

ICMYO Taskforce Annual Report 2013/2014

Following the 2013 Annual Meeting in New York, and the subsequent adoption of new Guidelines for the ICMYO network, the ICMYO Task Force is responsible to prepare a yearly report on its activities before the next Annual Meeting.

This first Annual Report thus highlights the ICMYO Task Force's work from its election in 2013 until the forthcoming Annual Meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Statements and advocacy work

In the first months following the 2013 Annual Meeting, the ICMYO Task Force became active in the on-going debate to establish a UN Permanent Forum on Youth, or related permanent participation mechanisms. This resulted in a statement approved by the whole of ICMYO that was widely spread during the 2013 UN General Assembly. The process is continuously followed-up by the taskforce.

Furthermore, the taskforce joined the moderation team of the UN Youth Envoy's crowdsourcing initiative for youth priorities in the post-2015 development agenda in February 2014. In March, UN Habitat asked the taskforce to form an ICMYO advisory board for Youth 21. The opportunity to join this board was opened up to the whole of ICMYO and the following organisations joined:

1. International Movement of Catholic Students - Pax Romana (IMCS)
2. AIESEC
3. European Youth Forum (YFJ)
4. World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)

5. World Federation of the Deaf Youth Section (WFDYS)
6. International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)
7. Latin American Youth Forum (FLAJ)
8. Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC)

According to the new Guidelines, the ICMYO Task Force appointed within itself an advocacy liaison to be the focal point for UN agencies and other international partners to contact the ICMYO network. Christopher Dekki, the UN Advocacy Team Coordinator for IMCS - Pax Romana, was chosen for this position and held a number of meetings with UN representatives and other important actors for the ICMYO network.

2014 World Conference on Youth

Several ICMYO Taskforce members were elected by the whole network to be part of the International Youth Taskforce for the World Conference on Youth, ensuring the input of ICMYO into the preparations of the conference, and making sure a large number of ICMYO representatives were selected for participation.

Almost all ICMYO organizations were present at the WCY in Sri Lanka, aiming to provide youth input for the post-2015 development agenda. An important outcome of the WCY was the Colombo Declaration on Youth, which contained a set of recommendations to states and other actors involved with the post-2015 development agenda. The purpose of this outcome document was to provide the youth perspective in the development and discussion of this topic.

Following the WCY, ICMYO held an extraordinary meeting of all members present to reflect on the outcomes of the conference and welcome new partners.

Ratification process of the new ICMYO Guidelines

Following the 2013 Annual Meeting, the ICMYO Task Force had the responsibility to follow up with all members of the previous ICMYO structure and get them to ratify the new Guidelines.

The situation as of now is:

6 regional youth platforms and 18 international youth-led organisations have ratified the ICMYO Guidelines; the Guidelines thus came into force on 30 November 2013.

8 organisations still need to ratify the guidelines to remain members of the network.

The ratification process was an excellent opportunity to renew contact with members who have not been active in the network in the past years, renewing their interest and commitment into ICMYO.

In-Person Task Force meeting and the planning of the 2014 Annual Meeting

In September 2014, the ICMYO Task Force met for its traditional yearly In Person Meeting. This time it was hosted by IFLRY – the International Federation of Liberal Youth at its premises in London, United Kingdom.

At the meeting, several UN and other relevant processes were discussed. In addition, the Annual Meeting was at the highest agenda point, making sure that the Annual Meeting will be of great relevance and importance to the network.

Selection of ICMYO representatives to Global Forum on Youth Policies in Baku, Azerbaijan

ICMYO was invited to select three representatives to join an International Stakeholders meeting ahead of the Global Forum. Regional youth platforms were directly invited to join this meeting, so the taskforce organised a selection process among the international youth organisations.

A selection process was carried out, where members were invited to nominate three organisations. Organisations that have applied: ASA, CPLP, UNOY, FIMCAP, PYC, IFMSA, WOSM, GYG, IUSY.

Representatives were announced on September 6th:

1. Evin Incir, Secretary General of the International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY)
2. Maeed Zahir, Youth Advisor to the World Scout Committee of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM)
3. Jeroni Vergeer, SC Member in Europe of the Global Young Greens (GYG)

Change of membership status, new membership applications reviewed

According to the new guidelines, the ICMYO taskforce can grant temporary membership to organisations before they are accepted by the annual meeting. The taskforce agreed to grant temporary membership to:

- Commonwealth Youth Council (Full)
- United Network for Young Peace Builders (Full)
- AEGEE: European Students Forum (Associate)

The taskforce also reviewed applications and asked for further requests of information/suggestions from:

- GYAN (Global Youth Action Network)/TIG (Taking it Global): Respond to request on the criteria and ask for written information as to how they fit these.

- African Interfaith Youth Network: Respond suggesting that the global body “Global Interfaith Youth Network” (youth part of Religions for Peace) led by the International Youth Committee
- International Youth Institute: Respond that IYI doesn’t fit criteria, invite them to prove otherwise if they think they do.

The following applications were reviewed and rejected:

- Ghad El-Thawra Party Egyptian youth: not global, not eligible
- Desire HABONIMANA/Petronie NYAWENDA/Young Women's Knowledge and Leadership Institute Burundi: not global, not eligible
- Johanna Finesse International: not global, not eligible
- Huvadhoo Aid: not global, not eligible

Still waiting for more information from:

- WAFUNA: Respond to request on the criteria and ask for written information as to how they fit these.

Informal discussions have been held with:

- Muslims for Progressive Values: but they don’t have an established youth wing.

Application/Invitation:

- WAY (World Assembly of Youth): inviting ICMYO to join them - respond declining the invitation, WAY is welcome to consider joining ICMYO if they fit the criteria and are interested.

We look forward to welcoming you in Baku!

The ICMYO Task Force 2013/2014