

# **Youth Declaration**

**The 21<sup>st</sup> International Youth Forum**

**The Role of Youth for Achieving the Cairo Agenda**

**August, 18-25, 2010 Seoul, Korea**

## **Preamble**

107 youth participants from 39 different countries gathered in Seoul, Korea from August 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 to seek ways to encourage youth involvement in achieving the Cairo Agenda. The participants discussed the following specific objectives:

- Protection of family dignity
- World population for sustainable development
- Promotion for public health of the world

## **We the participants of the 21<sup>st</sup> international youth forum determined**

- to stress the need for the youth in all countries to acknowledge the urgency of working towards achieving the Cairo Agenda, and
- to reaffirm our right to take appropriate courses of action to address the issues of the Cairo Agenda, and
- to help create a global environment in which the youth can better participate socially and politically,

## **And for these ends recommend the following plans of action**

## **Topic I: The Role of Youth in the Protection of Family Dignity**

### *On raising awareness for family dignity*

1. We the youth believe that young people should be aware of their right and the right of women and children. They should stand up to ensure that women and children are respected, hence protecting the dignity of the family.
2. We should raise awareness of the devastating effects of alcoholism and other negative phenomenon which will lead to the deteriorating quality of family life that eventually results in violence, divorce, child abuse etc.
3. We are committed to making positive use of the media in order to reach other young people with information and take advantage of various new media tools which are available nowadays, such as social network, advertisements, etc.
4. We are determined to disseminate information by various mean such as campaigns in public places, handing out of leaflets, flash mobs, peaceful/legal demonstrations, etc.

### *One the emplacement of family dignity in society*

5. We ought to be more politically engaged; such as forming advocacy group in order to have our voice heard and our interests represented on the political arena so that we have a say in the protection of family dignity.
6. We the youth should emphasize the role of women in the society; we should support women to take up leading positions in government bodies, local councils, non-governmental organization and companies. However a precondition for it is a successful, comprehensive, universal and accessible education especially for women which should be guaranteed by the government. It will help women to assume a more prominent role in society.
7. We aim to form organization/association/social clubs in order to have a stronger impact on issues related to family dignity on both the local and the national levels. Youth should more active in pre-existing institution that are responsible for family matters, women's and children's rights.
8. We should organize trainings and programs for couples and on the importance of task-sharing mutual respect and family relationship so that are ready to become responsible parents.

9. We should organize recreational activities to promote family bonding and strengthen family relationship.

## **Topic II: The Role of Youth in World Population for Sustainable Development**

### *On the issue of family planning*

10. We strongly believe that peer-to-peer education is an effective way of providing information about family planning. Therefore we encourage an increase of youth participation in voluntary programs that focus on family planning and sexual education.
11. We ask the youth organization to stress the importance of family planning and to seek increased funding mechanisms within their respective governments and/or other sources of financial support. Furthermore, it is upon those youth organizations to strive for public awareness of the problems stated ahead and encourage the public to take action.

### *On the issue of aging population*

12. We the youth recognize that issues related to an aging population cannot be solved, by monetary means alone. Many more challenges lie within sustaining the unity of society preventing inter-generational conflicts and age-based discrimination. Programs that promote knowledge and experience exchange will allow for greater interaction and dialogue between the youth and the elderly.
13. We can facilitate the collaboration between the youth and the elderly towards creating job opportunities that match the needs and the skills of an aging society. These jobs should focus less around financial and career issues and instead aim at social inclusion.

### *On the issue of declining birthrate and encourage parents to have more children in countries where the birth rate has shown gradual decline*

14. We the youth acknowledge the necessity of providing tax benefits to be parents in order to lower the burden of bearing and raising children. Therefore, we strive towards the implementation of such tax benefits.

15. The working youth labor organizations are encouraged to push towards providing better chances of combining work and parental responsibilities, especially for women companies should, for example, work towards running daycare services within their premises and setup job-splitting programs.

*One the issue of the destruction of nature and on the ways by which the youth can encourage or inform the public to avoid the degradation of natural environments that would have negative consequences to the local communities as well as the world populace.*

16. The youth must acknowledge the limited nature of resources currently used to create energy. Therefore it is important to reduce the carbon footprint of societies by raising public awareness through supporting and creating campaigns that encourage the consumption and usage of environmentally friendly products and services.

### **Topic III: The role of the Youth in the Promotion of Public Health of the World**

*On the issue of HIV/AIDS*

The prevalence of HIV/AIDS requires our attention. While vertical transference, prostitution and unsafe sex remain the key channels of transmission, we assert that the concerted commitment of youth government and civil society would be the foundation for enduring changes.

17. In order to solve this health issue, we believe that it is imperative for the youth to organize and build networks with Non-government organizations (NGOs) to start a dialogue with the government to obtain funding and support.
18. Through volunteer work with their respective organization, the youth can share resources and information about HIV/AIDS prevention.
19. We recognize that there are vaccinations available for HIV/AIDS-infected pregnant women. However, these remain out of reach for lower income countries due to the cost involved. We aim to initiate fundraising campaigns which would assist in providing vaccinations for pregnant women to prevent HIV/AIDS caused by vertical transmission.
20. We acknowledge that the peer-to-peer transmission of idea is a highly effective way of spreading education message. By providing platforms necessary for the youth to educate younger adolescents, we can encourage safe sexual practices.

### *On the issue of the abortion*

21. We the youth, affirm the need for support group committed to the physical and emotional need of mothers faced with unplanned pregnancies. We would like to provide comprehensive information such as adoption as an alternative to abortion, to ensure that these pregnant women are adequately informed of all their options before making the decision to abort.
22. We aim to initiate youth advocacy campaigns that instruct the proper usage of contraceptive. This can be achieved through mass media. For example, article in school publications and educational videos that are made easily accessible through the internet.
23. We recognize that the lack of material on family planning could affect the delivery of family planning classes. Primary educators can utilize educational materials on family planning to inform their students on safe sex practices. The youth can play an important role in determining the contents, as well as approaching school administrators to encourage the use of these educational materials in their classrooms.

### *On the issue of female genital mutilation (FGM)*

24. We believe that female is violation of human rights. Youth volunteers should be actively involved in international organizations that share medical knowledge amongst communities practicing FGM in the affected countries.
25. We recognize that there is a general lack of awareness throughout the world about the practice of FGM and its associated risks. Youth should initiate communities committed to sharing the realities of such practices to other in different countries and inspire action against FGM.

## **Conclusion**

As youth leaders, we hereby declare our commitment towards achieving the components of Cairo Agenda. The need to solve the issue at hand is evident in every corner of the world. Through above recommended courses of action the youth can and will significantly contribute to the success of the Cairo Agenda.