys?) Finally, the Assembly invited the attention of Governments, the United Nations organs and the specialized agencies concerned to the need for ensuring to youth equal and increased opportunities of access to education at all levels and to employment.

#### **UN Secretary General:**

#### **Report on "Long-Term Policies and Programmes for Youth in National Development"**

That first mandate of the General Assembly in 1969 on national youth policies was based on a preliminary report of the Secretary-General on "Long-Term Policies and Programmes for Youth in National Development" (A/C.3/613 of 22 September 1969). That report examined the situation of youth (including population trends and the needs of youth such as: health, education, employment, urbanization, young women and girls, participation, antisocial behaviour, leisure and the disabled).

The Secretary-General also, for the first time, presented the rationale and contents of "national youth policies". In the report were included sections on national planning and programmes for youth such as:

- the availability and collection of data,
- youth and health,
- education and vocational training,
- youth employment,
- social welfare,

- ! social defense,
- ! unconventional and experimental methods of dealing with the requirements of youth,
- ! political and civic education,
- ! leisure,
- ! mass media,
- ! administrative structure and specific programmes (training and employment for early school-leavers, and training of professional and voluntary youth workers, special programmes for young women and girls, and activities for rural youth).

In a section in that report on "Youth Action In Development", the Secretary-General mentioned that the keynotes of any modern youth policies would be "participation" and "greater responsibility". It cites specific examples of national youth service programmes in more than a third of all UN Member States (191 States) where legislation provided for such organized forms of youth service to the community and nation. In that regard, the report specifically mentioned guidelines for such national youth service programmes organized by the Government or by nongovernmental organizations with governmental support.

Those guidelines were drawn from a report of a Joint United Nations/International Labour Organization Seminar on National Youth Service Programmes held at Holte, Denmark on 17-30

November 1968 (ST/SOA/SER.C/108). The report of the Secretary-General also addressed priority youth action issues for national youth policies such as: education, health and sanitation, agriculture and rural development, community development, social welfare, public works and related activities.

Finally, the Secretary-General report presented "Guidelines for the Development of National Youth Policies" which indicated that: "The needs of youth can be met more effectively if countries formulate a national youth policy which can be integrated into the general objectives of development". A constructive youth policy can strengthen young people's motivation to make a contribution now and it can facilitate their role in the future development of their country and the world, especially if they are fully consulted in the formulation of that policy. Those Guidelines included the following points: research and statistical service, integrated planning, education and training, unemployment, urbanization, disadvantaged youth, juvenile delinquency, implementation of policies, personnel, and areas for youth action (as part of a national youth policy) on such topics as: national youth service programmes as well as international voluntary service programmes.

The participation of young people in national life needs wider and more explicit acknowledgement, not merely as being a desirable phenomenon, but as basis of the whole process of development..."

(A/C.3/613, para. 239, National youth policy").

*Joint United Nations/International Labour Organization Seminar on National Youth Service Programmes, Holte, Denmark on 17-30 November, 1968*

The Seminar adopted definitions on a national youth policy, national youth programme and national youth service.

A **national youth policy** was taken to mean overall plans relating to all young people and a wide variety of programmes, including in and out-of-school education, training, employment, youth welfare, recreation, cultural activities, and participation in economic and social development.

A **national youth programme**, as distinct from a national youth service programme, was considered to be a term which could be used for all the youth activities and youth services of a particular country and included as a part in a national budget.

And a **national youth service programme** was defined as one of the means employed, in addition to the usual formal and informal education and training programmes, for the implementation of national youth and development plans, and was considered to have as its principle objectives:

- a) organized training and provision of opportunities for youth in productive employment within the framework of national social, economic and cultural development programmes; and
- b) organized provision of opportunities for youth to serve the national and local society in bringing about economic and social change.

#### UN study on Long-term Policies and Programmes for Youth in National Development

As a follow-up to that initial work in 1969, the United Nations published a study in 1970 on Long-term Policies and Programmes for Youth in National Development (Sales No. E.70.IV.12).

At the regional level, a United Nations Regional Seminar on National Youth Service was held at the headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia, from 23 November to 4 December 1970 (E/CN.14/517). It was a part of the effort of the United Nations to promote action-oriented national youth policies and a follow-up to the above-cited UN/ILO Inter-regional Seminar on National Youth Service Programmes (1968).

The seminar in Africa was organized jointly by the ECA and the International Labour Organization (ILO), with financial assistance of the Government of Denmark, to examine recent developments in African national youth service programmes, particularly in relation to the development of skills and job opportunities. In addition to that the seminar recommended further measures, which might be taken by governments, nongovernmental and inter-governmental organizations, in order to increase the contribution of such programmes to national economic and social development. The seminar also adopted recommendations on the development of national youth policies, including the relationship of governments and non-governmental organizations, and the relationship of national youth policies and national youth services to each other and to national development plans.

#### New Trends in Service By Youth

In 1971, the United Nations Secretariat (Youth Unit of the Social Development Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs) published a book entitled *New Trends in Service By Youth* (United Nations Publication, Sales Number E.71.IV.1, ST/SOA/100) particularly related to General Assembly resolutions 2447(XXIII) on the education of youth in respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms and 2460(XXIII) on human resources for development. The author of the book was Mr. Arthur Gillette, who worked as a United Nations consultant on this study and in the field of youth and out-of-school education and worked later as the Director of the Division of Youth and Sport Activities of UNESCO. The study consisted of four parts:

- II. Aims and Organization of Service by Youth,
- III. Fields of Service,
- IV. The United Nations and Service by Youth, and
- V. Evaluation and Future Action.

In the latter part, the author examined the questions of:

- the contribution of service by youth to society,



- the impact of service by youth on participants,
- the role of sponsoring organizations,
- guiding principles for action by the United Nations family of organizations, including types of assistance and the use of volunteers.

The author advocated the idea of the "United Nations Volunteer", but no particular attention was devoted to the relationship of "service by youth" to the process whereby the Government, in partnership with youth, designs, implements and evaluates an integrated "national youth policy" and promotes "youth service" as part of that national youth policy process.

As a follow-up to that work, the United Nations Secretariat (Youth Unit of the Social Development Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs) published a book in 1975 entitled: *Service By Youth: A Survey of Eight Country Experiences* (United Nations Publication Sales No. E.75.IV.1, ST/ESA/21). This study was based on country monographs by consultants in eight countries (Part One: Eight Country Experiences) as well as a number of reference materials (Part Two: Commentary). An important point was made regarding the linkage of "service by youth" to "national youth policy". At the beginning of Part Two, the study emphasized that "both 'service by youth' and 'service to youth' comprise aspects of unofficial or official 'youth policy'. 'National youth policy' entails aspects of youth planning that must be dealt with in a larger context than the implementation of youth programmes...and should grow out of the experience of the country and be consistent with its social and economic goals". ("Limits and Definitions", ST/ESA/21, pages 74-75).

## **B. UNITED NATIONS GUIDELINES ON NATIONAL YOUTH POLICIES ADOPTED FOR THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR (1985).**

The General Assembly endorsed, by its resolution 40/14 in 1985, Guidelines for Further Planning in the Field of Youth (document A/40/256) as a follow-up to International Youth Year. In section I of those Guidelines, the Assembly indicated that future development may depend upon the ability of Governments to manage substantial changes and to improve the situation of youth under conditions of limited or moderate growth and considerable international uncertainty. Achieving the necessary combination of macro-economic and micro-economic strategies had been one of the major problems faced by many Governments.

Consequently, the Assembly indicated that it was extremely important to improve the managerial abilities of Governments as well as policy-making and the development of infrastructures in the field of youth. The Guidelines of 1985 were intended to contribute to those general objectives. However, in addition to those more macro social-economic concerns, the Assembly recalled that many of the youth related issues are symptoms of the larger processes of personal development young people undergo.

The Assembly recommended that attempts to promote young people should address the underlying processes of the development of the concepts of self, creating opportunities for self-realization and for accepting responsibilities vis-à-vis other human beings. Therefore, the Assembly recommended that, while measures may be developed by both governmental and non-governmental organizations to reach young people during their process of development, they should respond to individual societal contexts and special needs. The Assembly stated that the Guidelines were intended to contribute to the work of specific policy development formulation in many countries where a great willingness to assist youth exists, but in which the necessary practical steps towards comprehensive and effective action are restricted by the lack of a policy framework.

The General Assembly consequently recommended in those Guidelines, as appropriate to national circumstances, the following principle aspects of national youth policy development: (a) the place and role of youth in society and the responsibility of society towards youth; (b) Co-coordinating mechanisms in which governments and nongovernmental institutions and youth representatives can participate in the formulation and implementation of youth policies; (c) Ways and means of bringing young people together to allow them to express their needs and aspirations and to take part in decisions concerning them and to organize their own activities; (d) Reorientation of the policy process of both governmental and non-governmental institutional sectors to give youth its proper place as a beneficiary of, and a contributor to, all aspects of national development;

The General Assembly further indicated that the national youth policy process should be wide-ranging to include both those measures directly and indirectly concerned with youth activities, as well as elements concerned with the role and place of young people in each sector and area of national life such as in:

- ! education and training;
- ! agriculture and rural development;
- ! health and the promotion of primary health care;
- ! commercial and industrial development;
- ! protection and improvement of the environment;
- ! promotion and development of the national culture;
- ! science and technology;
- ! community organizations, trade unions and political institutions.

It clarified that the various executive programmes, legislative measure and administrative regulations related to each of those policy areas should be set out in consonance with the national objective of each country.

The Assembly further noted the need for national youth policies to include the following specific issues:

- ! the situation of youth within a human resource development policy;
- ! Youth employment;
- ! the situation of young people with respect to human settlements and the environment;
- ! the role of youth in rural development;
- ! the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency;
- ! Youth and culture;
- ! the relationship between youth and tourism;
- ! special categories of youth.

The issue of sustainability of national youth policy process was also stressed by the Assembly, which underlined the need for a continuous development of national youth policy, and suggested the following possible main steps in the evolution of national youth policies:

- ! The establishment of a definition of youth appropriate to national circumstances and the identification of the various subcategories of youth in the country;
- ! The identification of the needs and expectations of youth, formulation of youth policies with specific indicators of the required legislative and administrative measures to implement them, allocation of resources and identification of responsible actors;

- ! The establishment of a quantitative and qualitative profile of the social, economic, cultural and political characteristics of each subcategory of youth, with special attention to demography, political, economic, social and cultural participation: education and training; employment and unemployment; health; use of free time, sports and recreation; delinquency; and attitudes and expectations;
- ! The assessment of those elements of existing national policy that constitutes a general orientation for youth policy. Such elements might include the national constitution, legislation, overall development policy and sectoral policies, as well as the international legal instruments to which the country subscribes;
- ! The identification and evaluation of the various governmental and non-governmental programmes of direct or indirect concern to youth, the resources available to them (budget, infrastructure, staff, leadership, equipment, etc.) and assessment of the categories and proportions of young people affected;
- ! The adoption of the policy by the Government and its formal enactment by the national legislative body;
- ! The widespread diffusion of policy documents and associated statements, to inform youth and all other sectors of society of the seriousness of the issues affecting youth, of the need to address those issues and to secure the effective participation of youth in society, and of the role of each sector of society in the achievement of these policy goals;
- ! The establishment of institutional arrangements and procedures designed to secure the effective integration of youth policy into national development planning, and the co-ordination of all related activities;
- ! The implementation of policy measures, with attention to the continuous and effective participation of young persons and to the establishment of efficient programme management and operational evaluation;
- ! The regular evaluation, assessment and readjustment of national youth policies.

Regarding the need for coordination of an integrated national youth policy, the Assembly recommended that throughout the process of policy formulation and implementation, close and effective co-ordination between the relevant ministries would be desirable and may be made possible through special institutional arrangements and procedures. It indicated that it is for each country to decide what type of structure is most suitable for its needs. It recommended that the institutional arrangements could take several forms, according to national political and administrative traditions and preferences and that consultative functions should involve representatives of: (a) the Government; (b) youth and (c) all other appropriate sectors of society (e.g. NGOs, private sector). The Assembly also indicated that the national organizational structure should make possible the effective cooperation and association of all existing youth organizations and groups, while preserving their identity and independence. At all levels within such an organization, it recommended young people should be free to participate and should be offered opportunities to undertake functions and responsibilities within its leadership.

The General Assembly also emphasized the need for continuing advocacy on behalf of youth, and recommended that governmental and non-governmental organizations consider the impact of their decisions and actions on young people, in particular the process of development that young people experience. It emphasized the importance that those who are responsible for making decisions or policies that affect youth begin a dialogue with young people, either through direct meetings or through the structures offered by youth organizations and educational institutions, so that they may become better sensitized to youth perspectives. The Assembly further indicated that it should be a primary aim of such a dialogue to encourage young people to contribute to decision-making and to take an active

part in efforts for the development of their societies. Such a process would also aim at encouraging a view of youth as positive, active and creative participants in society, able to contribute to its multilateral development. At the national level, it recommended that Governments might initiate national short, medium and long-term programmes to achieve over time the objectives of such a national youth policy process. The General Assembly concluded, in those Guidelines, that the progress achieved and obstacles encountered should be viewed at both national and local levels and based on the overall need for fuller participation of young people in the entire process.

### National Youth Policies in Developing Countries

In order to further promote that mandate of the General Assembly, the United Nations Secretariat produced a sales publication in 1985 entitled: *National Youth Policies in Developing Countries* (ST/ESA/166). The study examined:

- I. Why a Policy for Youth? ;
- II. Explicit Policies for Youth: A Review of Selected Countries,
- III. Structures for Policies and Programmes for Youth,
- IV. National Policies and Programmes for Rural Youth,
- V. Conclusions.

One of the basic conclusions of the study was that the adoption by Governments of a national youth policy presupposes, above all, the political will to initiate and pursue such a policy. Though this political will may be openly expressed in constitutions, development plans, statements, declarations etc. or indirectly through programmes and services, a clear, coherent, comprehensive policy often seemed to be lacking. Reasons included:

- ! Governments were preoccupied with the severe problems facing youth in developing countries, and therefore concentrate on the most urgent tasks, or
- ! that well developed youth programmes already functioned within an undefined policy framework.

The study concluded that, in most developing countries, young persons participated insufficiently, since they were rarely consulted either when programmes are formulated or decisions taken. In addition, the study found that it was extremely rare that such policies, programmes or statements mentioned female youth. And, the study indicated that youth policies frequently tended to be regarded as synonymous with education, training or employment policies, or with recreational and sports activities, rather than with a comprehensive, integrated and cross-sectoral youth policy encompassing the work of all of the various youth-related ministries and departments of the Government and range of activities of all major nongovernmental youth organizations.

And, finally, the study cited the problems of co-coordinating the delivery of youth programmes, which were often competing against each other. The study concluded that a **United Nations Decade for Youth (1985-1995)** should be declared which should be used by Governments to reassess the situation of youth and the various policies, programmes and services for youth provided by governmental and non-governmental sectors, and to revise them as necessary, and to develop their policy towards youth into a comprehensive national youth policy. Such action was to pave the way for a greater involvement and participation of young people in all aspects of national economic, social, political, and cultural development.

### UN Youth Unit – Meetings 1988-1989

As a follow-up to those mandates, the United Nations Youth Unit convened three meetings in 1988-1989 concerned with integrative planning of youth policies, strategies and programmes.

The first was in Beijing, China on 17-23 October 1988 to:

- ! provide a forum for participants to exchange knowledge and experience on various approaches to formulating, implementing, and evaluating national youth-related policies and programmes, and on the achievements and obstacles encountered in the process;
- ! develop guidelines to assist developing countries with integrative planning for youth-related policies, strategies and programmes and for reinforcing youth-related concerns in mainstream development efforts and
- ! identify technical cooperation needs in the above-mentioned areas.

Participants of this United Nations Interregional Meeting were from: China, Costa Rica, Democratic Yemen, Mexico, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Zambia.

The Meeting made recommendations on three basic issues:

- ! The Diagnosis of the Situation of Youth,
- ! The Elaboration of Youth Policy, and
- ! The Organizing and Coordinating the Elaboration of an Integrated National Youth Policy. (See: Report of the Interregional consultative Meeting on Integrated Planning of Youth Policies, Strategies and Programmes, 17-23 October 1988, Beijing, China, Document V89-55072).

In addition, and also part of the follow-up to General Assembly mandates on national youth policy, the United Nations Youth Unit convened on 2-5 November 1989 a Consultative Meeting on Interregional, Regional, and National Coordination for Integrated Youth Policies and Programmes at Pattaya, Thailand and on 8-12 November 1989, the Youth Unit convened an International Expert Group Meeting on the Establishment and Development of National Machineries for Youth at Bangkok, Thailand. Both of those meetings discussed and made recommendations on ways and means to strengthen national youth policies and programmes.

(See: Report of Consultative Meeting on Interregional, Regional and National Coordination for Integrated Youth Programmes, Pattaya, Thailand, 2-5 November 1989 and the Report of the International Meeting on Establishment and Development of National Machineries for Youth, Bangkok, Thailand, 8-12 November 1989-both published by UNOV, Vienna).

### **C. THE WORLD PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR YOUTH (1995)**

In honour of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations International Youth Year (1985-1995), the General Assembly adopted on 14 December 1995, the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. By that Programme, the Assembly sought not only to make general recommendations, but also specific proposals for action, such as those on the question of an integrated national youth policy.

The following guidelines were recommended by the General Assembly for national level action as well as UN system action (at the request by Governments) to implement the World Programme of Action for Youth to establish or strengthen national youth policies:

- ! Governments, which had not already done so, were urged to formulate and adopt an integrated national youth policy as a means of addressing youth-related concerns. That should be done as part of a continuing process of review and assessment of the situation of youth, formulation of specific, time-bound objectives and a systematic evaluation of progress achieved and obstacles encountered.
- ! Reinforcing youth-related concerns in development activities can be facilitated through the existence of multilevel mechanisms for consultation, dissemination of information, coordination, monitoring and evaluation. The Assembly further recommended that those mechanisms should be cross-sectoral in nature and multidisciplinary in approach and should include the participation of youth-related departments and ministries, national nongovernmental youth organizations and the private sector.
- ! Special and additional efforts may be required to develop and disseminate model frameworks for integrated policies and to identify and organize an appropriate division of responsibilities among both governmental and nongovernmental entities concerned with youth-related issues. Special and additional efforts could also be directed towards strengthening national capacities for data collection and dissemination of information, research and policy studies, planning, implementation and coordination, training and advisory services.
- ! National coordination mechanisms should be appropriately strengthened for integrated youth policies and programmes. Where such mechanisms do not exist, Governments are urged to promote their establishment on a multilateral and cross-sectoral basis.
- ! Technical cooperation is an essential means for building national capacities and institutional capacities. There is a need to continue to improve the impact of technical cooperation activities carried out by the United Nations system, including those that relate to youth activities.
- ! The United Nations system must continue to assist Governments, at their request, to ensure implementation of national plans and strategies within the national priorities and programmes to support youth activities.
- ! Countries with economies in transition, when required should also be assisted in improving their national capacities for project and programme formulation and execution.
- ! The organization, on an inter-agency basis, of missions to review, assess and plan, technical cooperation concerning youth, on request to Governments, represents a specific contribution by the United Nations system to the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth.

The United Nations has promoted the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth at global, regional and national levels since 1996, especially regarding the need to promote integrated national youth policies.



The Youth Unit of the UN Division for Social Policy and Development sent questionnaires in 1998 to all Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations inquiring about their respective action to implement the Programme, and reports biennially to the General Assembly on action taken to implement this Programme of Action. Those reports particularly present actions taken to establish or strengthen national youth policies and programmes pursuant to the Programme of Action.

At the global level, two new platforms were created to provide the basic constituencies of the World Programme of Action for Youth to review and appraise actions to promote integrated national youth policies and to make recommendations to strengthen such processes (one representing the voices of Governments: the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth and one representing the voices of youth NGOs: the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System).

At the regional level, such new platforms have also been created to promote the national youth policy processes (one representing the voices of Governments: regional conferences of ministers responsible for youth and one representing the voices of youth NGOs: regional youth NGO forums of the United Nations system).

And at the national level, United Nations inter-agency youth theme groups have been created in some countries to support these national youth policy processes. These youth theme groups have included representatives of both the youth-related agencies and organizations of the United Nations system as well as of the major national youth NGOs and of the Government's ministry responsible for youth. In recent years, such UN youth theme groups have been launched in China, Fiji, Malawi, Mongolia, Panama and Peru, and they have promoted closer cooperation between all three stakeholders in national youth policy processes.

#### **D. LISBON DECLARATION ON YOUTH POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES (1998)**

The delegates at the World Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth, in 1998 in Lisbon, Portugal, committed themselves to National Youth Policy in the first section of the Declaration as follows:

- ! Ensuring that national youth policy formulation, implementation and follow-up processes are, at appropriate level, accorded commitment from the highest political levels, including the provision of adequate levels of resources;
- ! Developing national youth policies and operational programmes, at appropriate levels, to implement the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, taking into account the national priorities, realities and limitations arising from different socio-economic and cultural development contexts;
- ! Establishing the necessary policies and programmes by the year 2000 to improve living standards for young women and young men and to permit the effective implementation of national youth policies, of an inter-sectoral nature, foreseen, among others, in the Programme of Action;
- ! Reviewing the situation of youth and their needs and incorporating young people's own assessment of priorities, through their participation in a consultative process, and ensuring that young women and young men actively contribute to the formulation, implementation and evaluation of national and local youth policies, programmes and action plans;
- ! Developing capacity building through the empowerment of formal and informal coalitions and networks of youth;
- ! Strengthening responsible partnerships among all key stakeholders, especially youth networks, non-governmental youth institutions and organizations and other non-

governmental organizations also including young women, particularly the girl-child, and young men, their families, governments, international agencies, educational institutions, civil society, the business sector and media in order to create synergies to better address youth potentials and problems both at national and at local levels;

- Introducing measurable time-bound goals and indicators to allow a common basis for national evaluation of the implementation of the above-mentioned policies;
- Supporting bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international exchange of best practices at the national level in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of youth policy, and the provision of appropriate development tools and technical assistance, through the creation of networks;
- Ensuring the mainstreaming of national youth policy and international development, plans and programmes.

The Ministers concluded that they agreed on the following points, including *inter-alia*, to invite all relevant United Nations programmes, funds, and the specialized agencies and other bodies within the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization, the World Bank, and intergovernmental organizations and regional financial institutions to give greater support to national youth policies and programmes within their country programmes.

That recommendation was subsequently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in its follow-up resolution 54/120 in 1999. That marked the first time in the history of the United Nations that the General Assembly invited all relevant parts of the United Nations system to provide greater support to national youth policies and programmes within their country programmes. For previously to that World Conference, most of the technical assistance programmes of the United Nations system did not provide support to cross-sectoral national youth policies and programmes, but only to sectoral youth projects on education, employment and or health. The Assembly, by the same resolution also encouraged the United Nations regional commissions to follow up the World Conference in their respective regions, in coordination with regional meetings of ministers responsible for youth and regional non-governmental youth organizations, and to provide advisory services to support national youth policies and programmes in each region.

## **REGIONAL LEVEL**

### **A. African Regional Plan of Action on Youth (1983) and Follow-Up**

The United Nations African Regional Preparatory Meeting for International youth Year was held at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) on 20-24 June 1983 and adopted an African Regional Plan of Action on Youth. In that Plan, the Meeting recommended that Governments in Africa elaborate national youth policies and suggested: "A mechanism should be established, or where it exists reinforced for monitoring, evaluating and reviewing national youth policies and programmes with a view to improve their effectiveness. On the basis of the diagnosis of the youth situation in the country, governments, working through the co-ordination structure established for this purpose, should start elaborating their national youth policy and plans for the implementation of the youth policy within the framework of national development plans. (ECA Document: SDEHSD/IYY/83/RPT, 24 June 1983, paragraphes. 25-26). The ECA followed up this Regional Plan of Action on Youth in 1996 and 2000 with meetings of an African Youth Forum and a Pan African Conference on Youth Development (1996) in cooperation with the African Youth Union (AYU) and the UN Youth Unit.



## **B. Asia-Pacific Regional Plan of Action on Youth (1983) and Follow-Up.**

The United Nations Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for International Youth Year was held at the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on 26-30 July 1983 and adopted an Asia-Pacific Regional Plan of Action on Youth. In that Plan, the Meeting recommended that Governments in Asia and the Pacific elaborate national youth policies and suggested that "priorities be allocated to youth in the countries of the region and to the scope and situation of non-governmental organizations and their relations with the State" and to "stimulate Governments to establish national co-coordinating committees for the IYY. The Meeting also adopted guidelines for national action, in particular to review and update national legislation and where necessary, improve provisions concerning youth in the course of developing a comprehensive national youth policy which recognize the rights of youth to basic needs, the right to organize, and freedom of conscience, and to fully inform young people about their consequent responsibilities in society. (ESCAP Document: SD/RPA/IXX/3 of 9 September 1983, paras 3 and 4 and para. 37 a-b). The ESCAP followed up this Regional Plan of Action on Youth in 1998, 2000 and 2002 with meetings of an Asia-Pacific Youth Forum and Asia-Pacific Conference on Human Resource Development for Youth in cooperation with the ASEAN Meeting of Senior Officers Responsible for Youth and the Pacific Community Youth Minister Meetings and the UN Youth Unit.

## **C. European Union and Council of Europe Standards on Youth Policy**

### **1. European Commission White Paper entitled a "New Impetus for European Youth"**

The European Commission White Paper entitled a "New Impetus for European Youth" (Brussels, 21.11.2001, COM (2001) 681 final) called for comprehensive youth policies that promote an open method to coordinate with priority issues as youth participation, voluntary service, information, improving the public authorities' awareness of young people's concerns and more generally any other subject which might contribute to the development and recognition of activities on the youth front as youth work, youth clubs, street work, projects to foster a sense of citizenship, integration, solidarity among young people, etc for the part which is not covered by other political processes such as employment, social integration, and education. This corresponds very largely to the kind of activities and resources associated with youth policies at the national level.

### **2. Council of Europe "European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Municipal and Regional Life"**

The Council of Europe's Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe adopted on 19 March 1992 a European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Municipal and Regional Life which set forth major guidelines on youth policies and programmes at local and regional levels in Europe. In the first part, the Charter outlined priority sectoral concerns to youth and in the second part, the Charter outlined institutional participation of young people in local and regional life. In order to carry out those sectoral policies, local and regional authorities, it undertook to optimise the institutional conditions governing the participation of young people in the decisions and debates affecting them. While the institutional conditions governing participation are embodied in structures, which may take on different forms in an urban neighbourhood, a town, a village or even a region, these structures should enable young people and their representatives to be full partners in the policies affecting them. The Charter stated that partnership arrangements, which are the only means whereby young people can make themselves heard and improve their role and status in the community, are an essential key to the practical application of the this charter on the participation of young people in

community life. It called, in that regard, for a structure of co-management of projects between elected representatives youth associations and adult policy-makers.

### **3. Council of Europe Conference on “Young People’s, Actors in their Towns and Regions” (2002)**

In 2002, in honour of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council of Europe Charter on the Participation of Young People in Municipal and Regional Life, a Conference on “Young People’s, Actors in their Towns and Regions” adopted the Krakow Declaration on in Krakow Poland requested the CLRAE and the Advisory Committee on Youth Questions of the Council of Europe to: appoint experts to prepare proposals for amending the European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Municipal and Regional Life in order to make it responsive to the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, prepare a manual of good practice on the functioning of youth councils at local and regional level and promote a European network of cities and regions with youth councils.

### **4. Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, Resolution (98) 6 on “The Youth Policy of the Council of Europe” (1998)**

The Council of Europe’s Committee of Ministers in 1998 adopted Resolution 98, which set forth the following objectives of the Council of Europe’s Youth Policy:

- ! to help young people, particularly the disadvantaged, to find ways of meeting both the challenges facing them and their own aspirations;
- ! to strengthen civil society in Europe through the promotion of training for democratic citizenship, in a non-formal context;
- ! to encourage young people’s participation in civil society;
- ! to support the development of youth policies in Europe and the provisions of suitable legislation and structures, in keeping with the specific features of each country;
- ! to seek the ways of promoting youth mobility in Europe.

In light of the above objectives and the means available to the Council of Europe, the following were cited as priorities:

- ! the promotion of intercultural dialogue and understanding in a spirit for respect for diversity;
- ! the combating of the racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, intolerance and all movements aiming to undermine democracy;
- ! young people’s awareness of and commitment to human rights and democracy,
- ! the development of co-operation to stimulate a balanced development of youth structures in all member states of the Council of Europe;
- ! the encouragement of new forms of youth participation and organization;
- ! the training of young people to assume responsibilities;
- ! the contribution of social cohesion, especially by combating exclusion and the prevention of phenomena specifically affecting young people;
- ! young people’s access to information and new technologies;
- ! the systematic exchange of information and good practices;
- ! the on-going analysis of national youth policies.

#### **D. Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Youth.**

The United Nations Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for IYY was held in San Jose, Costa Rica on 3-7 October 1983 and adopted a Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Youth. In that Plan, the Meeting recommended that Governments prepare a well-documented national diagnostic study on youth issues which presented the thinking of young people themselves and a national plan of action for IYY which included both the governmental and nongovernmental levels. The Meeting also called for governments on the region to adopt youth policy measures such as proposed laws, drafting of decrees, arrangements for budgetary resources etc. (ECLAC document E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.22, paras.11, (4-6) and (11-12). ECLAC and the Ibero-American Youth Organization (OIJ) followed-up this Regional Plan with Latin American and Caribbean Youth Forums in 1998, 2000 and 2002 in cooperation with the UN.

#### **E. Western Asian Regional Plan of Action on Youth (1983).**

The United Nations Western Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting for IYY was held in Baghdad, Iraq on 13 October 1983 and adopted a Western Asian Regional Plan of Action on Youth. In that Plan, the Meeting recommended each member Government in the region to formulate appropriate national youth policies in the light of the directives on Arab youth policy endorsed by the Council of Arab Ministers of Youth and Sports and in the light of the Regional Plan of Action for IYY in Western Asia. The Meeting indicated that the basic needs of youth be incorporated in the objectives of national planning adopting youth participation as one of the means by which the development activities and programmes are implemented. It also called for such a national youth policy to include support for student unions and societies in schools and universities and establish a democratic organizational framework, so that they could run their own affairs and meet the needs of students as well as serve their communities, either by way of ideas or actual work. (ESCWA document E/ECWA/SDP/CONF.I/4/Rev.I, Sections A, a and b and B, a). ESCWA followed-up that West Asian Regional Plan of Action with the convening of an Arab Youth Forum in 2000 in cooperation with the UN and an Arab Regional Training Seminar on National Youth Policy in Beirut in 2005 in cooperation with ICNYP. The Arab Council of Ministers of Youth and Sports also followed-up this youth policy matter.

## CHAPTER 2:

### GLOBAL ANALYSIS ON ACTION TO PROMOTE NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY

The United Nations has made global analysis of action on national youth policies in its Member States in 1994, 1997, 1999 and 2001 (documents: A/49/34, A/52/60, A/54/59, A/56/180), respectively on three types of actions by UN Member States on:

1. what progress has been made by UN Member States in the formulation of national youth policies,
2. the establishment of national youth coordinating mechanisms on national youth policy,
3. the undertaking on national youth programmes of action to implement a national youth policy,
4. a combination of those three actions.

In 1999, (A/54/59), as illustrated in the table below and list, out of a total of 185 UN Member States, 153 had formulated national youth policies. Compared with a similar survey conducted by the UN in 1996, it showed that nine additional countries had taken this step. Thus as of 1999, 83% of UN Member States had a national youth policy. In addition, there were 167 countries, which had established a youth coordinating mechanism, which represents a minor increase compared with the 1996 figure. Furthermore, the Secretary-General reported that about 114 countries had implemented a national youth programme of action. 29% of countries had implemented a national programme of action in 1994 and that figure grew to 62% in 1999.

**Table 1: SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS ON NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY (1999)**

Category:	Number	Percentage
Countries that have formulated a national youth policy	153	83
Countries that have designated a national youth Coordinating mechanism	167	90
Countries that have implemented national Youth programme of action (operational, voluntary action)	114	62
Countries that had taken all three types of action	95	51

Source: *Report of the Secretary General (A/54/59)*, page 4.

The data in Table 1 have been taken from statements made by government delegates at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, held in Lisbon from 8 to 12 August 1998.

In 2001, (A/56/180), as illustrated in table 2 below and the list in table 3, the UN reported that 155 countries out of 189 or 82% had formulated national youth policies, 168 or 89% had designated a national youth coordinating mechanism, and 116 or 61% had implemented a national youth programme of action (operational, voluntary service). The UN indicated that on review, progress appeared to have stagnated since 1999 in all three categories. It

reported that such a problem could be due to the fact that of the four new UN Member States that joined the UN in 1999 and 2000 (Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu), data were available for only two.

It concluded that the methodology used does not allow for a qualitative assessment of existing national youth policies, nor does it assess the effectiveness of any national youth coordinating mechanism or national programme youth of action to implement the national youth policy. It said that the table below should therefore be seen in relative, quantitative terms; the numbers indicated only that some type of policy related to youth and youth coordinating mechanism or action plan had been reported to the UN. However, the UN in 2001 did not indicated any new methodology it would use to better survey both the quality and quantity of action taken by UN Member States on national youth policy.

**Table 3: SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS ON NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY (2001)**

Category:	Number	Percentage
Countries that have formulated a national youth policy	155	82
Countries that have designated a national youth Coordinating mechanism	168	89
Countries that have implemented national Youth programme of action (operational, voluntary action)	116	61
Countries that had taken all three types of action	97	51

Source: *Report of the Secretary General (A/56/180)*, page 6.

In 2002 also Timor Leste and Switzerland became Member States of the UN, thus bringing the total to 191 UN Member States.

Further details on this table, please see table 4 below for a complete listing of countries as at May 2001 and cited in each of the four categories above.

**Table 4**  
**Status of implementation of national youth policies, coordination mechanisms and programmes of action, as at May 2001 (UN document A/56/180)**

Asia/Central Asia	Africa	North America, Latin America and Caribbean	Europe	Middle East/ Arabic States
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Afghanistan b c</li> <li>• Armenia c</li> <li>• Azerbaijan b c d</li> <li>• Bangladesh c d</li> <li>• Bhutan c</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algeria b c d</li> <li>• Angola b c d</li> <li>• Benin b</li> <li>• Botswana b c d</li> <li>• Burkina Faso b c d</li> <li>• Burundi b c</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antigua and Barbuda b c</li> <li>• Argentina b c d</li> <li>• Bahamas b c d</li> <li>• Barbados b c d</li> <li>• Belize b c</li> <li>• Bolivia b c d</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Albania b c</li> <li>• Andorra b c d</li> <li>• Austria b c d</li> <li>• Belarus b c</li> <li>• Belgium b c d</li> <li>• Bosnia and Herzegovina e</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bahreain b c</li> <li>• Iraq c d</li> <li>• Iran (Islamic Republic of) b c d</li> <li>• Israel b c d</li> <li>• Jordan b c d</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brunei Darussalam b, c</li> <li>• Cambodia e</li> <li>• China b c d</li> <li>• Georgia c</li> <li>• Democratic People's Republic of Korea b c d</li> <li>• India b c d</li> <li>• Indonesia b c d</li> <li>• Japan b c d</li> <li>• Kazakhstan e</li> <li>• Kyrgyzstan e</li> <li>• Laos People's Democratic Republic b c d</li> <li>• Malaysia b c d</li> <li>• Maldives b c</li> <li>• Mongolia b c d</li> <li>• Myanmar d</li> <li>• Nepal b c</li> <li>• Oman b c</li> <li>• Pakistan b c d</li> <li>• Philippines b c d</li> <li>• Republic of Korea b c d</li> <li>• Russian Federation (Asian part) b c d</li> <li>• Singapore b c</li> <li>• Sri Lanka b c d</li> <li>• Tajikistan e</li> <li>• Thailand b c d</li> <li>• Turkmenistan e</li> <li>• Uzbekistan e</li> <li>• Viet Nam b c d</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cameroon b c</li> <li>• Cape Verde b c</li> <li>• Central African Republic b c d</li> <li>• Chad b c</li> <li>• Comoros b c</li> <li>• Congo b c</li> <li>• Côte d'Ivoire b c</li> <li>• Democratic Republic of the Congo b c</li> <li>• Djibuti b, c</li> <li>• Egypt b c d</li> <li>• Equatorial Guinea e</li> <li>• Eritrea e</li> <li>• Ethiopia b c</li> <li>• Gabon b c</li> <li>• Gambia b, c</li> <li>• Ghana b c d</li> <li>• Guinea b c d</li> <li>• Guinea-Bissau c</li> <li>• Kenya b c d</li> <li>• Liberia b c</li> <li>• Lesotho b c d</li> <li>• Libyan Arab Jamahiriya c</li> <li>• Madagascar b c</li> <li>• Malawi b c d</li> <li>• Mali b c d</li> <li>• Morocco b c d</li> <li>• Mozambique b c d</li> <li>• Mauretania b c</li> <li>• Mauritius b c</li> <li>• Namibia b c d</li> <li>• Niger b c d</li> <li>• Nigeria b c d</li> <li>• Rwanda b c d</li> <li>• Sao Tomé and Príncipe c</li> <li>• Senegal b c d</li> <li>• Seychelles b c d</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brazil c</li> <li>• Canada b c d</li> <li>• Chile b c d</li> <li>• Colombia b c</li> <li>• Costa Rica b c d</li> <li>• Cuba b c d</li> <li>• Dominican Republic b d</li> <li>• Ecuador b c</li> <li>• El Salvador c</li> <li>• Grenada c</li> <li>• Guatemala b c d</li> <li>• Guyana b c</li> <li>• Haiti b c</li> <li>• Honduras b c</li> <li>• Jamaica b c d</li> <li>• Mexico c</li> <li>• Nicaragua b c d</li> <li>• Panama b c</li> <li>• Paraguay b c d</li> <li>• Peru b c d</li> <li>• Saint Kitts and Nevis b c</li> <li>• Saint Lucia b c</li> <li>• Saint Vincent and the Grenadines b c d</li> <li>• Suriname b c d</li> <li>• Trinidad and Tobago b c d</li> <li>• United States of America c d</li> <li>• Uruguay b c</li> <li>• Venezuela b c d</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bulgaria b c</li> <li>• Croatia b c d</li> <li>• Cyprus b c d</li> <li>• Czech Republic b c d</li> <li>• Denmark b c d</li> <li>• Estonia c d</li> <li>• Finland b c d</li> <li>• France b c d</li> <li>• Germany b c d</li> <li>• Greece b c d</li> <li>• Hungary b c d</li> <li>• Iceland b c d</li> <li>• Ireland b c d</li> <li>• Italy b c d</li> <li>• Latvia c</li> <li>• Liechtenstein b c d</li> <li>• Lithuania b c</li> <li>• Luxembourg b c d</li> <li>• Macedonia b d</li> <li>• Malta b c d</li> <li>• Moldova (Republic of) b c</li> <li>• Monaco b c d</li> <li>• Netherlands b c d</li> <li>• Norway b c d</li> <li>• Poland b c d</li> <li>• Portugal b c d</li> <li>• Romania b c d</li> <li>• Russian Federation (European part) b c d</li> <li>• San Marino c</li> <li>• Slovakia b c d</li> <li>• Slovenia b c d</li> <li>• Spain b c d</li> <li>• Sweden b c d</li> <li>• Turkey (European part) b c d</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kuwait c d</li> <li>• Lebanon b, c, d</li> <li>• Qatar e</li> <li>• Saudi Arabia b c</li> <li>• Syrian Arab</li> <li>• Turkey (alien part) b, c, d</li> <li>• Republic b c d</li> <li>• United Arab Emirates b c d</li> <li>• Yemen b c</li> </ul> <p><b>Others</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australia/New Zealand/ Papua New Guinea b c d</li> <li>• Fiji b c d</li> <li>• Kiribati c</li> <li>• Marshall Islands b c d</li> <li>• Micronesia (Federal State of) b c d</li> <li>• Nauru e</li> <li>• Palau e</li> <li>• Samoa b c d</li> <li>• Solomon Islands b c d</li> <li>• Tonga c</li> <li>• Tuvalu e</li> <li>• Vanuta b c</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sierra Leone b c d</li> <li>• Somalia e</li> <li>• South Africa b c d</li> <li>• Sudan b c</li> <li>• Swaziland b c d</li> <li>• Togo b c</li> <li>• Tunisia b c d</li> <li>• Uganda b c d</li> <li>• United Republic of Tanzania b c d</li> <li>• Zambia b c</li> <li>• Zimbabwe b c d</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland b c d</li> <li>• Ukraine b c d</li> <li>• Yugoslavia b c</li> </ul>	
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- b Formulation of national youth policy (cross-sectoral).
- c Designation of a national youth coordinating mechanism (ministry, department, council or committee).
- d Implementation of a national youth programme of action (operational, voluntary service).
- e No data received on national youth policies, coordination mechanisms or programmes of action.

The data in the present annex have been taken from statements made by government delegates at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, held in Lisbon from 8 to 12 August 1998, and updated where possible.

Given the global dimensions of this problem, it is not easy to undertake such a global survey of both the quality and quantity of action taken by UN Member States on national youth policy. This would require a survey of 191 UN Member States. As done by the UN, that would mean a formal cover letter and questionnaire would be distributed to each of the UN Member States through their respective missions to the UN in New York with a request to review the questions and reply by a deadline to the UN Secretariat. The percentage of countries that reply to such a UN formal cover letter and questionnaire is about 20-30% at most and this would not be very revealing of the 191 UN Member States.

That is why for the present study, the ICNYP undertook not only the preparation of a questionnaire, but also undertook interviews based on it with both representatives of Governmental Ministries responsible for youth and of national youth NGO platforms, to get such qualitative replies on the impact of national youth policies in at least two selected countries in each UN region in 2004-2005. The results are presented in Chapter 5 on: "Comparative Analysis of Country Actions to Implement National Youth Policies". This is the first time such a Comparative Study on National Youth Policy has been prepared on such an international basis and with the full and active participation of young people in all aspects of this process.

Regarding the statistics cited in the above UN reports from 1998 and 2001, the ICNYP estimates that about 30% of the countries cited that have formulated national youth policies have cross-sectoral national youth policies. The other 70% have restricted sectoral national youth policies confined to the Government's Ministry responsible for Youth without linking to

other youth-serving Ministries such as on Education, Employment and Health. And about a third of the countries that have cross-sectoral NYP have an active youth participation in the NYP process. The other two-thirds of countries have NYPs that are mostly controlled and dominated by the respective Governments with no roles and places for youth participation in their NYPs. Those comments are from a global review and rough estimates by ICNYP of NYPs in all UN regions. And about two-thirds of the countries cited with national youth coordinating bodies have no role and place in the bodies for youth NGOs. Only about a third of the countries cited have national youth councils and committees with support from the Government, but an independent voice and role for such youth NGOs. And about two-thirds of the countries with programmers of actions do not connect the actions to the implementation of the NYPs. And most countries with NYPs have not put into place an effective system of evaluation to measure the impact of NYPs in practical terms. In most cases, from a global perspective, such NYPs are mere statements on guidelines of the respective Governments on how to deal with youth problems, but little on action plans and evaluation tools to enhance youth participation in all phases of the NYP process and involvement in concerned governance of such youth policies and programmes.

### **CHAPTER 3:**

#### **REGIONAL ANALYSIS ON ACTIONS TO PROMOTE NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY**

Much has been undertaken at the regional level since International Youth Year (1985) to promote cross-sectoral and integrated national youth policies and programmes, but progress has been uneven, with advancement especially in Commonwealth countries (due to the initiative of the Commonwealth Youth Programme and the Commonwealth Youth Minister Meetings since 1990) and in Western European countries (due to the initiative of the Council of Europe's Directorate of Youth and Sports and its European Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth and later to the EU Youth Programme and its White Paper on Youth).

In fact, the Council of Europe's Directorate of Youth and Sports is currently running a project for the evaluation of national youth policies in some of its member states. On the basis of an extensive national evaluation report, the COE sends a study visit to the countries concerned and a COE expert team drafts an international evaluation report and study, which is presented to the COE Steering Committee for Intergovernmental Cooperation in the Youth Field (CDEJ) and the Minister responsible for youth at a public hearing. The COE NYP Reviews have been sent thus far to: Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Spain and Sweden. No other intergovernmental organization has such a comprehensive national youth policy evaluation process.

NYPs, in fact, look quite different if one looks at COE, CYP and other models. The CYP has a larger coverage of countries, when compared to other regional intergovernmental organizations, as it has 54 member countries from Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Europe, and Pacific. The CYP model has been applied to countries such as Kenya South Africa and Uganda in Africa, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Pakistan in Asia, and Jamaica and Dominica in the Caribbean.

Despite much progress in those above-cited regions, there has been little progress in Western Asia, Francophone Africa and Eastern Europe due to several problems. First, the Arab Council of Ministers of Youth and Sports and the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports of the French-speaking Communities (CONFESJES) have given more sustained attention to youth and sports than to youth policy issues. Second, the problem of developing an active civil society in Western Asia and Eastern Europe has presented major problems for countries in those regions to develop national youth policies with a major focus on youth participation. Without an active civil society, many countries have problems developing and



implementing an effective cross-sectoral national youth policy with youth participation in all phases. There have been political constraints in those regions.

In Latin America, the Ibero-American Youth Organization (OIJ) has placed more emphasis on youth legislation than youth policy as such, but a number of Latin American countries have used such youth legislation processes to prepare national youth policies and programmes.

However, one of the most important results of the International Youth Year (IYY: 1985) was to create a new network of regional and sub-regional IGO standing conferences of ministers responsible for youth initially as a follow-up to the IYY. Examples of some of those conferences are given below, especially in connection with their recommendations on national youth policy.

#### *Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Youth and Sports*

The first such regional youth minister conference, the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Youth and Sports, was held in 1983 in Rabat, Morocco under the sponsorship of the League of Arab States for both the preparation and follow-up of the IYY. The first session of the Council called for the creation of an Arab Policy for Youth and Sports to become a necessity for every Arab State. The aims of such a policy were cited as follows:

- ! Nationalist education for Arab youth;
- ! The unity of the youth of the Arab nation;
- ! The educational values of youth activities and sports;
- ! Using the energy of youth to the fullest;
- ! The youth of Palestine;
- ! Special attention to gifted youth, special groups of youth (handicapped youth, delinquents etc.) and young Arab expatriates.

At its twenty-first session in Cairo from 15 to 18 February 1998, the Council adopted a resolution on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth. By that resolution, it urged Arab ministers responsible for youth affairs and sports to attend the first World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth from 8 to 12 August 1998, and to encourage the participation of Arab youth delegations in the third session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System in 1998.

#### *Council of Europe*

The Council of Europe's Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Youth, established in Strasbourg France, in 1985 in honour of the United Nations International Youth Year. At its first session, that Conference adopted principles and put forward recommendations aimed at fostering the participation of young people in society and implementing comprehensive national youth policies. At its fifth and most recent session, held in Bucharest, Romania from 27 to 29 April 2000, that Conference adopted a final declaration on young people: active citizens in a future Europe: human rights, participation and solidarity. In that declaration, the European ministers declared that the aims and objectives of the Council of Europe's youth policy were, inter-alia, to encourage associated life and all forms of action which embody democracy and pluralism, and to help all young people to participate more fully in the life of the community.

#### *Ibero-American Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth*

The Ibero-American Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, adopted at its first session from Madrid from 11 to 14 May 1987, a final declaration which inter-alia noted the

International Youth Year (1985) and the sensibilities of Governments that had motivated and facilitated the creation of governmental structures concerned with youth. At its ninth session, held in Lisbon from 5 to 7 August 1998, the Conference called for a charter of the rights of Ibero-American youth to be elaborated by an International Commission on the Rights of Youth and Adolescents and which was subsequently adopted by the Conference at its tenth session in Panama City, Panama in 20-21 July 2000. The Conference emphasized the importance of national legislation to support national youth policies, which would promote and protect the rights of youth in Ibero-America.

#### Commonwealth Youth Minister Meeting

The first session of the Commonwealth Youth Minister Meeting was held in the Republic of the Maldives from 10 to 12 May 1992. That Meeting specifically adopted a Concluding Statement, which emphasized ways of strengthening ministries of youth in youth policy formulation processes, and also devoted to the delivery of youth services and programmes of action. It also adopted recommendations for a strong, independent national youth organization or platform in each country to be part of the national youth policy process, as well as for priority issues such as "youth and community service" and "youth and literacy" etc. At its third session in Kuala Lumpur from 28 to 30 May 1998, the Meeting adopted conclusions and recommendations concerned with inter-related strategic areas of national youth policy development and youth empowerment. They included such issues as: poverty alleviation among young people (with the introduction as a Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative programme) and youth empowerment for the new millennium was discussed as a special theme (with a policy framework for Commonwealth plan of action for youth empowerment).

#### Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sport of francophone Countries

In February 1999 in Bamako, the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sport of Francophone Countries (CONFEJES) adopted several resolutions related to national youth policies in view of the Moncton Francophone Summit held in September 1999. The Conference especially called for an integrated national youth policy, which involved youth in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of such a policy. It noted that many of the CONFEJES member countries did not have valid national youth policies. Thus it recommended that such policies should not only be established with an intersectoral perspective, but also with a durable perspective, and after a process of substantial consultations between each government and the national youth platform. It should be recalled that CONFEJES is the oldest gathering any interregional standing conference of ministers of youth and sports as the first session of CONFEJES was held in Montebello, Canada, 1969. Since that time, it has made a regular assessment of how such Francophone countries have adopted and implemented national youth policies and involved youth organizations in all aspects of that process.

#### United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and The Pacific (ESCAP)

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and The Pacific (ESCAP) convened several regional intergovernmental conferences on Human Resources Development for Youth (22-26 October 1996 in Beijing and June 1998 in Bangkok) attended by senior governmental officers on youth from Asia and the Pacific.

The first conference in 1996 adopted the Beijing Statement on Human Resources Development for Youth, which cited three interdependent components comprising the youth policy process:

- investment in human resources to enhance productive capabilities;
- utilization of those human resources to produce increased output;

! consumption of the resulting outputs to improve the quality of life.

The second session of that Conference (1-5 June 1998 in Bangkok, Thailand) adopted the Asia Pacific Position for the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon, 8-12 August 1998) by which Governments of Asia and the Pacific committed themselves inter alia to ensure that national youth policy formulation and implementation processes were accorded commitment from the highest political levels, including the provision of adequate levels of resources. In addition the Governments committed themselves to develop measurable, time-bound strategic plans of action and indicators to create a common basis for national and regional evaluation of the implementation of national youth policies and actions. In Asia and Pacific, both the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Pacific Community Secretariat have convened sub-regional meetings of ministers and senior officials on youth to discuss issues as youth policies and programmes.

However, more needs to be done to assist countries in Western Asia, Francophone Africa and Eastern Europe to develop cross-sectoral and integrated national youth policies and programmes. Both regional and sub-regional meetings of ministers responsible for youth and youth NGO platforms should give more attention to this NYP issue and to National Youth Actions Plans to implement the NYPs in practical ways in partnership with youth organizations on a sustained basis.

## **CHAPTER 4:**

### **CRITERIA FOR THE COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS ON NATIONAL YOUTH POLICIES**

The following criteria were used for the preparation of this study. Interviews were undertaken by ICNYP Regional Focal Points and Experts on the impact of National Youth Policy in their respective countries using these criteria for the formulation of questions. The persons that were interviewed were the concerned officers from both the Government's Ministry responsible for Youth and from the national youth NGO coordinating platform in the country.

#### **PART ONE: FORMULATION AND DESIGN STAGE**

1. To what degree were the views and visions of young women and young men included in the formulation and design of the National Youth Policy of your country and to what degree has priority been given to encourage the active participation of youth in decision-making and in the life of society as part of the NYP?
2. What is the legal definition of "youth" and the "subgroups of youth" in your country and was that included in the National Youth Policy?
3. Was there a survey of the situation of youth and was it used as a major data base for the preparation of a National Youth Policy?
4. Were youth hearings organized in all parts of the country to get the views of young people on all phases of the National Youth Policy and to address the needs, problems and aspirations of youth in all provinces of the country?
5. Was adequate youth-leadership training included in the NYP for capacity-building of both concerned representatives of the Government's Ministry responsible for Youth and for the National Youth NGO coordinating platform?
6. Were there sufficient budget provisions included in the National Youth Policy for sustainability of the NYP on both a medium and long – term basis?
7. Was there an emphasis in the NYP on both cross-sectoral and integrated youth policies development and what were the key priority issues addressed in the NYP?

8. Did the National Youth Policy promote equal opportunities for young women and young men to participate in all phases of its development and in decision-making and in the life of society?

## **PART TWO: ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION STAGE**

9. Was the National Youth Policy adopted by parliament, ministerial council and/or by head of State?
10. Did the National Youth Policy become a law, and if so, as part of the development of youth laws such as for support of youth associations, youth participation, youth service etc?
11. Is there a real partnership between youth NGOs and the Government at all levels (national, provincial and municipal) in all phases of the National Youth Policy?
12. What has been the progress achieved and obstacles encountered regarding the impact of the NYP and what has been the impact of the National Youth Policy on improving:
  - a) Society;
  - b) the situation of young people, in general;
  - c) of sub-groups of youth, in particular (young women and young men, urban youth, rural youth, students, young workers, disabled youth, refugee and migrant youth, juvenile delinquents, youth with HIV/AIDS)?
13. Is a national youth service and/or voluntary youth service to communities included as part of the implementation of a National Youth Policy and if so, what has been the impact of such youth service programmes?
14. Was a National Youth Action Plan formulated and adopted to implement the National Youth Policy in your country and if so, what are the main features of such an Action Plan and what has been the impact of such a Plan on improving:
  - a) Society;
  - b) the situation of young people, in general;
  - c) of sub-groups of youth, in particular?

## **PART THREE: EVALUATION AND RE-DIRECTION STAGE**

15. Has the National Youth Policy and Action Plan been evaluated on a regular basis with performance indicators?
16. Has there been sufficient attention to the full participation of young people in this evaluation and re-direction process?
17. Has there been sufficient attention to the impact of the NYP on strengthening the concerned Government's Ministry responsible for Youth and the concerned national youth NGO coordinating platform?
18. What are the main lessons learned regarding the formulation, adoption, implementation and evaluation of the National Youth Policy and Action Plan in your country?
19. How have the NYP and Action Plan been re-directed after such evaluations?
20. Has there been a sharing of your country's experiences on both the progress achieved and obstacles encountered regarding the impact of the NYP and Action Plan with counterpart governmental ministries responsible for youth and national youth NGO coordinating bodies in other countries, at sub-regional, regional and/or global levels?

## CHAPTER 5: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS ON COUNTRY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT NATIONAL YOUTH POLICIES

The analysis is based on interviews with representatives of Governmental Ministries responsible for Youth and national youth NGO coordinating platforms.

### **PART ONE: FORMULATION AND DESIGN STAGE**

#### **Youth Participation**

Several Governments, as those from South Africa and Kenya as well as recently Bahrain, took into account the views and visions of young women and young men for inclusion in the formulation and design of the National Youth Policy of their countries. They made a priority to encourage the active **participation of youth** in decision-making and in the life of society as part of the NYP.

For example in Bahrain, one of the basic operations rules of the NYP project was to “utilize a wide range of participating methodologies to ensure maximum participation by all stakeholders”. As result, the second stage of the process which is “Information Gathering” included a number of initiatives with an extraordinary high level of youth participation:

- ! a Youth Voice Campaign involving 10,000 youth to youth interviews/dialogues;
- ! an audit of current national youth organisations and program initiatives;
- ! eight working groups on key youth themes and on important aspects of a National Youth Policy with high level all youth participation and over 30 youth focus groups on all key themes, involving several hundred young people;
- ! undertaking of a National Youth Perceptions Survey of young people in 1840 households;
- ! a website ([www.bahrainyouth.com](http://www.bahrainyouth.com)) designed and operated by young women and men;
- ! a set of 11 online radio programs, created and broadcast by young men and women;
- ! 19 Internet Discussion Forums which generated over 3500 posts and 16,000 hits in four months;
- ! creation of a youth media group;
- ! formation of a youth advisory committee;
- ! organized study tours to Namibia, South Africa, Oman and Qatar.

According to the National Youth Strategy draft, at least 16,000 young Bahraini's have contributed their opinions, expectations and ideas through the above youth participation activities – which is more than 14% of Bahrain's young citizens between 15 - 30! That is quite a wonderful story as no other country in the West Asian region has undertaken such a NYP project with such a major youth participation aspect.

Several Governments as those from Panama, South Africa, and Kenya organized youth hearings in all parts of the country to get the views of young people on all phases of the National Youth Policy and to address the needs, problems and aspirations of youth in all provinces of the country.

In Kenya, youth and Government officers attested to this issue. Over 6 National forums and more than 8 provincial hearings on the draft Kenya National Youth Policy were held drawing young people from the adjacent districts and with the participation of National youth representatives. The intense consultation were made possible because of the Government's commitments to participatory processes and the goodwill of partners like GTZ, UNFPA, Oxfam, Commonwealth Youth Programme and other partners.

However, many Governments have not taken such a pro-active approach to involve young people in this NYP process. An example is Poland, which, although supporting the creation of the Polish Youth Council, turned to a team of university professors to prepare the draft NYP and had no active youth participation in the NYP process. This is quite typical of the approach of many countries, which view youth participation as a threat to the NYP process. And surprisingly there are several countries in Europe that have no NYPs, but only a collection of pieces of a NYP and no political will to put the pieces together into a comprehensive and integrated NYPs with full youth participation.

### Definition of youth

While many countries respect the UN definition of “youth” from 15 to 24 years, and note the “subgroups of youth” to included in a NYP, many countries have their own definitions as Malaysia: 15 to 40 years!

Many countries in Europe agree with the definition by the Council of Europe and European Union: 15 to 24 years, but many developing countries have varied definitions as Kenya 15 to 30 and South Africa 14 to 35 years.

The NYP document of Jamaica has several sections which were new in the various NYP documents in the world: one on “definitions of stages of the life cycle” which identified childhood (0-18 years), adolescence (10-19 years) and youth (15-24 years): the latter age for the NYP project.

The National Youth Development Policy of Malaysia defines youth as people aged between 15 and 40 years. It stipulates further that the main focus of youth development programmes and activities in the country should be young people aged 18 to 25 years (MOYS 1997).

### Youth surveys

Many Governments have undertaken surveys of the situation of youth, but the results are not always used as a major data base for the preparation of a National Youth Policy. In the countries, which received an ICNYP Best Practice Awards on NYPs (see Chapter 6), most had undertaken such surveys of the situation of youth, and the results were used as a major data base for the preparation of a National Youth Policy.

Youth research has a long tradition in Austria and research is done regularly to monitor changes and trends in the situation, needs and interests of youth in Austria. The “Bericht zur Lage der Jugend” is done every 4 years, and in 2003 the Ministry has additionally commissioned the so called “Jugendradar” to have a closer look on young peoples interests. This study will be repeated every two years and the Government has highlighted that the studies and the statistic data can be downloaded from the Ministry’s web site. But the problem is that Austria is similar to many countries, in that such youth surveys have not been systematically related to neither the preparation, implementation or evaluation of impact of a NYP.

In Uruguay, there was a first National Youth Survey, which supplied a broad statistical data base regarding the real situation of the Uruguayan youth for the preparation of a NYP. It was undertaken at a national level, but exclusively in the urban areas, with a sample of 6547 young women and men, aged between 15 and 29. The Survey allowed the identification of very different youth sectors and their respective life styles. While for the *privileged* young men (those with a higher socio-cultural and educational level) this is a prolonged stage, where time and effort can be invested in the preparation for the adult life, for the *unprivileged* ones, youth represents a short stage where a lot and important difficulties must be faced, not allowing them to develop naturally as a person in this particular stage.

### Youth - leadership training

A few countries as those receiving the ICNYP Awards gave adequate youth-leadership training included in the NYP for capacity building of both concerned representatives of the Government's Ministry responsible for Youth and for the National Youth NGO coordinating platform. But most countries have not included such an issue in their NYPs.

### Budget provisions

Most countries have not made sufficient budget provisions to include in the National Youth Policy for sustainability of the NYP on both a medium and long – term basis. This is a major problem to be resolved by many countries.

The funding / budget allocation for the formulation of the Kenya National Youth Policy was sighted by the Government officers as inadequate. They indicated the formulation and implementation of the policy will heavily rely on input from partners both bilateral like the case of GTZ and multi lateral for instance UNFPA, Common wealth. The role of the civil society was stated to have been very crucial with the likes of Oxfam Great Britain and Action Aid UK willing to support the policy among other partners. Nonetheless, it was reported the government has continued to scale up its financial support to the policy and increment of additional staff to the Youth division, to fairly very impressive levels though still not adequate. Members of youth platforms particularly Kenya Youth Parliament attested to the fact that support to the policy is still minimal and if anything very scarce to get funding for youth programmes and has not reached to the levels to warrant attributive impact and sustaining intervention.

In Malaysia the Ministry for Sports and Youth (MOYS) has a regular budget allocation for support of the NYP and its youth bodies such as the Malaysian Youth Council (MYC) and the National Youth Consultative Council (NYCC) and even the Asian Youth Council (AYC) based in Malaysia. In 1997 the Malaysian government spent RM 2.74 billion (~7.000.000 \$) on youth programmes in the 7<sup>th</sup> Malaysian Plan. This is almost thrice as much as it had been in the preceding NYP. The reason for this substantial raise was the inclusion of a youth chapter in the 7<sup>th</sup> Malaysian plan in 1996. The Seventh Malaysia Plan represented a breakthrough for youth, as a youth chapter was included for the first time in a national plan of the country. The inclusion of the youth chapter as well as a budget increase designated for youth from RM 1.05 billion to RM 2.74 billion, demonstrate the Government's commitment to youth development.

In Denmark, the Danish Youth Council (DUF) gets financial support each year from the National Football Lottery. And in most of the Scandinavian countries, the respective national youth councils receive financial support from the respective bilateral development agencies as SIDA, DANIDA, NORAD, FINNIDA etc. for North-South youth development. That is a unique part of funding for NYPs and national youth councils in that sub-region.

In Jamaica, budgetary allocations are made through the Ministry with responsibility for youth and agencies implementing programmes targeting youth. The Government pledged 20 per cent of the national budget to Human Priority Needs at the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen 1995). The Government shall commit 10 percent of this amount to the implementation of the National Youth Policy annually. This will be supplemented by the provisions of other stakeholders consistent with their roles and responsibilities.

### Equal opportunities for young women and young men

Most NYPs in the world do not refer to promotion of equal opportunities for young women and young men to participate in all phases of its development and in decision-making and in the life of society.



In Bahrain, however, major progress was undertaken to involve young girls and women in the National Youth Strategy. That was quite unique as their role in societies in this region is limited. Girls and young women participated in all aspects of the preparation and launching of the National Youth Strategy.

Also in Kenya, there was an effort to promote equal participation of young women and young men in all aspects of the NYP project. In Kenya, Yes and No, the officer from the youth division observed that the participation of women and men was all most the same, strategies had been put in place to ensure that participation was gender responsive and through out the formulation the policy was engendered. On the contrary the youth respondents were of the opinion the young women participation was skewed with majority of the forums only had very few female participants who even had to be forced to participate. The youth rated the male and female participation to 70/30 in the development of the Kenya National Youth Policy.

Gender mainstreaming is a very important task in Austrian youth policy. Whenever a delegation or team is being set up, it is paid high attention on having a balanced ratio between young women and young men. Also, the youth research studies that are published by the Ministry responsible for youth always take the gender aspect into account.

In Colombia, at every phase of the development of the strategy from the formulation of the NYP the principle of gender and ethnic equity were taken into account. To promote equal opportunities disregarding race, religion, gender or personal and cultural condition, economic or geographic inequalities, and to emphasize the process of youth participation was a guiding criteria. However, there has been little advance in terms of identifying the needs and the differential conditions of young men and women through the process of designing the NYP (this is one of the difficulties faced). The gender equity approach is one of the main criteria, that should as well orientate implementation and evaluation processes.

## **PART TWO: ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION STAGE**

About a third of the countries with NYPs have a National Youth Policy adopted by parliament, but two-thirds by ministerial council and/or by head of State.

Several countries with **National Youth Policies that became a law** devoted some part of the development of youth law for support of youth associations, youth participation, youth service. That was the case in several Latin American countries as Colombia and Mexico and in Africa as in South Africa and in Kenya, and in Europe recently in Kosovo.

In terms of format and content, there are also some basic differences in the examples provided in **youth legislation**. In some cases, as in some Latin American countries (as Colombia, Bolivia, Costa Rica, and Ecuador), the youth laws have both a broad and cross-sectoral frameworks and contain sections on definition of youth, rights of youth, system of youth policies and programmes, level of Governmental body responsible for youth (minister or vice-minister, secretary of state for youth etc), national voluntary service, coordination, national youth NGO council and youth participation in decision-making, financing, outreach in provinces and municipalities. In other countries (as Chile) the youth law simply describes the purposes, functions, organization, staffing, financing etc of a national youth body of the Government responsible for youth (as a Youth Institute or Centre or Council).

Another difference is that some as the Parliaments in The Philippines and South Africa have adopted acts creating National Youth Commissions, which have played major roles in the development of national youth policies in those countries. Other countries as Kenya, South Africa, and India have prepared national youth policies and they were adopted by their respective ministerial councils and some have further submitted the NYP to parliament for adoption as a youth law (Kenya, South Africa etc).



### Partnership between youth NGOs and the Government

Approximately a third of the countries with NYPs have given a real partnership between youth NGOs and the Government at all levels (national, provincial and municipal) in all phases of the National Youth Policy. At the provincial level, the examples in Serbia and Montenegro (Kosovo), Belgium (Flemish and French) and Spain (Catalonia) are quite unique in terms of provincial youth legislation. In Bahrain, Colombia and Lithuania, the issue of youth law and youth policy goes down to the municipal levels and joint cooperation between youth NGOs and governmental authorities at municipal and local levels.

That cooperation between youth and NGOs works in various ways in different countries and in different regions. As part of the NYP, Governments in various countries support through their respective Ministries responsible for Youth the annual budgets of national youth councils and various projects on priority issues related to the NYP. They also provide opportunities for youth NGO participation in decision-making on NYP matters and on exchanges with counterparts. Structures that exist in many countries to follow-up those matters are: designation of the Ministry responsible for Youth, inter-ministerial committees on youth, national youth NGO councils, national youth service, and such bodies at provincial and local levels. In many countries of Asia, Europe, and Latin America, there is a partnership between youth NGOs and the Government at all levels (national, provincial and municipal). However in Africa and Arab regions, there has been much less cooperation between youth NGOs and Governments due to mutual distrust and fears.

That has led to intergovernmental support of regional youth NGO platforms in Europe (European Youth Forum: EYF), Asia (Asian Youth Centre: AYC), and Latin American Youth Forum (FLAJ), but the counterpart regional youth NGO bodies in Africa and in the Arab regions do not have such regular intergovernmental support from Governments in those regions.

In Bahrain, the establishment of 5 bodies is envisioned in the strategy as part of this youth NGO-Government partnership:

- ❗ An Inter Ministerial Committee for Youth Affairs that enables senior staff of all Ministries and will be involved in monitoring the implementation of the National Youth Strategy;
- ❗ A National Youth Forum / Council, which includes all NGOS and “will regarded as a development partner by the Government of Bahrain”;
- ❗ A Youth Advisory Committee “to provide the National Youth Development Agency with ‘Youth Voice’ feedback on the implementation of the National Youth Strategy”;
- ❗ A Youth Parliament for young Bahrainis in the age of 12 – 18 that enables them to participate in an annual youth parliamentary meeting and debate and work on issues of youth concern;
- ❗ A National Youth Development Fund, which is meant to support innovative youth strategies and programs and will be funded by the Government and the private sector.

And as noted above in Chapter I, the Council of Europe’s Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe adopted on 19 March 1992 a European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Municipal and Regional Life which set forth major guidelines on youth policies and programmes at local and regional levels in Europe. No other intergovernmental organization concerned with youth has adopted such a charter on youth participation in municipal and regional life.

### Impact of National Youth Policies

A few governments (e.g. Kenya, Malaysia, Colombia, Austria) have noted the progress that has been made and the obstacles that have been encountered regarding the impact of the previous National Youth Policy (NYP). They have also identified the impact of the National

Youth Policy on improving: a) society, b) the situation of young people in general and c) the situation of sub-groups of youth.

However, results chains and indicators to measure the results of national youth policies have not been systematically drawn up. Youth policy consultancy should also address this issue to a greater extent in the future.

The South African Youth Council believes that the lack of detail in the National Youth Policy has also prevented any significant review being made of its impact.

This is a key weakness of a number of youth policies and action plans. Within the policies, implementation plans and youth promotion programmes, it is important to define specific results indicators to enable results to be measured. There are indicators at national, community and target group level that could be used to do so. These indicators must be made more specific in the country context. Results at policy level and at the level of the various executing agencies that implement youth policies are also assumed to have an effect at target group level (results chain).

An evaluation series focusing on youth promotion projects and youth policy consultancy (BMZ) in 2003 came to the conclusion that "working with youth ... makes a significant contribution to reducing poverty." "The integration of young people's concerns and, more importantly, their potential plays a key role in social, political and economic development in the partner countries of German development cooperation, because young people are a central and perhaps even the main target group in human resource development, forming the basis for viable, sustainable development."

Several ministries and youth organizations in various countries have listed results of National Youth Policies. These results are mainly connected with building technical, human resources and financial capacity in ministries, authorities and organizations and strengthening youth participation structures. In Kenya, young people have also been seen to show a greater interest in becoming involved in the work of youth organizations.

In **Colombia**, a review of the NYP over the past 12 years shows the following successes and difficulties.

Main successes:

- ! Youth has acquired more importance in the national, provincial and municipal agendas; young people's diversity and autonomy has been recognized, and they are now seen as individuals bearing rights. This is reflected in the creation of programmes and projects for this population group and their inclusion in the sectoral priorities.
- ! Progress has been made in terms of overcoming the prevailing view/focus of the NYP based on the notion of psycho-social risks and the generalization of particularly vulnerable situations.
- ! It has been understood that specific responsibilities related to youth need to be assigned to entities and working groups, both at national and provincial level, and in some cases to sectoral institutions.
- ! Working groups, experts and specialized research and teaching programmes have been created or strengthened in various universities.
- ! Broad surveys have been conducted among youth at national, regional and local level regarding their views about the future, needs and opinions.
- ! The Colombian Congress passed Law 375 of 1997 – also known as the Youth Law – which creates a favourable framework for formulating and implementing youth policies.
- ! Positive conditions have become widespread throughout state bodies and society regarding the promotion of organizational processes and youth participation.

Participation, rights and opportunities have gained much more importance and attracted interest among young people themselves.

- ! A significant contribution has been made by international cooperation to strengthening youth institutions and financing plans and projects for youth. Multilateral cooperation organizations have adopted policies emphasizing the importance of youth within democratic societies; this has helped raise society's awareness about the importance of paying attention to their problems and potential.

Main difficulties:

- ! The limited willingness of municipalities and provinces to find compromises in formulating and implementing the NYP is reflected in ad hoc activity and a very weak institutional status subject to political change. The high level of discontinuity in institutions focusing on youth policies and programmes has prevented processes being consolidated. At every level, there is little clarity about the institutional roles and competencies and about the different options for including youth in the agendas of social policies. There is also limited institutional capacity for planning and implementation processes for youth policies, plans and programmes at every level.
- ! It is very difficult to ensure that at national level and in the national and local institutions, a population approach is included in sectoral policies.
- ! The NYP has focused on certain segments or aspects of the youth population, designing policies at both national and regional level that have little reference to, and few characteristics of, social projects or projects for the common good.
- ! There has been a tendency towards excluding youth by creating exclusive spaces for them, thus promoting very little interaction between the generations.
- ! There has been no monitoring or evaluation of the results and impacts of the youth projects and programmes already implemented; as a result, little knowledge has been shared among the institutions, making it impossible to replicate or extend such projects.
- ! Difficulties have also arisen in analysing, processing and producing information, with an associated loss of knowledge about young people's situation (object of the policy). This means having to start from scratch every time a new government begins its mandate.
- ! The social organizations whose main activity is to study and evaluate youth projects, policies and plans have not been promoted or strengthened, nor have they acted in an organized way to try to benefit youth.

In **Jamaica**, a multi-sectoral approach, similar to that used in developing the National Youth Policy, will be applied to its implementation. Two national strategic plans are to be developed to accompany this policy. The National Strategic Plan for Youth Development (NSPYD) will focus primarily on the 19- to 24-year-old age group, while the Adolescent Plan will cover 15- to 18-year-olds. A National Plan of Action for Children is being developed and, together with the other two plans, will cover the entire 0- to 24-year-old age group. The plans will define how the policy goals are to be realized, establish monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, provide estimates of the costs associated with implementation of the policy, identify the sources of funding, and specify the timeframe within which each aspect is to be achieved. Implementing the NSPYD will require mechanisms at local, national and regional levels to ensure coordinated implementation and to foster collaboration among all stakeholders. Activities to monitor and coordinate implementation should include the creation of adequately resourced and empowered committees at each level; they should also foster the active participation of youth at all levels.

Some of the indicators that help measure the results of youth policies are:

- ! Taking account of youth as a topic in overarching development and poverty reduction strategies;
- ! Increase in youth participation structures, e.g. existence of an independent national body to represent youth;

*Asked about the impact of youth policy in recent years, the Government of **Austria** listed the following:*

- *legal integration of the ÖBJV (Austrian Youth Representation Council);*
- *restructuring of financial promotion for youth organizations;*
- *integration and networking of youth organizations and information centres in Austria, which now operate in a more coordinated and integrative way.*

*"Youth are now seeking more opportunities of involvement and participation than ever before and a sizeable proportion has since been integrated into annual government planning processes, while others are proactively involved in other civic processes." (Kenya).*

- ! Strengthening of youth organizations and networks (increase in the number of organizations and networks, details of upgrading measures for youth organizations);
- ! Increase in the budget to implement youth programmes (percentage);

*"One result is definitely the remarkable increase in funding: The allocated budget for youth programmes rose from RM 1.05 billion under the Sixth Malaysian Plan to RM 2.74 billion under the Seventh Malaysian Plan that began in 1996." (Malaysia)*

- ! Strengthening of institutions at local level (details on technical upgrading measures and on human and financial resources);
- ! Increase in networking between various stakeholders / forging of links between the state and civil society, incl. youth organizations (which actors are to cooperate and what form should this take);

*Youth policy has a long tradition in **Austria** and has been regarded as an important issue since World War II. During this period of time, many things have led to changes in youth policy, including in recent years a strengthening of the cross-sectoral approach, a stronger focus on youth scenes and interests and the growing significance of gender aspects. Society has also evolved over the years. In the new information society, the government is convinced that "youth policy has to be flexible".*

- ! Acceptance and identification of the various actors in youth policy;  
One of the results worth mentioning here is the increasing involvement of young people in youth organizations.

*"Youth initiatives have never recorded such a high level of registration as they are enjoying now; this can be attributed to the emergence of a "you can do it yourself" attitude as advocated by the policy." (Kenya)*

- ! Improvement of the services offered to young people in the areas specified in the youth policy and in the implementation plan (exact details on where what should be implemented and to what extent);
- ! Improvement of young people's access to services (details on the number of young people the services are designed to reach and on measures to motivate young people to take part);

The Government of Austria noted:

- an increase in projects on drug-abuse prevention;
- the progress of peer-education programmes since 2004.

- ! Definition of the impact expected on improving society;

Several countries noted the following impacts:

- Changing the way youth is perceived: not as a nuisance but as a resource for political, social and economic development;
- Regarding youth as individuals with rights;
- Strengthening the political will to improve the young people's situation;
- Raising awareness of the needs of marginalized youth groups.

- ! Definition of the benefit of services for the target group (technical upgrading, change in behaviour etc.).

At the level of the direct benefit of measures derived from the youth policy targeting young people, most of the countries are finding it difficult to identify indicators and demonstrate results.

Social and youth projects aim to change behaviour patterns and attitudes among the target groups and their environment. To give some examples: In contrast to common practice, employers are to stop employing children aged under 14; teachers are to concern themselves with young people's worries about the future and address their own prejudices; young gang leaders are to reduce their tendency to resort to violence; girls are to look at stereotype roles that traditionally curb their independence; political representatives are to take young people and what they have to say seriously.

Youth promotion projects are always designed to help integrate young people into society.

If proof of change is to be based on objectively verifiable experience and measurable observations, use is primarily made of quantitative, standardized methods generally based on approaches taken from the field of statistics. The aim of these methods is to objectively record facts by measuring and counting and to come up with causal explanations.

As quantitative methods can only measure or interpret social changes to a limited extent, qualitative study methods are also used. These kinds of methods are more subjective and stakeholder-oriented; they often take an action research approach and place importance on participation.

An overview of typical approaches of qualitative and quantitative survey methods is given below:

<b>QUANTITATIVE</b>	<b>QUALITATIVE</b>
<b>Observations</b>	
Non-participating, structured observation	Participating, unstructured observation, process analysis, action research
<b>Surveys</b>	
Written, standardized surveys (questionnaires)	Open, narrative interviews
<b>Studies</b>	
Experimental studies (control group)	Qualitative studies in a laboratory setting
<b>Document analysis</b>	
Collection and classification	Interpretative (hermeneutic)

**Source:** Kotowski-Ziss, Joanna "Wirkungsmonitoring in sozialen und Jugendprojekten, GTZ, 2002

### Youth services

A national youth service and/or voluntary youth service to communities has been included as part of the implementation of a National Youth Policy in a few countries as noted in both the NYPs of South Africa and Pakistan, as examples and they noted the impact of such youth service programmes on both young participants and on communities receiving such youth service.

### National Youth Action Plan

A few Governments such as Bahrain, Colombia, Dominica, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Pakistan, South Africa and Uganda have included a National Youth Action Plan formulated and adopted to implement the National Youth Policy in their countries. The main features of such Action Plans have been focussed more on measures and structures than on priority issues and little has been done on the impact of such Plans on improving:

- a) Society;
- b) the situation of young people, in general;
- c) c) of sub-groups of youth, in particular.

Much more attention needs to be paid to impact studies of NYPs and their NYPAs in such countries!

## **PART THREE: EVALUATION AND RE-DIRECTION STAGE**

### Evaluation and performance indicators



Colombia, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Pakistan, South Africa, Uganda, and Uruguay have evaluated their respective National Youth Policy and Action Plans on an irregular basis, but performance indicators have seldom been used.

The indicators used by many countries concerned the improvement of the situation of youth in such sectors as education, health, employment, and on such cross-sectoral issues as participation, peace and development as well as the improvement of capacities of both the Government's Ministry concerned with youth and the major youth NGOs at all levels in the NYP process. Among the NYPs evaluated, Malaysia seems to have been among the few countries to both undertake periodic evaluations and prepare revisions in its various NYPs based on the results of each prior NYP impact.

In **Malaysia**, between 1994 and 1997 the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Malaysian Youth Council and the Youth Development Unit of the Malaysian Agriculture University reviewed the National Youth Development Policy of 1985 and drafted a new policy that was reviewed in a long process and finally launched in 1997. The draft of the new NYP was reviewed by some 100 individuals and organizations working in the area of youth development throughout the country. Additionally, the formulation process included the convening of several gatherings including a national youth dialogue, a MYC Special Exco meeting, a meeting between the MYC and the MOYS, a discussion with two groups of university students at seminars, and consultations with some 30 students from three secondary schools.

In **Jamaica**, the National Youth Policy shall be reviewed every five years, a process that should take place at the same time as the review of the National Strategic Plan for Youth Development. The review will examine progress made in achieving the indicators defined by the Plan of Action. The goals will be reviewed to ensure relevance to the situation of young people. The Government shall establish a multi-sectoral standing committee (the National Youth Development Steering Committee) and empower it to continuously monitor the implementation of the National Youth Policy. The Committee will report to the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry which hosts the National Centre for Youth Development."

In **Austria** the Ministry has to evaluate its work for parliament and also for the European Union, where it has to report the advancements made in the areas information, participation, voluntary work and youth research. Additionally, research studies like the "Bericht zur Lage der Jugend" and the "Jugendradar" evaluate youth policy on a regular basis and serve as base for the Ministries report.

#### Youth participation in the evaluation and re-direction process

There has been sufficient attention to the full participation of young people in this evaluation and re-direction process in a few countries, but many more countries need to take such action.

In **Austria** a large part of the studies ("Zur Lage der Jugend" and "Jugendradar") is done with questionnaires that are sent to youth organizations, which pass them on to their members.

In **Jamaica** the National Centre for Youth Development) will facilitate the formation of a National Youth Development Steering Committee comprising youth, the PIOJ, critical government ministries and select youth development organizations. This committee will have responsibility for: Facilitating the design of the National Strategic Plan for Youth Development; Monitoring and evaluating the implementation process; Fostering coordination and collaboration among the stakeholders, and, Advocating for resources needed to implement the Policy.

#### Impact of the NYP on strengthening the concerned Government's Ministry and the national youth NGO coordinating platform

As an impact some countries noted:

- ! Increase in the capacity of the concerned ministries and divisions as well as youth NGOs;
- ! Increase in the allocation of human and financial resources.

*“Since the process towards enacting a youth policy begun, the government has continued to strengthen the capacity of the youth division, from a small youth unit it was elevated to a youth division, the number of technical officers has been increased and the amount finances allocated to young people has recorded an incremental trend,...” (Kenya)*

#### Lessons learned regarding the formulation, adoption , implementation and evaluations of NYPs

##### **South Africa:**

One of the learnings which has emerged from a programme perspective is that people buy in, or start to support initiatives when they understand that it will benefit them, when they identify what it is that you are talking about. For example, in Britain there is considerable noise being made about “the NEET group”, by which they mean young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training. There is considerable concern about the numbers of youth who leave the education system and then virtually disappear off the government’s horizon. Now this is not a new phenomenon in South Africa, but the Department of Education has been focusing since democracy on the establishment of appropriate education systems and concentrating on the young people who are in them. The young people who are not in them have not been their priority. However, with education systems reformed they are now looking at the way in which young people progress and continue through education as a success indicator, and they are recognizing and naming the problem of the “NEET” group. Suddenly, discussions between the National Youth Commission and the Department of Education can find common ground and it is easier to commence collaborative initiatives.

The experience with the Department of Health has been slightly different. In the recent past, 4 Chief Directors have attended the Interdepartmental Committee on Youth. The Department of Health commissioned a survey, which was undertaken by the Medical Research Council on Health Risk Behaviour among young people. The survey raised all the issues one would expect about sexual practices, but also a whole lot of other social behaviours, such as bullying, which start to give a different context to the transmission of HIV. Engaging with school children and young people on changing social practices is suddenly seen as a direct concern for the Department of Health. The Minister has asked Chief Directors to consult with the National Youth Commission, convene a summit with young people on the findings of the survey and develop a plan of action. Up until this point, the Department of Health has not necessarily recognized the language of the National Youth Policy as something, which can have a direct impact on their own core business.

However, there is still an attitude amongst most departments that they will formulate a project and then work out how it is delivered to young people. There is a really critical need to engage these departments on understanding and implementing National Youth Service if it is to be done in a manner, which is developmental for young people.

In **Uruguay**, the results of the national youth policy are:

- ! The creation of the Youth Institute and the youth organisms at the municipal level has meant an institutional base from where to start developing actions that have become then in programs.
- ! International cooperation plays a very important role.
- ! An important step has been taken in terms of cooperation from other sectors of the state and multilateral organisms.



- ! It looks like the path to be followed by the youth organisations is to continue with the policy of contributing to give specificity to the sectoral policies.
- ! The extension of the base of the programs of action of the INJU and other municipal youth organisms has allowed the access of the more disadvantaged youth in terms of social insertion, since at the beginning the programs were aimed at the middle-class youth.
- ! Doubtlessly, the key for future progress is the budget assignment from both INJU and municipal organisms.
- ! Youth policies have been applied and implemented in the urban areas, and the capitals of the interior.
- ! In some cases, some actions have been undertaken with rural youth sectors in the interior of the country.

Despite their low demographic weight, the work with the youth coming from rural areas is one of the major issues to be addressed in this stage.

- ! The education system is characterized by its low quality at every level and its obsolete institutional situation, resistant to any change. It does not offer equal opportunities in terms of social mobility for every young person.
- ! There is a high exclusion of young people in the labour market.
- ! Youth population shows the highest level of unprotectedness by both public and private institutions within the national health system, especially those in economic disadvantage.

Lessons learned from **Colombia** are:

- ! In order for the NYP to be a National Policy it is necessary to create the conditions that allow to reach on time the planning processes, with knowledge and organization, and that allow a serious intercommunication and the continuity of the policy development.
- ! It is necessary to establish mechanisms that allow the setting of discussions about NYP as a permanent activity with a continuous effect on the public administration and the planning processes. Structures are necessary that propose the subjects that involve youth with the political forces that compete for the power in the elections and that makes it possible to include delicate matters for youth in the agendas of the candidates to the executive power and to collegiate bodies.
- ! There should be a proper recognition of the proportional importance of evaluation and monitoring within the implementation of the NYP, in order to surpass the formulation process as a rhetoric exercise that, consequently loses its value and does not have the desired effect on the public agenda nor turns into an instrument for the betterment of the public management.
- ! The resources for the implementation of the NYP at the territorial level must be obtained through the rational management by the provincial and municipal secretariats, the national, territorial and local sectoral institutions and the international cooperation in the right way. The consistency of the priorities established by the NYP (national, provincial or municipal) and the good purpose given to the resources should be considered as one of the most important elements in the implementation of NYP in Colombia.
- ! The attempts to offer programmes at the national level have been proven to be unfeasible. This difficulty refers not only to the budget constraints, that prevent the national level to assign functional expenses from services all over the country, but also to the territorial competencies and the necessity to adequate the supply of programmes to the particularities of the local communities.

Several countries as those cited above, have shared their country's experiences on both the progress achieved and obstacles encountered regarding the impact of the NYP and Action Plan with counter-part governmental ministries responsible for youth and national youth NGO coordinating bodies in other countries at sub-regional, regional and interregional levels. The Commonwealth Youth Minister Meetings, the European Conferences of Ministers responsible for Youth, and the Ibero-American Youth Minister Meetings have provided such opportunities to concerned Governments over the past ten years. But other such Youth Minister meetings in other regions should so likewise so as to attract more Governments to this matter of the importance and impact of NYPs and NYPAs.

## **CHAPTER 6: PRESENTATION OF BEST PRACTICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON BASIC INDICATORS FOR A NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY**

The International Council on National Youth Policy (ICNYP), an international organization established and legally registered in Austria in 2002, announced on 14 April 2004 the giving of ICNYP Awards on National Youth Policy to Governmental Ministries responsible for Youth and national youth NGO platforms in various regions of the world for important achievements on national youth policy.

The ICNYP Council gave the first set of such ICNYP Awards on National Youth Policy as best practices at the Second Session of on 26-27 May 2004 in Vienna, Austria. The recipients were selected by the ICNYP after a comprehensive review of actions taken by Governmental Ministries responsible for Youth and national youth NGO platforms over the past two years: 2002-2004 in all UN regions. The ICNYP will make such Awards each biennium to recognize important achievements by Governments and youth NGOs to formulate and promote national youth policies.

The ICNYP Award consists of a Certificate signed by the ICNYP President and ICNYP Secretary General addressed in the name of the recipient organization and country (in English, French and/or Spanish) for achievements on the formulation and adoption of a national youth policy. Future such ICNYP Awards will be also based on achievements on the implementation, evaluation and re-direction of a national youth policy.

While this first set of ICNYP Awards was based on information collected by the ICNYP, future such ICNYP Awards will be based on the results of a wide-reaching call by ICNYP for candidates and for copies of texts and summaries of follow-up action. The ICNYP will also seek support from its partner youth-related UN agencies and programmes as well as bilateral development agencies to strengthen the follow-up implementation and impact assessment of the National Youth Policies in the recipient countries so as to report back to the next session of the ICNYP Council in 2006 on progress achieved and obstacles encountered.

The criteria used by ICNYP for selecting the recipients include:

- formulating and promoting cross-sectoral and integrated national youth policies;
- forming partnerships and involvement of young people and representatives of non-governmental youth organizations in all phases of the development of a national youth policy;
- addressing the needs, problems and aspirations of youth on a gender balanced basis to promote equal opportunities for young women and young men in society and in the NYP processes;
- encouraging the participation of youth actively in the life of society and in decision-making processes.

The recipients of the 2004 ICNYP Awards on National Youth Policy are presented below by region and by special international recognition and with a brief description of the achievements in each case. The complete texts of most of those National Youth Policy documents are presented in the ICNYP website at: <http://www.icnyp.net> (in the section on "Publications"). Where possible, the ICNYP has cited the roles of youth NGOs in those NYP processes to stress and recognize the importance of youth NGO participation in this matter.

### **AFRICAN REGION:**

**KENYA** (Government of Kenya: Ministry of Gender, Sports, Culture and Social Services, Youth Division, and National Youth NGO Platform: Kenya National Youth NGOs on the NYP Steering Committee and Workshops for the NYP of Kenya).

The Kenya National Youth Policy and Kenyan National Youth Action Plan were formulated in 2001-2003 and is scheduled to be adopted by the Kenya National Parliament in 2004. The youth NGOs in the Steering Committee and Workshops (national and provincial) for the Kenyan National Youth Policy were most active in this NYP process and will become the core members of the Kenya National Youth Council. The Project was supported by the German Development Cooperation Agency (GTZ) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP), and UNICEF, and included ICNYP senior and youth consultants on national youth policy in 2002-2003.

**UGANDA:** Government of Uganda: Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Youth Division, and National Youth NGO Platform: Uganda Youth Council).

The Uganda National Policy: A Vision for Youth in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century was formulated in 1998-2000, adopted in 2001, evaluated and re-directed in 2004. The Uganda Youth Council played a major role in this process, from the beginning in the early 1990s as one of the main proponents of the idea and draft. The Project was supported by the German Development Cooperation Agency (GTZ) on behalf of the BMZ and the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP).

### **ARAB REGION:**

**BAHRAIN** (Government of Bahrain: General Organization of Youth and Sports, and National Youth NGO Platform: Bahrainian National Youth Advisory Committee)

The National Youth Strategy of Bahrain and the National Youth Action Plan of Bahrain were formulated in 2003-2004 and are due to be adopted in 2004 by the Government and Parliament. The young people on the National Youth Advisory Committee for the National Youth Strategy Project fully participated in various aspects of the Project, including the distribution in schools of a questionnaire on the views of youth on their situation and in the discussions of various working groups to prepare parts of the Strategy. The Project was supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Country Office in Bahrain, and included the provision of ICNYP senior and youth consultants on national youth policy in 2003-2004.

**JORDAN** (Government of Jordan: Higher Council on Youth, and National Youth NGO Platform: National Youth NGO Committee)

The National Youth Strategy of Jordan was prepared over 2003-2004 and is due to be adopted by the King of Jordan and the Government in 2004. Young people on the National Youth NGO Committee participated in many of the aspects of the Project,

including the discussions in the various working groups set up to prepare the Strategy. The Project was supported by the UNDP Country Office in Jordan as well as the UNICEF Country Office in Jordan, and included the provision of ICNYP senior and youth consultants on national youth policy in 2003-2004.

### **ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION:**

**INDIA** (Government of India: Ministry of Youth and Sports, Youth Department, and National Youth NGO Platform: National Youth Commission of India).

The National Youth Policy of India was formulated in 2003-2004 as an update of the first National Youth Policy adopted by the Government of India for the United Nations International Youth Year (IYY) in 1985. It was adopted by the Government of India in 2004 and many youth NGO representatives on the National Youth Commission of India and on other bodies in India contributed to the design and content of the new National Youth Policy of India. The Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) provided some consultant services on this project.

**IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF** (Government of Iran, I.R.: National Youth Organization of Iran I.R. and the National Youth NGO Platform: National Youth NGO Advisory Committee).

The National Youth Policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran was formulated in 2003-2004 and is due for adoption in 2005. It was an update of the first National Youth Policy adopted in 1998 by the Supreme Council on Youth. The process of preparing the new NYP included the participation of youth from each province and of representatives of national youth NGOs on the National Youth NGO Advisory Committee. The National Youth Organization of Iran I.R. coordinated and supported this project which included the provision of an ICNYP senior consultant on national youth policy in 2004.

### **EUROPEAN AND NORTH AMERICAN REGION:**

**EUROPEAN JOURNAL ON YOUTH POLICY** (Editorial Board: International Youth Exchange and Visitors Service of the Federal Republic of Germany, IJAB, Institute for Youth and Popular Education, INJEP, France, and National Youth Agency, United Kingdom).

*The European Journal on Youth Policy* is the only journal in the world devoted to the topic of national youth policy as the major focus of the publication. It was founded in 2002, began publication in 2003 and presents articles on national youth policy in Europe as well in other regions of the world. The ICNYP has a major partnership arrangement with the Board of the *Journal* as ICNYP provides it with a list of governmental ministries responsible for youth in regions outside Europe so that the *Journal* can be mailed to them, and provides articles to the *Journal* on national youth policy in countries and regions outside of Europe.

**LITHUANIA** (Government of Lithuania and National Youth NGO Platform: State Council on Youth Affairs and Lithuanian Committee of Youth Organizations).

The National Youth Policy of Lithuania was developed on a partnership basis between the Government of Lithuania and National Youth NGO Platform: State Council on Youth Affairs and Lithuanian Committee of Youth Organizations. The Lithuanian Parliament adopted the State Youth Policy Concept and established The State Council on Youth Affairs as a joint body representing both the Government and youth NGOs with a composition of 6 representatives from each. It oversees the development, implementation, evaluation and re-direction of the national youth policy. Similar joint Councils were set up at municipal levels throughout the country for the implementation of

the national youth policy at local levels throughout the country. The Council of Europe Directorate for Youth and Sports has provided the Government with consultant services on national youth policy and sent an NYP review mission there in 2002-2003.

#### **LATIN AMERICAN REGION:**

**COLOMBIA** (Government of Colombia: Presidential Programme “Colombia Youth”, and the Municipal Youth Councils of Colombia).

The National Law on Youth (Law 375) was adopted in 1997 by the National Parliament of Colombia and provided the legal framework for the subsequent development of the national youth policy of Colombia in 1998-2004. The Government formed a partnership with many youth organizations throughout the country to develop the national youth policy. A network of Municipal Youth Councils was established in each Department of Colombia to further promote the national youth policy and programme of action. The Government also has included the National Youth Policy strategy in the Departmental Development Plan of each province of the country and thus sought to decentralize the national youth policy and outreach it to youth in all parts of the country at national, regional and local levels. The German Development Cooperation Agency (GTZ/BMZ) has supported these activities of the Colombia Presidential Programme Colombia Youth.

**PANAMA** (Government of Panama: Ministry of Youth, Women, Children and Family, and the National Youth Council of Panama).

The national youth policy in Panama was developed by youth organizations affiliated with the National Youth Council of Panama in 1999 in cooperation with the Government's Ministry responsible for Youth in both national and provincial youth meetings in all parts of Panama. The Pacto Nacional Por La Juventud (National Youth Pact) was adopted on 8 April 1999 in Panama City and signed by the leaders of the three national political parties, and it led to a Plan of Action for Youth adopted by the Government for the period 2000-2004. The Ministry of Youth, Women, Children and Family worked closely with the National Youth Council of Panama to elaborate the Plan of Action for Youth. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Youth Fund (UNYF) has supported this initiative in Panama.

#### **CARIBBEAN REGION:**

**DOMINICA** (Government of Dominica and National Youth NGO Platform: Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, and the National Youth Council of Dominica).

The National Youth Policy of Dominica was developed on a partnership basis between the Government's Ministry Education, Sports and Youth and the National Youth Council of Dominica in 2002-2003 and is scheduled to be submitted to the National Parliament in 2004 for adoption as a law. It contains both a section on priority issues to be addressed by the National Youth Policy as well as a section on implementation with specific roles indicated for follow-up for the Government's Ministry Education, Sports and Youth (Youth Department) as well as the National Youth Council of Dominica and a National Youth Parliament to hold to gather a large democratic platform for youth from all over Dominica to express their views on the implementation of the National Youth Policy of Dominica. The Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) supported this NYP project in Dominica by providing a consultant from Barbados to assist this effort in Dominica in 2002-2003.

**JAMAICA** (Government of Jamaica and National Youth NGO Platform: Ministry of Education, Youth and Culture, and the National Youth NGOs of Jamaica on the NYP Steering Committee).

The National Youth Policy of Jamaica was developed in 2001-2003 by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Culture in cooperation with youth organizations on the NYP Steering Committee and as an update of the first NYP in 1994. This update was done in cooperation with the National Centre for Youth Development (NCYD) and a National Strategic Plan will be formulated and adopted as a followup over the next 5 to 10 years. The NYP document had several sections which were new in the various NYP documents in the world: one on "definitions of stages of the life cycle" which identified childhood (0-18 years), adolescence (10-19 years) and youth (15-24 years): the latter age for the NYP project. The US Agency for International Development (USAID), UNICEF and the Commonwealth Youth Programme supported various phases of this project. A senior consultants on NYP supported by the World Bank on this project in Jamaica subsequently became an ICNYP Expert on National Youth Policy- thus bringing together a grouping of experts on national youth policy involved in most such NYP projects in all regions of the world.

### **SPECIAL AWARDS ON NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY**

In addition to the above-cited ICNYP awards given by regions of the world, the ICNYP decided to give Special Awards on National Youth Policy each biennium to the most outstanding NYP document of a Government and the most outstanding contribution by youth organizations to a NYP process. The ICNYP will give such Special Awards on National Youth Policy in 2004 to:

1. for Governments: The National Youth Commission of South Africa for the National Youth Policy of South Africa,
2. for youth organizations: to the Youth NGOs on the Steering Committee of the NYP of Kenya.

### **The National Youth Commission of the Republic of South Africa.**

The National Youth Policy of the Republic of South Africa is to date the most comprehensive NYP document in many ways. It was the first to contain both a detailed section on priority issues to be addressed by the National Youth Policy and a detailed section on implementation measures to be taken at national, provincial and local levels. This NYP process was also unique and set a comprehensive example for all to follow, not only on the content, but also on the methodology of holding national and provincial youth hearings to prepare the NYP, and a national youth summit to review and adopt it and to submit to Parliament ( via the National Youth Commission). The plan for a National Youth Service in South Africa was also a part of the NYP document and led to a separate NYS document. The US Agency for International Development (USAID), UNICEF and the Commonwealth Youth Programme supported various phases of this NYP project in South Africa in 1996-2000.

### **Youth NGOs on the Steering Committee and Workshops of the NYP of Kenya.**

The youth NGOs in the Steering Committee and Workshops for the Kenyan National Youth Policy were most active in this NYP process and will become the core members of the Kenya National Youth Council being established in 2004. In May 2002, the Government's Department of Social Services in partnership with the German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ) project on "Promotion of Street Children and Youth At-Risk" (GTZ-PROSYR) organized a national capacity-building workshop to discuss the first draft of the NYP in Kenya. That workshop brought together 41 representatives of the Governments (national and provincial) and of the youth NGOs (national and provincial: including two from each of the 8 provinces). Born from that workshop were the national and provincial steering committees that moved the process forward bringing together over 400 hundred participants in this NYP process in 8 provincial workshops and a

national workshop to review and adopt the NYP document in November 2003. This NYP process was supported by GTZ, UNICEF, UNFPA, OXFAM (GB) and Action Aid.

## **CHAPTER 7: PROPOSALS ON CRITERIA, CONDITIONS AND STEPS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL YOUTH POLICIES**

### **Criteria: Recommendations on Basic Indicators for a National Youth Policy**

While there is no one universal model of a successful national youth policy, the ICNYP has concluded that there are some basic indicators for an effective national youth policy based on the mandates of the United Nations General Assembly and the experiences of UN Member States, especially since 1985: International Youth Year. The following are examples and are not meant to be all-inclusive. Each nation must determine such matters based on its socio-cultural heritage, political and economic priorities and the views of all stakeholders.

- 1. Vision of, by and for youth of the present and future Society:** and concerns all Stakeholders (Governmental youth-related ministries, youth and youth-related organizations, private sector, UN and bilateral development agencies etc) , linked directly to both formal and non-formal education, and stressing that the vision of youth should be seen as a vibrancy, resource and indeed a solution and not only as a problem for Society.
- 2. Definition of the youth age group and its sub-groups:** The United Nations General Assembly recommended in 1985 for International Youth Year and again in 1995 for the World Programme of Action on Youth that "Youth" were those persons aged 15 to 24 years, but that was done for statistical purposes, while recognizing that many Member States have other definitions, and the Assembly noted such sub-groups as: urban youth, rural youth, girls and young women, students, young workers, disabled youth, refugee and migrant youth etc.
- 3. Youth data base, information and communication:** providing base-line data and profiles of youth throughout the country and the NYP, presenting a communication strategy for positive media images of young people as both individuals and as an age group and an important type of civil society organization, promoting more youth access to the Internet and developing an ICT strategy for youth development and for civic engagement.
- 4. Youth research, hearings and attitude surveys on the situation of youth:** to serve as a basis of a national youth policy and updated on a regular and cross-sectoral basis, to identify a set of priority issues (youth education, employment, health, poverty, hunger, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency etc.), establishing targets, and formulating strategies for improving the situation of youth in specific and measurable ways.
- 5. Youth participation in democratic reform and governance,** including decision-making processes and institutions, advisory bodies and promotion of responsible citizenship for young people, including: freedom of association, speech, assembly and related human rights such as election of officers by youth to student councils at schools and universities as well as to executive committees of youth NGOs, and civic engagement roles for youth and their youth organizations to directly contribute to the democratic reform and governance of Society.
- 6. Youth as agents for innovation and change in Society:** including support of the creative and innovative work of young people in cultural, social, economic, political and legal processes and institutions, as well as the promotion of young people as consumers and creators of cultural heritage.

7. **Youth training and capacity-building of youth workers:** in youth NGOs and in Governments to strengthen their leadership abilities and skills, as well as enhance their impact on youth opportunities and problems and to cultivate ways of supporting the development of the NYP and its implementation.
8. **Youth and national youth service (NYS):** on a voluntary and/or mandatory bases for: economic contributions to Society, for responsible citizenship, good governance and development, for integration of young people into Society, and for the promotion of full employment by enhancing the employability of unemployed youth.
9. **Youth policy awards for recognition of NYP/NYS achievements:** given by the Head of State or other appropriate persons or body of the Government to young people who have made outstanding national youth service contributions to Society and also the Government could further recognize such youth service by accrediting volunteering by youth in the educational system and provide service-learning courses in schools and universities as well as in vocational training centres.
10. **Youth policy and programme coordination:** establishment of coordination bodies to better promote and implement the NYP by Governmental ministries and departments (inter-ministerial coordinating committee), youth and youth-related organizations (national youth NGO coordinating council), private sector (business council on youth), UN programmes and agencies as well as bilateral development agencies (UN Development Assistance Framework: UNDAF, Youth Theme Group) etc and bring them together in some kind of joint body.
11. **Youth legislation for enactment and follow-up:** from the Executive body as a Cabinet or Ministerial Council submitting the draft NYP bill with a specific programme budget and operational plan for enactment in the Parliament with the establishment of a Parliamentary body (as a Committee or Sub-Committee) to oversee its implementation, review and amendments or new bills to supplement the NYP process.
12. **Youth budget and youth fund:** to finance the promotion, implementation, evaluation and re-direction of a NYP as part of the NYP bill of Parliament in the form of a biennial programme budget, medium-term plan for four year period, and with programme performance indicators, review of costs/benefits of investing in youth compared with other priorities, phased time-frames, regular audit, and encourage youth philanthropy (whereby young people participate in the management of budget allocations, fundraising and selection of awardees).
13. **Youth policy outreach action plan:** all of the action elements of a NYP Action Plan should be included in the project document containing the NYP and should outline the multi-level programme of action planned at national, provincial and local levels to implement the NYP in a phased steps and with specific time frames by, for and with youth and their organizations.
14. **Youth policy evaluation and re-direction:** a regular meeting of the stakeholders (such as a National Youth Commission) should undertake a short, medium and long-term evaluation of the impact of the NYP, performance indicators should be developed for each output of the NYP, an annual youth audit made on the progress achieved and obstacles encountered, and a re-direction made of the NYP based on the results of the evaluation.
15. **Sharing experiences and best practices on national youth policy:** The Government should share experiences on NYP with other Governments at the sub-regional, regional and world levels, participating in the respective meetings of ministers responsible for youth and expert group meetings related to NYPs, and should include youth NGO representatives in their delegations to such meetings, and the NYP should likewise promote international cooperation among youth as well as among youth



organizations on a sub-regional, regional and global basis to share experiences and encourage understanding, mutual respect and peace.

### **Basic Conditions for a Successful National Youth Policy (Some examples)**

In addition to the above-cited indicators on national youth policy, there are some basic conditions for a successful national youth policy:

- ! Be the choice of young people (i.e. voluntary);
- ! Be enjoyable, challenging and fun;
- ! Maximize decision-making by young people themselves;
- ! Raise young people's awareness of their situation;
- ! Create opportunities for young women and young men to influence decisions and to improve their situation;
- ! Have practical impact of the problems confronting youth and provide resources for youth;
- ! Encourage partnership and action between young people and adult authorities;
- ! Political will and support of the government and of major stakeholders, especially of youth and youth organizations, to implement the NYP on a sustained basis;
- ! Sufficient budget allocated to implement a NYP on a sustained short, medium and long term basis;
- ! Sufficient and appropriate training of youth policy and programme workers in government and NGOs;
- ! No withdrawal of governmental support for a NYP because of a change of government and the identification of the NYP or its major parts with the former government;
- ! Effective action plan to implement the NYP at provincial and local levels;
- ! Support from youth and youth organizations due to a distrust in government and to a manipulation by the government of the NYP for political purposes;
- ! Sufficient planning, implementation, evaluation, and/or re-direction of a NYP;
- ! Action by government to give youth and the NYP major roles in democratic reform and governance;
- ! Sufficient coverage and outreach of the NYP and lack of capacity of youth workers in government and NGOs for NYP;
- ! Strong position and staffing of the governmental unit concerned with youth.

### **Types of Countries and Types of Problems for an Effective National Youth Policy**

- ! There are nearly 130 Member States of the United Nations which have specific ministries and departments responsible for youth, but only about 60 could be said to have a cross-sectoral and integrated NYP with effective action plans such as a national youth service;
- ! Large countries (such as Brazil, Canada Russia and USA) do not have NYP mainly because of complexity of society, etc; For Brazil, the problem has been to place the youth policy in the Ministry concerned with Sports and now to develop a more cross-sectoral approach to youth policy on an inter-ministerial basis. For Canada, the problem was giving the youth policy matters to the provinces and now to take more of a federal approach. For Russia, the problem has been to effectively dismantle the former centrally-planned and one party system of youth policy and set up a new more open

system not controlled by the State with full youth participation and direction. For the USA, the problem has been to leave the issue of youth policy solely to youth NGOs and now to also get the various youth-related government departments involved in partnership with youth NGOs.

- ! Some developing countries do not have effective NYP because of problems of poverty and strategies that do not address NYP per se. This is especially true in Francophone Africa and Central Asia (former USSR countries especially). They have been more concerned with other problems of development than those of youth policy per se.
- ! Former centrally planned countries (as those countries in Eastern Europe) do not have NYPs because of youth distrust of all such national policies, which were manipulated by the former governments. Over recent years, a few of those countries such as Armenia, Poland and Romania have developed national youth policies, but not with active youth NGO participation in all aspects and with sustainable development plans for the youth policy to survive.

### **Counter-Arguments to a “National” Youth Policy**

- ! Some young people do not relate to a national youth policy as such, but favour a youth policy more focused on the provincial and local levels of their country;
- ! Young people are also fearful of and distrust any major national policies and prefer decentralized youth policies and programmes planned by and with youth than by bureaucrats sitting in the capital city;
- ! This does not mean the abandonment of a national youth policy, but a major change of emphasis with more focus and resources allocated to plan and programme youth policies on the provincial and local levels.

### **Seven Steps for the Implementation of a National Youth Policy:**

#### **Model NYP Procedures (Estimated Maximum Time Frame: 24 Months)**

Based on international experiences on NYP projects, the following steps can be undertaken by interested Governments in partnership with youth and youth organizations during a maximum total time frame of 24 months (2 years) or a minimum time frame of 12 months (1 year). The estimates are given only as a general indication of the maximum and minimum time needed to undertake the various steps for a NYP project. Moreover, the duration of each step should not be seen as sequential, such as following the duration of the preceding step. For often, the duration of some steps may overlap and be concurrent to some other steps. Step 2 “Survey” may have a duration from 6 to 12 months and thus would be undertaken while other steps are being undertaken, but completed before the actual preparation of the first draft NYP document as it will serve as the basis of such a NYP document.

The following steps for a NYP are derived from the United Nations Guidelines for Further Planning and Suitable Follow-Up in the Field of Youth endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1985 for International Youth Year. The ICNYP is very grateful to the Honourable Sheik Salman Bin Isa Al Khalifa, Director General of the General Organization of Youth and Sports of the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain for suggesting to the Second Session of the ICNYP Council that the ICNYP should design and place on the ICNYP website a model for the development of a NYP with time-estimates for the completion of each phase as well as for the overall process. The following basic steps for a national youth policy are presented taking into account that each country must undertake such work based on its own socio-cultural heritage and political-economic situation.

## **STEP 1: IDENTIFICATION OF STAKEHOLDERS AND THEIR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, AND FORMATION OF PROJECT COMMITTEES AND BODIES (ESTIMATED TIME FRAME: 3 MONTHS)**

The first step should begin with the identification of stakeholders to participate in the NYP project and the determination of their various roles and responsibilities.

This process usually begins with discussions between representatives of the Government's Ministry responsible for Youth and the national youth NGO coordinating body and leads to a first meeting of representatives of all stakeholder groups.

### **Government:**

(The different national ministries and provincial and municipal authorities). Fostering coordination and collaboration, monitoring, research, technical guidance in development, and implementation and advocacy.

### **NGOs:**

(Youth-led organizations: YLOs and youth-serving organizations: YSOs, religious and community-based organizations.) Awareness building and mobilization, coverage of issues under specific mandates, promote youth participation and integration in programmes, support entrepreneurship, moral and spiritual guide.

### **Parents and families:**

Promote responsible parenthood. Provide basic needs, guidance counselling and mentoring, training, socialize young people, provide financial support, empowerment and participation of youth.

### **Private Sector:**

Opportunities for youth employment, resources for youth, programmes, credit schemes, training, work-study programmes, support youth entrepreneurship.

Examples of models of various types of bodies set up by Governments to bring such stakeholders together to plan the NYP project:

### **Steering Committee:**

Formed to bring together the various important stakeholders to be involved in this process to prepare a National Youth Strategy and National Youth Action Plan.

### **Technical Working Group:**

Formed to bring together a small core group from the Steering Committee to follow-up the recommendations of the Steering Committee.

### **Thematic Groups:**

Formed to bring together important stakeholders in thematic groups focused on the priority issues for youth and to review both the problems addressed under and the needs, aspirations and assets of youth under each issue and to discuss the preparation of an strategy and an action plan to solve those problems and to meet the needs of youth and to engage the participation of young people in this process

### **Inter-Ministerial Committee on Youth:**

Formed by the Government's Ministry responsible for Youth to provide in-puts into the thematic groups and drafting of text.

### **Youth Advisory Committee:**

Formed to bring together important youth club stakeholders to advise on the development of the NYS/NYAP project and to participate in thematic groups focused on the priority issues for youth.

One of the first tasks is the establishment of a definition of youth appropriate to national

circumstances and identification of the various subcategories of youth in the country.

## **STEP 2: SURVEY THE SITUATION OF YOUTH AND THE EXISTING YOUTH-SERVICES (ESTIMATED TIME FRAME: 6 MONTHS)**

Taking into account the needs and aspirations of youth and an agreed definition of “youth” and its subgroups (urban youth, rural youth, students, young workers, girls and young women, disabled youth, refugee and migrant youth, minority youth etc) the Project Steering Committee coordinates this project, beginning with surveys.

Survey the attitudes of young people in both schools and universities as well as in out-of-school youth and NGOs concerned with youth, using for example both a Household survey and simplified / brief youth to youth survey.

Young people should be involved in the design, distribution and evaluation of the survey and not just on the receiving end of the survey.

The identification of the needs and expectations of youth are the major thrust of the survey, but it also involves a review of existing youth policies and programmes of the Government and youth NGOs at all levels, and the legislation and administrative measures needed to implement them as well as the allocation of resources.

The Survey also establishes quantitative and qualitative profiles of the social, economic, cultural and political characteristics of each subcategory of youth, with special attention to such priority issues as: demography, political, economic, social, and cultural participation; education and training; employment, unemployment and underemployment; health; use of free time; sports and recreation; delinquency; and attitudes and expectations of youth. Each country has the right to decide which priority issues will be reviewed in the Survey and consequent NYP document.

It should also assess those elements of existing national policies that constitute a general orientation for the formulation of a new youth policy: such as the constitution, legislation, overall development policy and sectoral policies, as well as international legal instruments to which countries subscribe.

The Survey, in addition, identifies and evaluates various governmental and non-governmental programmes of direct or indirect concern to youth, the resources available to them (budget, infrastructure, staff, leadership, equipment, etc) and assessment of the categories and proportions of young people affected.

## **STEP 3: YOUTH-HEARINGS IN EACH PROVINCE AND MAJOR MUNICIPALITY AND ON NATIONAL LEVEL FOR THE DRAFTING OF A NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY AND YOUTH ACTION PLAN. (ESTIMATED TIME FRAME: 3 MONTHS)**

The Drafting group, in-country experts and possibly international experts begin the drafting of a NYP and Youth Action Plan with representatives from the Government and youth NGOs under purview of the Project Steering Committee.

The vision statement is drafted based on the views given in the youth-hearings as from the Government’s ministry concerned with youth.

Thematic groups work on the preparation of texts on priority issues as: participation, education, employment, health etc with a focus on both statements of youth problems and needs addressed and the proposed strategy and action plan to solve those problems and meet those needs.

Review draft from inputs from the experts and drafting and thematic groups in cooperation with youth NGOs.

The draft text on National Youth Policy and the Youth Action Plan circulated to Youth-Hearings in each Province/ and, if possible, in each major Municipality.

The Governmental Ministry responsible for Youth revises the draft text in cooperation with Youth-NGOs.

#### **STEP 4: ADOPTION IN EACH PROVINCE AND MUNICIPALITY AND ON NATIONAL LEVEL. (ESTIMATED TIME FRAME: 3 MONTHS)**

A nation-wide youth meeting is held to finalize and adopt the NYP and Action Plan. This meeting could take the form of a Youth Parliament with representatives from schools and youth NGOs in each Province and major Municipality as well as from university students, young workers, rural youth clubs, young women's organizations, disabled youth groups etc.

The Governmental Ministry responsible for Youth prepares way and transmits the draft to the Prime Minister's Office for review and possibly passing on to the Parliament.

The Parliamentary Committee on Youth reviews the NYP and Action Plan and recommends adoption.

The Parliament (National legislative body) adopts the National Youth Policy and Action Plan as Acts of Law, with budgetary provisions.

#### **STEP 5: PROMOTION IN EACH PROVINCE, MUNICIPALITY AND ON NATIONAL LEVEL (ESTIMATED TIME FRAME: 3 MONTHS)**

The Governmental Ministry responsible for Youth is often in many countries the designated Ministry responsible for promoting the National Youth Policy and Action Plan in cooperation with other youth-related ministries and youth NGOs.

The Parliament and the Provincial and Municipal Authorities and youth NGOs are often designated to assist this effort.

The National Youth Policy and Action Plan is distributed in all schools and university faculties and to all youth and youth-related NGOs.

The Governmental Ministry responsible for Youth holds Press Conferences at central and provincial as well as in major municipal levels.

The widespread diffusion of the NYP and supporting policy documents and associated statements, to inform youth and all other sectors of society of the seriousness of the issues of youth, of the need to address those issues, and to secure effective participation of youth in society, and the role of each sector in the achievement of those policy goals.

#### **STEP 6: IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS IN EACH PROVINCE AND MUNICIPALITY AND ON NATIONAL LEVEL/ PROVISION OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (ESTIMATED TIME FRAME: 3 MONTHS)**

Throughout the processes of policy formulation and implementation, close and effective co-ordination between the numerous actors involved is desirable. This coordination may be made possible through special institutional arrangements and procedures. It is for each country to decide what type of structure is most suitable for its needs to implement the NYP.

Institutional arrangements can take several forms, according to national political and administrative traditions and preferences. Consultative functions should involve representatives of:

a) the Government;

- b) youth;
- c) all other appropriate sectors of society.

The national organizational structure for the implementation of the NYP should make possible the effective co-operation and association of all existing youth organizations and groups, while preserving their identity and independence. At all levels within such an organization, young people should be free to participate and should be offered opportunities to undertake functions and responsibilities within its leadership.

The Governmental Ministry responsible for Youth in many countries is often designated the Ministry responsible for implementing the NYP in cooperation with other youth-related ministries and youth NGOs.

The Parliamentary Committee on Youth and the Provincial and Municipal Authorities are also often designated to assist this effort.

An Inter-ministerial Committee on Youth in many countries has been formed to coordinate the efforts of all concerned Government ministries in this NYP and Action Plan implementation processes.

Some countries have also adopted a National Youth Service or a national grouping of concerned youth NGOs to coordinate voluntary youth service work in the country as part of this NYP process.

The existing youth clubs may also form the basis of a newly established National Youth Consultative Body in the future to be the sole recognized platform of all youth-led and youth-serving clubs and to be a major part of this NYP and Action Plan implementation process.

Governments should pledge in percentage of the national budget for the implementation of the NYP/NYAP annually.

The Governmental Ministry responsible for Youth and the other youth-related ministries of the Government should also contribute some part of the national budget to the NYP implementation.

Other stakeholders should contribute in whatever ways possible to implementation of the NYP.

#### **STEP 7: EVALUATION, RE-DIRECTION AND INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES ON NYP (ESTIMATED TIME FRAME: 3 MONTHS)**

Indicators for monitoring and evaluation of performance impact should be prepared for the monitoring and re-direction of the National Youth Policy and its Action Plan.

A Youth Audit should be made by the above bodies to assess the impact of the NYP and its Action Plan and identify the problems and achievements.

There needs to be efficient programme management and operational evaluation of the NYP's implementation.

A re-direction plan should be made by the above-cited concerned bodies to re-chart a future course after assessing the impact of the NYP and its Action Plan.

Both youth representatives as well as Governmental representatives should attend both regional and international meetings on youth policy to exchange experiences on the NYP and its Action Plan.

There should be publicity every 4 to 5 years for the monitoring and re-direction of the NYP and its Action Plan.

#### **Adoption and Implementation of a NYP**

Five basic steps:

- ! Steps for adoption;
- ! Steps for implementation;
- ! Steps for coordination;
- ! Steps for promotion;
- ! Steps for outreach.

### **Programme of Action to Implement a National Youth Policy**

There is a need for a Programme of Action to be formulated to implement a National Youth Policy in effective, comprehensive and multi-level ways. The following outline of priority issues and implementation mechanisms are provided as examples, but each concerned Government and partner youth NGOs must decide the specific contents and mechanisms of such a Programme of Action in each country. Most of the existing Programmes of Action in NYPs focus not on how the priority issues are implemented, but on implementation mechanisms at national levels and a few also at provincial and municipal levels. There is a need to take into account both the priority issues and mechanisms in the implementation of a NYP

### **Priority Issues (some examples)**

#### **Youth Empowerment and Participation**

- a) Name of Output
- b) Objective
- c) Anticipated Result/Impact
- d) Responsible Ministry and Youth NGO
- e) Time Frame
- f) Budget

#### **Youth and Education**

- d) Name of Output
- e) Objective
- f) Anticipated Result/Impact
- g) Responsible Ministry and Youth NGO
- h) Time Frame
- i) Budget

#### **Youth and Employment**

- a) Name of Output
- b) Objective
- c) Anticipated Result/Impact
- d) Responsible Ministry and Youth NGO
- e) Time Frame
- f) Budget

#### **Youth and Health**

- a) Name of Output
- b) Objective

- c) Anticipated Result/Impact
- d) Responsible Ministry and Youth NGO
- e) Time Frame
- f) Budget

#### **Youth and Media**

- a) Name of Output
- b) Objective
- c) Anticipated Result/Impact
- d) Responsible Ministry and Youth NGO
- e) Time Frame
- f) Budget

#### **Youth and Voluntary Service**

- a) Name of Output
- b) Objective
- c) Anticipated Result/Impact
- d) Responsible Ministry and Youth NGO
- e) Time Frame
- f) Budget

### **Implementation Mechanisms at National, Provincial and Municipal Levels**

#### **National Level**

- a) Ministry responsible for Youth;
- b) Inter-Ministerial Committee on Youth;
- c) National youth NGO coordination platform (council etc) as advisory body to Ministry and Committee;
- d) National youth voluntary service;
- e) Parliamentary Committee on Youth;
- f) National youth centre (recreation, youth NGO leadership training, vocational training, youth health services etc).

#### **Provincial and Municipal Levels**

- a) Department responsible for Youth;
- b) Inter-Departmental Committee on Youth;
- c) Provincial and municipal youth NGO coordination platform (council etc) as advisory body to Departments and Committees;
- d) Provincial and municipal youth voluntary services;
- e) Provincial and municipal legislative committees on Youth;
- f) Provincial and municipal youth centres (recreation, youth NGO leadership training, vocational training, youth health services etc).

#### **Conclusions**

A national youth policy can provide both a new vision to improve the situation of youth in a country as well as an action programme to implement that vision by the Government in partnership with youth organizations. It is hoped that this study has provided the reader with



a good comparative analysis on national youth policy to show the alternative ways and means to proceed to formulate, adopt, promote, implement, evaluate and re-direct a National Youth Policy. The NYP matter should not be treated in isolation of major priority issues of the Government and Society concerned (such as: poverty alleviation, human rights, democratic reform and good governance, sustainable development, employment promotion, educational reform, health services etc.). The NYP should promote active youth participation of young people in the priority issues confronted by the Government and Society.

# ANNEX

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## **Annex II: List of Research Staff**

### ICNYP Project Coordinator:

William D. Angel (UK-USA), Secretary General of the International Council on National Youth Policy (ICNYP)

### ICNYP Project Research Staff: (all under 25 years of age)

ICNYP Student Interns:

- Ana Castellano (Spain)
- Xavier Foulquier (France)
- Peter Vandor (Austria/Hungary)

### ICNYP Project Interview Staff: (all under 25 years of age)

### ICNYP Youth Policy Experts

- Hayo de Vries (The Netherlands)
- Penny Foley (South Africa)
- Rezaul Karim (Bangladesh)
- Opimbi Osore (Kenya)

## **Annex III: List of Interviews and Research**

### NYPs in Africa

#### Kenya

In Kenya, Opimbi Osore undertook ICNYP interviews with representatives of Youth Employment Summit Kenya, International Youth Development Network and Youth For Habitat and the Youth Department of the Government.

The following names are of the persons who were interviewed in Kenya:

NAME	DATE	ORGANIZATION	TITLE
Charity Kiilu	17/01/2005	Department for Social Services	Program Officer
Zawadi Okinda	17/01/2005	Department for Social Services	Program Officer
Jonah Josiah	19,01,2005	International Youth Development Network	Coordinator
Gathetcha Kamu	20/01/2005	Youth Employment Summit	Coordinator

		Kenya	
Patrick Njuguna	24/01/2005	Kenya Youth Parliament	Coordinator

The input from Ms. Charity Kiilu was a combined input for the Commissioner for Social Services and the in-put of Acting Head of the Youth Division, as the Acting Head of Division was on Leave and the Acting Commissioner way outside the country on an official trip. The respondents have all been involved in the National Youth Policy formulation process and represent both the Government and the civil society sector in Kenya

### South Africa

In South Africa, Penny Foley collected ICNYP information through a review of the various documents, and undertook ICNYP interviews with Khosi Sibeko, Director, Policy and Programmes for the National Youth Commission, Cameron Tabane, Secretary of the South African Youth Council and discussions with other key informants who have been involved in the policy development process.

### **NYPs in Asia**

#### Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, Rezaul Karim undertook ICNYP interviews with representatives of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Government and the National Youth Council of Bangladesh. Mr. Ramani Mohon Chakma is the Director (implementation) of the Department of Youth Development (DYD), Govt. of Bangladesh. The interview took place at the DYD office at 108 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2005 for two hour, done by the ICNYP South Asia Regional Focal Point Mohd. Rezaul Karim. Mr. Ramani Mohon Chakma is a Youth expert working in Youth Development and Social Development field since last 25 years.

#### Malaysia and Pakistan

For the profiles on Malaysia and Pakistan, Peter Vandor undertook ICNYP research on the NYP documents and related studies on youth of the Governments and using the questions posed by the ICNYP for interviews, filled in replies as best as possible on both countries.

### **NYPs in Europe**

#### Austria

In Austria, Peter Vandor undertook interviews with: Elisabeth Ziegler who is working in the section V in the "Generationen" Department of the Austrian Ministry for Social Security, Generations and Consumerism (Bundesministerium für soziale Sicherheit, Generationen und Konsumentenschutz). The ICNYP interview took place on the 3rd of December 2004 at her office at Franz Josefs Kai 51, and took about 2 hours. Mrs. Ziegler's work is part of the section „Generationen“ and is led by state secretary Ursula Haubner and minister Herbert Haupt. She is the person in charge for national youth policy and also coordinates the EU White-book on youth process in Austria. Important tasks of her section are coordination of youth policy, planning and financing of various projects, financial support for youth organisations and consulting and information services on and for youth.

Peter Vandor also interviewed Mr. Bernt Lunglmayer is Chairman of the OBJV (Österreichische Bundesjugendvertretung). The ICNYP interview took place at the OBJV office at Praterstraße 70 / 13 on the 18th of November 2004, The OBJV is an umbrella organization of 42 Austrian youth organizations which range from catholic youth associations to political youth organizations and also include minority youth groups like Roma and Sinti. The different tasks of the OBJV include representing youth interest in the parliament and towards the government but also on the European and international level, communicating

youth issues into the public, the coordination of its member organizations and commenting draft laws that could affect youth in Austria.

#### Germany

The sectoral project "Promotion of Children and Youth as a Target Group in Development Cooperation" undertook interviews with the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth as well as the German Federal Youth Council.

#### Hungary

In Hungary, Hayo de Vries undertook interviews with the following on the NYP of Hungary:

- Mr. Márton Beke, Youth Department of the Political Department of Youth, Equal Opportunities, and Drugs of the Ministry for Youth, Family, Social Affairs, and Equal Opportunities. The Interview took place on 7 December 2004 (1,5 hour)
- Mr. Gábor Katai, Director of National Network of Regional Youth Information Service Offices of Mobilitás, Interview took place on 1 December 2004 and 23 February 2005 (2 hours each)
- Mr. Bálint Ványi, Mobilitás, Director interim of the Directorate of Training and Research for Development Interview took place on 1 December 2004 (1 hour)

#### **NYPs in Latin America and the Caribbean**

##### Colombia, Jamaica and Uruguay

For the NYP profiles on **Colombia, Jamaica and Uruguay**, Ana Castellano undertook research on the NYP documents and related studies on youth of the Governments and using the questions posed by the ICNYP for interviews, filled in replies as best as possible on each of those countries

#### **NYPs in Western Asia**

##### Bahrain and Jordan

For the NYP profiles on **Bahrain and Jordan**, Peter Vador undertook research on the NYP documents and related studies on youth of the Governments and using the questions posed by the ICNYP for interviews, filled in replies as best as possible on each of those countries.

#### **Annex IV: Interviews**

The interviews are available as a separate document on the Internet.

[www.icnyp.net](http://www.icnyp.net)

[www.gtz.de/de/themen/uebergreifende-themen/jugend/4737.htm](http://www.gtz.de/de/themen/uebergreifende-themen/jugend/4737.htm)