



XIV GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA
20-23 FEBRUARY 2005**

WAY IS MOVING FORWARD!

**REPORT OF ACTIVITIES
(2000 – 2004)**

A INTRODUCTION

At the 13th General Assembly of the World Assembly of Youth, a clear mandate was given by WAY members: WAY must be revitalized and reestablished as the global coordinating body of youth councils worldwide.

Following the move from our former headquarters in Copenhagen, to our initial base in Kuala Lumpur, and now to our permanent home in Melaka, WAY has grown in leaps and bounds, and is now certain of a bright and sustainable future in the youth-friendly environment of Malaysia.

We are much ingratiated towards the President of WAY, the Rt. Hon. Datuk Seri Hj. Mohd Ali bin Mohd Rustam, who spearheaded the shifting of the WAY Secretariat to Malaysia and oversaw its permanent establishment. We are now based at a government bungalow provided to us by the Melaka State Government. Construction of a new youth complex is underway in Melaka, and this will be WAY's permanent home.

Being the first secretary general to be head the secretariat in Malaysia has come with some challenges. The main challenge has been the general perception that international organisations need to be based in Europe or the United States. Thankfully, I believe this perception is changing and more and more people are accepting the fact that the developing world can also play host to international organisations, often more successfully than the expensive bases in the developed world.

To characterize the activities over the past four years in one word, I would say that word is **Re-Establishment**. It was clear at the 13th General Assembly that WAY had become a shadow of its former self. Through the misadministration that occurred at the former secretariat in Copenhagen, the organisation would have died a natural death were it not for the personal intervention of the President and the subsequent transfer of the secretariat to Malaysia.

Against such a background, the major task for my first term of office was to re-establish the organisation, with a new vision, a new mission and a new lease of life. The majority of the work was in terms of public relations: making it clear to all stakeholders that WAY was alive and moving forward. Although resources may have limited our activities, we made full use of information and communication technologies to reach out to the global community and enhance the image and reputation of WAY.

Moving from Copenhagen was not without its negative consequences. The majority of European members were unhappy about this, even though they had

offered no support towards addressing the challenges that the organisation was facing. As a result, relations between WAY and some European organisations were strained, and even the entry of a new secretary general did not ease the tension.

Tense relations with Europe also affected our relations with the United Nations Youth Unit, which is heavily influenced by the European position. Continued frustration of our endeavours resulted in our release of some fairly strong statements, and an impasse that lasts to this date. It should be noted that we enjoy cordial relations with most UN agencies except the UN Youth Unit.

Notwithstanding the negative developments in the UN Youth Unit, I have personally served some prominent assignments with the UN system. In March 2001 I was elected chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Fourth World Youth Forum of the United Nations System. I was therefore responsible for drafting of the final declaration which was later passed on the UN General Assembly. The document is now referred to as the Dakar Youth Empowerment Strategy. I was also appointed to the United Nations Secretary General's Youth Focus Group on Youth Employment, which gave rise to the Youth Employment Network in the UN/ILO secretariats. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) also invited me to be part of the group that founded the UNFPA Youth Advisory Panel.

Whilst it is important for WAY to work closely with the United Nations system, we must not compromise our values and standards when we feel that some developments are working against global youth development. I would like to emphasize that our activism in this regard is out of a serious frustration and concern at the negative developments in the UN secretariat in terms of youth issues.

Although the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System is supposed to be held once in every two years, it has not been held since 2001. This is further evidence of the lack of seriousness in the UN secretariat when it comes to youth issues.

There has been a notable decline in the activities of national youth councils around the world, with some no longer existing. This is largely due to diminished donor funding, and in some cases due to lack of leadership continuity structures. In some cases, national youth councils are government-controlled and thus experience unsustainable changes whenever there is a change of leadership, until structures become dysfunctional. This poses a significant challenge to WAY, as urgent work is needed to revitalize national youth councils around the world.

WAY now needs to take a leadership role in revitalizing national youth councils and spreading information on best practices. We shall be engaging governments more closely to ensure that they realise the significance and importance of national youth councils, and effectively support their youth development agendas.

In some cases, no communication has taken place with some national youth councils due to changes of address and telephone contacts which have made it difficult to locate them. We engaged diplomatic missions in Malaysia to assist us to identify the latest contacts of their national youth councils, and this was a helpful exercise although a number of countries did not respond.

The majority of WAY members have been defaulting on their membership subscription payments. Fees were reduced to make it easier for members to pay, but it has still proved challenging to obtain these subscriptions timeously and consistently.

As a result, we have had to rely on UN, governmental and private donations to sustain the work of the secretariat. It is more so the private donations that have assisted us the most. We are grateful in this regard to the President, who helped to mobilise resources for the smooth running of the secretariat.

Over the past years, we have managed to convene important WAY meetings at national, sub regional, regional and international levels. One of the most significant was the establishment of the Melaka International Youth Dialogue. This is an annual meeting, the flagship event of WAY, which brings together young people from varied backgrounds to engage in a dialogue on pertinent global youth issues. We have since convened four dialogues between 2001 and 2004, and will continue to develop and promote this meeting.

A major success was the Roundtable of World Youth Leaders convened in Melaka in May 2003. This was a gathering of youth leaders from various large regional and global youth organisations. It was an unprecedented meeting which provided the opportunity for youth organisations to network and establish a common global youth development vision. As a follow-up, a second Roundtable shall be held in Bali, Indonesia, in September 2005.

WAY also convened regional meetings in Africa, Europe, Asia/Pacific and Latin America over the past four years. This helped to strengthen our networks and to develop WAY's structures in these regions. In future, more resources will be needed to ensure that such regional meetings can consistently be held on an annual basis.

The use of information and communication technologies afforded WAY the opportunity of communicating inexpensively with its international audience. In October 2000, we established the World Youth E-Group with the address worldyouth@yahogroups.com. This is now one of the largest e-groups on the Internet with over 2,000 members. Many of our programmes heavily relied on the use of email and Internet for coordination purposes.

WAY responded quickly to the recent tsunami disaster that struck the Asian region. We sent several teams of volunteers, and both myself and the President visited Indonesia and met with President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to convey our condolences and arrange for WAY's long-term involvement in the rebuilding efforts underway in Indonesia.

Executive Committee

The following were elected into the Executive Committee at the 13th General Assembly:

President

Rt. Hon. Datuk Seri Hj. Mohd Ali bin Mohd Rustam
(Malaysia)

Vice President

Mr. Felix Gonzales-Polar
(Peru)

Mr. Zage Filipovski
(The FYR of Macedonia)

Hon. Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan
(Pakistan)

Mr. Hoogart Desire
(Suriname)

Mr. Bossondyal Nurdkeswarsing
(Mauritius)

Executive Committee

Ms. Nana Yuliana
(Indonesia)

Mr. Donald Charumbira
(Zimbabwe)

Mr. Imad A. Muttar
(Iraq)

Mr. Francis Ganyaglo
(Ghana)

Mr. Mohammad Fazlul Haque
(Bangladesh)

Mr. Bhuban Pathak
(Nepal)

Five executive committee meetings were convened as follows:

1 st Executive Committee Meeting:	January 28 th , 2000, Kuala Lumpur
2 nd Executive Committee Meeting:	November 12-15, 2000, London
3 rd Executive Committee Meeting:	June 25, 2001, Melaka
4 th Executive Committee Meeting:	May 12 th , 2003, Melaka
5 th Executive Committee Meeting:	June 28 th , 2004, Melaka

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Few members have fully paid up their subscriptions despite the reduction in membership fees.

The fully-paid up members as of 31 January 2005 are:

Malaysian Youth Council
National Youth Council of Namibia
Indonesian National Youth Council
Swaziland National Youth Council
Yemen Youth General Union

Zimbabwe Youth Council
MAJOR WAY PROGRAMMES 2000-2004

2000

- JULY Seminar on Public Relations for Youth Organisations
International Youth Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- NOVEMBER Executive Committee Meeting, London, UK
- DECEMBER Forum for the Integration of Andean Youth
Lima, Peru

2001

- MARCH Preparatory Committee Meeting for the Fourth World Youth
Forum of the United Nations System, Dakar, Senegal
- APRIL Global Conference on Mental Health on World Health Day,
Melaka, Malaysia
- JUNE Asia-Pacific Youth Forum, Bangkok, Thailand

Melaka International Youth Dialogue, Melaka, Malaysia
- JULY UN Secretary General's Youth Employment Network

International Youth Forum, Seoul, Korea
- AUGUST Fourth World Youth Forum of the United Nations System,
Dakar, Senegal
- DECEMBER Latin American Youth Dialogue, Santa Cruz de la Sierra,
Bolivia

2002

MARCH European Youth Dialogue, Brijuni, Croatia

APRIL Official Visit to Guinea-Bissau

MAY International Youth Work Camp, Ipoh, Malaysia

JULY High-Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations System

SEPTEMBER Youth Employment Summit, Alexandria, Egypt

2003

JANUARY Visit to Botswana and Angola

MAY Roundtable of World Youth Leaders, Melaka, Malaysia

JULY Melaka International Youth Dialogue

AUGUST African Youth, ICT & NEPAD Conference, Windhoek, Namibia

International Youth Forum, Seoul, Korea

2004

APRIL Launch of "*Youth & Globalism: A Perspective*," Melaka, Malaysia

JUNE Melaka International Youth Dialogue

JULY International HIV/ AIDS Conference, Bangkok

AUGUST International Youth Forum, Seoul, Korea

B REPORT OF THE XIII WAY
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REPORT
13TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF
WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH

“Youth and Governance in the New Millennium”

23-27 January, 2000

Dynasty Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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I. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW.

1. The World Assembly of Youth (WAY) held its 13th. General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the 23rd to 27th January, 2000. The Assembly was attended by delegates from countries with the mission to set the world youth body in its original standing among one of the active and recognized international youth entities.
2. The Assembly was held in conjunction with a Seminar with the theme “Youth and Governance in the New Millennium,” focusing on the challenges of the new millennium while learning from wisdom of the past century and beyond. Issues covered reflect the positive outlook on the contribution and significance of WAY as a global platform for youths and youth organisations in a common pursuit for peace, development and prosperity for all, through the mobilization, interaction and integration of national, regional and international youth related bodies.

Opening Ceremony

3. The General Assembly was officiated by the Honourable Dato’ Hishamuddin bin Tun Hussein, the Minister of Youth and Sports, Malaysia.
4. Mr. Saifuddin Abdullah, the President of Malaysian Youth Council as chairperson.
5. President of WAY, Datuk Wira Mohd Ali bin Mohd Rustam.
6. In attendance during the opening ceremony were Dato’ Fuad Hassan, the President of Asian Youth Council (AYC) and Dato’ Raja Ruslan, Director of Youth Division, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Malaysia.

Magdalene Andrew Munot, Nor Jana Saim, Hashila Hashim and Johanna Sara Shamsul Hidzry were rapporteurs.

SESSION I

Agenda I. Opening Remarks by President of WAY

7. Dato’ Wira Mohd Ali Rustam thanked all delegates attending the 13th General Assembly of WAY and for active participation since the first day of the Assembly. He hoped for meaningful resolutions from the delegates. He explained the situation of WAY and what has transpired at the WAY’s headquarters in Copenhagen, during the last two years, that were forced to close down and later the secretariat to be relocated to Kuala Lumpur.

8. The President remarked that in the past terms WAY very much depended on projects contribution by the United Nations agencies especially from UNFPA, thus we were able to maintain the existence of the secretariat. Programmes concerning population and other field related to youth issues depended on the support of various governmental and non-governmental agencies. Since 1996, the Secretariat has not been proactive in garnering efforts for fund raising through these means. Payments of subscription from members were not very encouraging.
9. Facing financial difficulties, the secretariat decided to dispose an apartment without the WAY's Executive decisions. The assembly noted that Mr. Stig Fog Jensen, former WAY President from Denmark and the Danish Youth Council, tried to reorganize the Secretariat office by volunteering for about 2-3 months, but could not manage to save the Secretariat office from the new landlord. Communicating with the other member countries and circular letter to all committee members and bureau members, 60 percent responded agreeing for an office in Kuala Lumpur. In Denmark, the rental is high whereas in Malaysia it is free, and there is a support from the government and private sectors. It was later decided that all WAY belongings in Copenhagen be sent to Kuala Lumpur.
10. The President briefed the Assembly of World Youth foundation (WYF) objectives and its contributions towards WAY. The Annual Report of the Foundation were distributed to the delegates that showed that funds were allocated to the WAY secretariat and its activities such as the World Youth Leaders Exchange Program, young Entrepreneur, and other national level programmes where small amount of fund were given such as in Kenya, St Vincent and St Kitts. WAY's Prime Minister of Malaysia Youth Award for the member countries is funded by the donations.
11. The President said that he would like to have more seminars and workshops, at regional and international level, but needed the support from the local Youth Councils. The aim is to have many programmes whilst improving co-operation at the international level prior to all UN and its agencies summit. In this regard WAY needs a very capable Secretary General that knows the business and likes to meet people.
12. Some country do not get full membership of WAY, because they are not fully representative at the national level, where they only represent 2 or 3 youth clubs and not representing the whole spectrum of youth in that particular country. Some youth organisations are not fully run by the NGOs and some are fully run by the government. In some organizations everything is fully run but, the office bearers are not selected democratically. If the above criteria is fully met, WAY will definitely grant full membership.
13. The President hopes that WAY will continue and bring better relations among the partners involved. The basic idea is to bring people together to discuss issues and

problems such as New Global Village concept, globalization, new information technologies, poverty, health, education and employment. We need to have this type of forum in generating ideas and experience to action and to help and support each other.

Agenda 2 Amendments to the WAY Charter

14. Amendments to WAY Charter were proposed by the Norwegian Youth Council. Due to the resignation of Norway and in its letter withdrawing the proposal, the Assembly adopted that there were no amendments to the charter.

Agenda 4 Adoption of Agenda

15. The Agenda was adopted with proposal by the delegates from Surinam, and seconded by delegates from Brunei and Iraq.

Agenda 5 Adoption of Rules and Procedures and By- laws.

16. The Rules of Procedures and By-laws were adopted and the Assembly forward it to be further discussed and elaborated by the Election and Credential Committee.

Agenda 6 Election of Credential Committee.

17. The Credential Committee determined the status of each member countries and the Term of Reference was prepared. The Assembly elected the Credential Committee where members are from each region namely:

Asia	Brunei
Europe	The FYR of Macedonia
Africa	Namibia
Latin America	Peru
Caribbean	Suriname

Agenda 7 Formation of Commissions

18. The Assembly formally agreed on the formation of Commission to discuss and deliberate on the various issues pertaining to WAY and its member countries. The Assembly elected the following:

Development Commission	Co-Chaired by Pakistan and Angola
Political Commission	Co-Chaired by Ghana and Iraq
Administrative Commission	Co-Chaired by Zimbabwe and India.

Agenda 8 Adoption of WAY Report.

19. The report listed WAY's activities since year 1993-1999.

Agenda 9

Adoption of WAY Financial Report

20. The Assembly was informed that WAY secretariat have not received the audited financial report from the Copenhagen auditors, thus the secretariat decided to prepare the report for the current and future status of World Assembly of Youth. The document "Report on Current and Future Status of World Assembly of Youth (WAY)" was tabled.
21. Botswana raised the points where WAY could not accept liability for other people responsibilities in paying income tax and asked whether the Denmark government requested WAY or the individuals to pay up. Dato' Ali Rustam told the assembly that WAY owed the government for WAY General Secretary income tax and also at the same time some amount to the Secretary General. The Assembly recommended that WAY secretariat to request the government of Denmark to waive the amount on compassionate grounds. Delegates from Malaysia suggested that the new committee examines whether Denmark's law stipulates that the employer has to pay for the income tax on the employee's departure from his employment.
22. Macedonian delegates questioned the amount showed for donations from the world to be zero and why the projected was also zero? The President replied that because of the number of nominal staff, they cannot market the organizations internationally for donations.
23. The Report was adopted as proposed by India and seconded by Korea.

Agenda 10

Announcement of Nomination for new Office Bearers

24. The assembly were briefed by the President that all details and eligibility on the nominations and management of the election to be discussed in the Credential Committee and the Election Committee. It was accepted and announced that election of a President (one post), Vice President (5 posts), and Executive Members (7 posts) to be held on the 26th January 2000 at 2.30 pm. The Assembly agreed on the appointment of members to the Election Committee i.e. from Namibia, Korea and the Philippines, whom were not vying for any post.

II. THE COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES AND ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS.

25. The Assembly organization was based on the work of the Commissions, formed to discuss relevant issues and resolutions while suggesting special actions programmes before being proposed, discussed and considered by the Assembly. The following recommendations of the Commissions and Committee appear as they were adopted by the 13th General Assembly.

Development Commission

The Commission, chaired by Pakistan and Angola, recommended the following:

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Having examined the WAY's policy and progress report from 1993-1999, the Development Commission recommends the following resolutions to the 13th WAY General Assembly :

YOUTH IN THE SERVICE OF CHILDREN

- i. Encourage all national youth organizations to have children's sections within their organizational framework, and collaborate with national agencies that are working with children.
- ii. Calls upon all governments to enact legislation or other necessary means to help increase awareness in the elimination of exploitation from irresponsible employers.
- iii. Mandates the Secretariat to compile a data base on child labour and conduct universal activities on child labour with a view to determine how WAY can help to minimize the exploitation of children.

HUMAN RIGHTS

- i. Recognizes that the abuses of human rights are continually increasing in various forms worldwide.
- ii. Urges that the deprived sections of society be taken into special consideration.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND PARTICIPATION

- i. Mandates the WAY Secretariat to organize activities on national, regional and international levels to assist youth to properly run and develop voluntary youth organisations and to especially develop their potentials in working for the development of the society.

- ii. Calls upon national governments to promote independent, voluntary national youth councils which may be a constructive training ground for youth empowerment and participation, and will assist to channel youth energies towards national development.
- iii. Mandates the Secretariat to solicit support of governments in establishing and maintaining independent youth councils.
- iv. Encourages that youth organisations' relationships with the different sectors of society be based on partnership for youth development.
- v. Recommends that member of youth organisations take special consideration to include young persons in their delegation to the General Assembly and mandates the WAY Secretariat to emphasize this resolution upon sending out correspondence regarding the General Assembly.
- vi. Recommends that all countries formulate and implement a national youth development policy with the opportunity of participation and decision making by the youth of the respective countries through dialogues and recommendations to the government.
- vii. Encourage governments that are hosting international meetings to host a parallel international youth meeting.

EARLY PARENTHOOD AND ADOLESCENT FERTILITY

- i. Reiterates its concern in the neglect of family life education for young people and lack of access to information regarding their sexuality, reproductive health, birth control and cautions concerning complications of early pregnancies.
- ii. Mandates the WAY Secretariat to promote successful programmes and best practices in the various areas to serve as an example for other countries.

HIV/AIDS

- i. Recognizes that HIV/AIDS is becoming a serious epidemic, especially among young youth and reaffirms its commitment to HIV/AIDS education and prevention.
- ii. Mandates the Secretariat to develop a continuous support system for People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs) in terms of their rights, especially in the area of health, employment and emotional needs.

EMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT

As all young people have the right to productive role in the society, mandates the WAY Secretariat to widen the scope for more opportunities for youth to be trained in entrepreneurship and to have access to resources essential for self employment. Volunteerism should be encouraged as an avenue to generate employment opportunities.

YOUTH AND ENVIRONMENT ACTION PROGRAMME

- i. Mandates the Secretariat and member organisations to continue working on environmental education programmes with specific reference to the conservation of nature and protection of our national resources, and work closely with the UNEP and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) towards the implementation of the World Conservation Strategy and the World Charter for Nature.
- ii. Encourage local youth organisations to be involved and participate in local and national authorities.

YOUTH AND HEALTH EDUCATION

- i. Encourage and promote health education through workshops, conferences, seminars and research in specific areas of health knowledge and skills in the respective countries.

YOUTH AND POPULATION

- i. Recognizes the gravity of the growing population and its consequences on young people and recommends that youth be provided with assistance to ensure young people are adequately informed regarding population issues.

YOUTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- i. Encourage the culture of volunteerism among youth.
- ii. Encourages national governments and international organisations to continue working for an international economic order that will guarantee an equitable and transparent distribution of resources adequate to the provision of the basic necessities of life for youth.

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN WAY

- i. Recognises again that representation of young women should be encouraged.

- ii. Urges national youth organisations to develop strategies to ensure equal representation of women at the WAY General Assembly and on the WAY Executive Committee.

PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE

- i. Recognizes that the years 2001-2010 has been identified by the United Nations as the Decade of the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence and mandates the Secretariat to organize programmes promoting peace throughout this decade.

YOUTH AND DRUG TRAFFICKING

- i. Encourage the use of information technology for networking and communication between WAY and member organisations.
- ii. Support the provision of information technology or communication facilities for member organisations which may not have the essential resources for such assets.

RECOMMENDATION OF CHANGE TO WAY CHARTER

- i. The Development Commission recommends a change in Article II : “ AIMS” of the WAY Charter, as follows: “ WAY is established to create awareness on the needs and responsibilities of young people and to promote youth participation at all levels of society. As a global platform for youth organisations, WAY is dedicated to influence political decision-making on youth affairs at the international level, to facilitate co-operation and mutual exchange of experiences between its members and to promote the development of a civil society in their respective entities.”

Chairperson: Georgina Nava, Philippines

Secretary: Zage Filiponova, The FYR of Macedonia

Political Commission

The Commission was co-chaired by Ghana and Iraq and reported the following:

REPORT OF THE POLITICAL COMMISSION

The political commission recommends the following :-

PREAMBLE The commission recommends that the assembly resolves that:

WAY in all its programmes and activities strives to transcend divisions in the world community on the basis of class, race, sex and any other such form of discrimination.

Establishment of WAY as an International Youth Organization by taking into consideration following crucial concerns facing the world community and adding them to WAY Charter. Economic unbalance in the world resulting in “THIRD WORLD POVERTY”

Human Rights issues particularly the following:-

Gender Issues, Indigenous communities,

Issues relating to youth and children,

Threat of globalisation, War, Evil and miseries,

Continued avocation for non-violence strategies for the resolution of major world crisis.

Promotion of religious and cultural tolerance particularly among youth of the world.

Socio-economic issues :- Assembly notes with pain that majority of the world communities are still living under very difficult socio-economic conditions. With regards the issue of :-

Health, Drug abuse, High rate of crime among youth, Lack of economic opportunities leading to poverty, Racism, Sexual abuse, Militarism.

The General Assembly resolves that every effort should be made with immediate effect to begin to address these issues nationally, regionally and internationally.

Forming alliances:

Realizing that a lot of programmes strategies, declarations and initiative are already in place, the assembly resolves that WAY should do everything in its power to form

alliances and partnerships with national, regional and international youth agencies and stake holders in programmes design, implementation and evaluation.

The Situation in Iraq

The Assembly notes with sorrow the impact of economic sanctions on the civilian population of Iraq particularly as it has impacted on the provisions of basic essential services like food, water, shelter, health facilities etc. The assembly resolves that WAY should seek ways to influence the various powers involved in this conflict to end the economic sanctions. WAY Assembly also notes that there is concern that UN since to be exercising or preaching double standards when dealing with conflicts in certain nations of the world to the extent that there is suspicion as to whether the race factor is not involved.

Refugee situation (as circulated)

Assembly notes that the continued struggle of the people of The FYR of Macedonia with international organisations for recognition and use of their constitutional and traditional name in the UN and other world institutions. This matter is referred to the bureau for the urgent attention and action.

Administrative Commission

The Administrative Commission was co-chaired by Zimbabwe and India and presented the following.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

The Commission discussed and highlighted pertinent issues related to the administration of WAY.

WAY has not been administered properly in the last 7-8 years. Identify failures and solutions in confronting the challenges of political initiatives taken to weaken WAY, so as to strengthen the administrative role.

Budget and Finance: The budget should have check and balances, such as two signatories for all payment.

Organizational structure: An additional post of Deputy Secretary General is necessary for continuity.

Elections: Any member wishing to run for elections should:- make a 60 day prior announcement be nominated by the national body which should pay a fee for application, be compiled in a newsletter sent to delegates at least 30 days before the assembly.

Meeting: Bureau meetings should be abolished in favour of full Executive Committee meetings.

Duties and Responsibilities: The President, in consultation with the Executive Committee, should give Terms and Reference highlighting duties and responsibilities to each Executive Committee member.

Communications: A regular newsletter should be introduced and maintained.

A WAY Directory should be compiled and distributed.

A WAY Website needs to be developed.

An enhanced information network is necessary.

Proper notice periods should be observed at meetings.

WAY Charter: This should be renovated in line with the new policies being called for.

Credential Committee Report

26. Report from Credential Committee stated each country's membership status. The Assembly noted that one of the Malaysian delegates was not mentioned, while Zimbabwe was not included in the list. Bangladesh applied for full membership during the General Assembly and based on the spirit of the General Assembly, Bangladesh was accepted as full member of WAY.

Election Committee Report.

The Assembly was informed that the post of treasurer was withdrawn during the 12th Assembly in 1993, thus so it is not contested during this election.

THE SPECIAL COMMISSION'S COMMITTEE REPORT

- The special commission was set up by the WAY General Assembly and the secretariat to facilitate the special commission on Political, Administration and Development.
- This Commission held group discussion and meeting to discuss on the special remarks made in the seminars and induct some new tasks and functions to be considered by the three commissions.
- The appended reports has been submitted by the respective commission and the special commission approves and forwards their report for adoption by the General Assembly.

Ms. Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan	Chairperson (Pakistan)
Mr. Ricky Roupine	Anguilla
Mr. Abdul Ghaffor	Iraq
Mr. Ganyaglo K. Francis	Ghana
Drs. Nana Yuliana (Ms.)	Indonesia
Ms. Mehnaz Ansari	India

WAY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Elections Committee, Mr. Pohamba Shifeta of Namibia announced the election results as follows:

PRESIDENT
(elected uncontested)

DATUK ALI RUSTAM
MALAYSIA / Malaysian Youth Council

VICE PRESIDENTS
(elected)

BOSSOONDYAL-NURDKESWARSING
MAURITIUS (Carribbean)

HOOGHART DESIRE
SURINAME (Africa)

ZAGE FILIPOVSKI
THE FYR OF MACEDONIA (Europe)

FELIX GONZALES-POLAR
PERU (Latin America)

DR. FIRDOUS ASHIQ AWAN
PAKISTAN (Asia)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

MS. NANA YULIANA
INDONESIA / Indonesian National Youth
Committee

MR. IMAD A. MUTTAR
IRAQ/ General Federation of Iraqi Youth

MOHAMMAD FAZLUL HAQUE
BANGLADESH/ National Youth Council

BHUBAN PATHAK
NEPAL/ Social Youth Council of Nepal

DONALD CHARUMBIRA
ZIMBABWE/ Zimbabwe Youth Council

The Executive were mandated to fill in one executive position by the General Assembly

C THE MILLENNIUM PLAN OF ACTION

MILLENNIUM PLAN OF ACTION

2000 – 2004

“TOWARDS A GLOBAL COMMUNITY”

1 Introduction

The 13th General Assembly of the World Assembly of Youth (WAY) was held in Kuala Lumpur, from January 23 to 27, 2000. The Assembly was attended by delegates from countries with a mission to set the world youth body in its original standing amongst one of the most active and recognized international youth entities.

One of the main highlights of the Assembly was a seminar on *“Youth and Governance in the new Millennium”*, which focused on the challenges of the new millennium, using experiences from the past centuries. Issues covered reflected the positive outlook on the contributions and significance of WAY as a global platform for youth and youth organisations in pursuit of peace, development and prosperity for all, through the mobilization, interaction and integration of national, regional and international youth-related bodies.

From its inception in August 1949, the World Assembly of Youth established itself as an epitome of an international society that works for the advancement of humankind through empowerment of those that are bearing the future: the youth. Through the passage of time, it has promoted inter-ethnic respect and fostered inter-cultural and international understanding and cooperation. It has facilitated the collection, compilation and dissemination of information pertaining to the needs of the world’s young people, and has provided a platform for the interchange of these ideas. Perhaps most importantly, it has spearheaded the formation of national youth councils in several territories, and thus provided young people from in those nations with a unified voice. During the colonial era, WAY supported and encouraged the nationalist movements non-self governing countries in their struggles for liberation. As a whole, WAY has encouraged the full participation of young men and women in the development and democratic processes in their countries.

Against the backgrounds of an illustrious past, and the challenges that lies in the new millennium, the World Assembly of Youth launches its Millennium Plan of Action, based on the recommendations and resolutions passed at the 13th General Assembly that covered the period in the previous millennium. Among the challenges are the scarcity of financial and material resources, the continued poverty and suffering affecting a considerable percentage of the world’s young people, and the intermittent hostilities occurring different race, religions and nations.

It is, however, because of these challenges the organisations like the World Assembly of Youth exist. Our Millennium Plan of Action is therefore based on them, and aims to make a positive contribution towards the advancement of the global community. We will cooperate with agencies of the United Nations and Commonwealth- such as the World Youth Forum, and Commonwealth Youth Programme- non-governmental organisations as well as governmental and quasi-governmental institutions. More

critically, we will cooperate with a wide cross-section of youth organisations from around the globe to ensure that the voice of the youth is unanimous and a true and accurate reflection of the needs of the individual and society.

OUR THEME: TOWARDS A GLOBAL COMMUNITY - 2004

We are creating tomorrow's world today

Everyone likes to prosper, to be able to achieve the best, to live in harmonious surroundings, and to be respected as a human being. A literary "perfect" society may not be naturally possible, but it is every community's ambition to create living conditions that allow its members to reach their greatest potential. When the World Assembly of Youth was formed, the most pertinent issues were those related to democracy and independence. Today, just about every nation has achieved political independence, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been popularly adopted. A new challenge presents itself, however, is in the form of Globalisation. In a world that harbours a plethora of religions, races, cultures, languages and economic profiles, it is difficult to imagine how a truly global community may be created.

A Global Community is imminent, not just possible.

It may presently be difficult to imagine how a Global Community may be created, or how it will function, but it will not be very long until the Community actually exists. Early indications are the moves towards regionalization, such as the European Union, Association of South-East Asian Nations, Southern African Development Community and so forth. The European Union, for example, has also launched a regional currency. There are other more covert signals, such as the Internet and related technologies. Communication with any part of the world may now take place within a matter of seconds, and at relatively low cost. On-line shopping, e-commerce, even e-government, have become the new millennium buzzwords. The high number of international business transactions, migration and interaction evidences the potential of a "borderless world".

There are both challenges and opportunities

The present anatomy of Globalisation does not fully reveal what type of creature the borderless world shall be. In fact, it is constantly being created with the continual discourse and international dialogue. It is up to today's decision-makers to build a creature that will not work against the best interests of mankind. Some of the obvious advantages are the increased business opportunities, greater productivity as well as less bureaucracy. The potential challenges could include a perpetuation of third world poverty due to lack of access to modern technologies, failure of people to interact due to racial, ethical or religious differences, and the concentration of economic and

political power on a very small percentage of the global population. It is imperative to note that the proportion of the challenges to opportunities is being determined right now, as the pathways we choose now will lead us to the distinctive global arrangements.

Today's youth shall be the leaders of the Global Community

There may be no significant progress in both the theoretical and practical removal of national territorial borders within the next few years. The present generation of leaders, therefore, will probably not live to see the creation of a Global Community. They are merely paving the way for the future. The future is in the hands of the young people...the youth. It is accordingly fit for the youth to be actively involved in planning the future through preparation for better global cooperation. That is why the role of the World Assembly of Youth is most crucial and pivotal, as the sole voice of the youth of the world.

Objectives of the Millennium Plan of Action 2000-2004

Inspired by the resolutions of the 13th General Assembly, WAY shall implement all its programmes and activities under the theme "Towards a Global Community". This summarizes all its aims, as well as the need for futuristic thinking. The key objectives of this theme are to:

- Lobby for the elimination of unjust and unsustainable economic practices that are leading to, and perpetuating, third world poverty;
- Conduct training activities that empower young people to start and run their own globally competitive enterprises;
- Create awareness of the need for racial and religious tolerance;
- Provide humanitarian and emergency relief to communities suffering due to hunger, poverty, natural disasters, economic and political crises;
- Promote responsible behaviour among the youth, to combat the spreading of HIV/AIDS, to reduce the use of drugs including tobacco, to discourage juvenile delinquency, and to create a physically and mentally healthy Community;
- Encourage educational development of youth, and improve educational delivery systems that reduce and eliminate poverty;

- Foster gender sensitivity in youth organisations, as well as lobbying for equitable access to leadership positions by both men and women;
- Undertake environmental conservation programmes that will ensure that the future generations will have a habitable and natural world as beautiful as it is today;
- Instill the values of democracy, transparency and accountability in the youth, and ensure that this is observed at all levels of leadership.

A busy time for WAY

These themes and objectives were determined by youth, for the youth. They will also be implemented by the youth, in various youth organisations around the world. The World Assembly of Youth will be the central coordinator of this programme, and will work with close collaboration with youth development agencies. It will certainly be a busy period, as the expected results will only come through a lot of hard work and, invariably, the cooperation of all the WAY members and affiliates.

2 RESOLUTIONS OF THE 13TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Three commissions were appointed, according to the charter of the World Assembly of Youth, and each one was provided with terms of reference for its research and proposals. The following were the proposals made by the two externally-oriented commissions that were accepted and duly passed as resolutions of the General Assembly.

2.1 Development Commission

Having examined the WAY's policy and progress report from 1993-1999 at the 13th General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur, the Development Commission recommends the following:

2.1.1 YOUTH IN THE SERVICE OF CHILDREN

- iv. Encourage all national youth organizations to have children's sections within their organizational framework, and collaborate with national agencies that are working with children.
- v. Calls upon all governments to enact legislation or other necessary means to help increase awareness in the elimination of exploitation from irresponsible employers.

- vi. Mandates the Secretariat to compile a data base on child labour and conduct universal activities on child labour with a view to determine how WAY can help to minimize the exploitation of children.

2.1.2 HUMAN RIGHTS

- iii. Recognizes that the abuses of human rights are continually increasing in various forms worldwide.
- iv. Urges that the deprived sections of society be taken into special consideration.

2.1.3 YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND PARTICIPATION

- viii. Mandates the WAY Secretariat to organize activities on national, regional and international levels to assist youth to properly run and develop voluntary youth organisations and to especially develop their potentials in working for the development of the society.
- ix. Calls upon national governments to promote independent, voluntary national youth councils which may be a constructive training ground for youth empowerment and participation, and will assist to channel youth energies towards national development.
- x. Mandates the Secretariat to solicit support of governments in establishing and maintaining independent youth councils.
- xi. Encourages that youth organisations' relationships with the different sectors of society be based on partnership for youth development.
- xii. Recommends that member of youth organisations take special consideration to include young persons in their delegation to the General Assembly and mandates the WAY Secretariat to emphasize this resolution upon sending out correspondence regarding the General Assembly.
- xiii. Recommends that all countries formulate and implement a national youth development policy with the opportunity of participation and decision making by the youth of the respective countries through dialogues and recommendations to the government.
- xiv. Encourage governments that are hosting international meetings to host a parallel international youth meeting.

2.1.4 EARLY PARENTHOOD AND ADOLESCENT FERTILITY

- iii. Reiterates its concern in the neglect of family life education for young people and lack of access to information regarding their sexuality, reproductive health, birth control and cautions concerning complications of early pregnancies.

- iv. Mandates the WAY Secretariat to promote successful programmes and best practices in the various areas to serve as an example for other countries.

2.1.5 HIV/AIDS

- iii. Recognizes that HIV/AIDS is becoming a serious epidemic, especially among young youth and reaffirms its commitment to HIV/AIDS education and prevention.
- iv. Mandates the Secretariat to develop a continuous support system for People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs) in terms of their rights, especially in the area of health, employment and emotional needs.

2.1.6 EMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT

As all young people have the right to productive role in the society, mandates the WAY Secretariat to widen the scope for more opportunities for youth to be trained in entrepreneurship and to have access to resources essential for self employment. Volunteerism should be encouraged as an avenue to generate employment opportunities.

2.1.7 YOUTH AND ENVIRONMENT ACTION PROGRAMME

- iii. Mandates the Secretariat and member organisations to continue working on environmental education programmes with specific reference to the conservation of nature and protection of our national resources, and work closely with the UNEP and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) towards the implementation of the World Conservation Strategy and the World Charter for Nature.
- iv. Encourage local youth organisations to be involved and participate in local and national authorities.

2.1.8 YOUTH AND HEALTH EDUCATION

- ii. Encourage and promote health education through workshops, conferences, seminars and research in specific areas of health knowledge and skills in the respective countries.

2.1.9 YOUTH AND POPULATION

- ii. Recognizes the gravity of the growing population and its consequences on young people and recommends that youth be provided with assistance to ensure young people are adequately informed regarding population issues.

2.1.10 YOUTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- iii. Encourage the culture of volunteerism among youth.
- iv. Encourages national governments and international organisations to continue working for an international economic order that will guarantee an equitable and transparent distribution of resources adequate to the provision of the basic necessities of life for youth.

2.1.11 PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN WAY

- iii. Recognises again that representation of young women should be encouraged.
- iv. Urges national youth organisations to develop strategies to ensure equal representation of women at the WAY General Assembly and on the WAY Executive Committee.

2.1.12 PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE

- ii. Recognizes that the years 2001-2010 has been identified by the United Nations as the Decade of the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence and mandates the Secretariat to organize programmes promoting peace throughout this decade.

2.1.13 YOUTH AND DRUG TRAFFICKING

- iii. Encourage the use of information technology for networking and communication between WAY and member organisations.
- iv. Support the provision of information technology or communication facilities for member organisations which may not have the essential resources for such assets.

2.1.14 RECOMMENDATION OF CHANGE TO WAY CHARTER

- ii. The Development Commission recommends a change in Article II : “ AIMS” of the WAY Charter, as follows: “ WAY is established to create awareness on the needs and responsibilities of young people and to promote youth participation at all levels of society. As a global platform for youth organisations, WAY is dedicated to influence political decision-making on youth affairs at the international level, to facilitate co-operation and mutual exchange of experiences between its members and to promote the development of a civil society in their respective entities.”

2.2 Political Commission

The political commission recommends the following :-

PREAMBLE The commission recommends that the assembly resolves that:

2.2.1 WAY in all its programmes and activities strives to transcend divisions in the world community on the basis of class, race, sex and any other such form of discrimination.

2.2.2 Establishment of WAY as an International Youth Organization by taking into consideration following crucial concerns facing the world community and adding them to WAY Charter. Economic unbalance in the world resulting in "THIRD WORLD POVERTY"

Human Rights issues particularly the following:-

Gender Issues, Indigenous communities,

Issues relating to youth and children,

Threat of globalisation, War, Evil and miseries,

Continued avocation for non-violence strategies for the resolution of major world crisis.

Promotion of religious and cultural tolerance particularly among youth of the world.

2.2.3 *Socio-economic issues* :- The Assembly notes with pain that majority of the world communities are still living under very difficult socio-economic conditions. With regards the issue of :-

Health, Drug abuse, High rate of crime among youth, Lack of economic opportunities leading to poverty, Racism, Sexual abuse, Militarism.

The General Assembly resolves that every effort should be made with immediate effect to begin to address these issues nationally, regionally and internationally.

2.2.4 *Forming alliances:*

Realizing that a lot of programmes strategies, declarations and initiative are already in place, the assembly resolves that WAY should do everything in its power to form alliances and partnerships with national, regional and international youth agencies and stake holders in programmes design, implementation and evaluation.

2.2.5 The Situation in Iraq

The Assembly notes with sorrow the impact of economic sanctions on the civilian population of Iraq particularly as it has impacted on the provisions of basic essential services like food, water, shelter, health facilities etc. The assembly resolves that WAY should seek ways to influence the various powers involved in this conflict to end the economic sanctions. WAY Assembly also notes that there is concern that UN since to be exercising or preaching double standards when dealing with conflicts in certain nations of the world to the extent that there is suspicion as to whether the race factor is not involved.

2.2.6

Assembly notes that the continued struggle of the people of The FYR of Macedonia with international organisations for recognition and use of their constitutional and traditional name in the UN and other world institutions. This matter is referred to the bureau for the urgent attention and action.

D RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS
FROM WAY CONFERENCES AND
MEETINGS



FIRST MALACCA YOUTH DECLARATION

“Towards a Global Community”

We, the 277 young people from 45 nations, participating in the inaugural Malacca International Youth Dialogue convened by the World Assembly of Youth, have gathered in Malacca, Malaysia from June 25 to 27, 2001;

We have engaged in Dialogue under the theme “*Towards a Global Community,*” focusing on Globalization and its influences and implications on youth;

We recognize the World Bank’s definition of Globalization as the process of growing interdependence of countries worldwide through the increasing volumes and variety of cross-border transactions, in goods and services of international capital flows, and also through the more rapid and widespread diffusion of technology;

In addition to this definition, we also note a rapidly increasing interconnectedness of individuals, social groups, communities, and nations, particularly through universalizing the capitalist market ideology, but also as a result of other dominating forces like democratization and cultural imperialism;

We recognize with concern the negative trends towards homogenization of culture at a global level and some loss of cultural uniqueness and individuality at a local level;

We recognize also that there is an inequitable distribution of wealth and resources throughout the world, and that this perpetuates the cycle of poverty in less developed regions. We believe that this is a specific result of economic exploitation of the developing world by developed countries;

We acknowledge nonetheless the potential for harnessing the more positive aspects of globalization such as the enhanced potential for multilateral participation, cooperation and collective action at both micro and macro social levels, as well as the potential for fostering positive global change through integration of ideas and solidarity of purpose;

We highlight the need to move away from limiting and universalizing ideas and forces, and towards recognition and celebration of difference and diversity through action and ideology under the philosophy of ‘think globally, act locally’ in addition to ‘think locally, act globally.’

We recognize that globalization is an unavoidable phenomenon of the modern world with the potential for far reaching negative implications on the individuality and integrity of human society and culture. We believe nonetheless that such negative aspects are only a part of globalization that can be steered through unity in diversity to be a more positive world force for co-operative change.

THEREFORE WE RECOMMEND THAT ALL PEOPLES, GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANISATIONS:

1. Recognize the need to address at a local level, and to extend to all levels, through inter-cultural dialogue issues of cultural oppression and the lack of equity in cultural expression:

- Providing exchange programs focusing on cultural diversity and the arts;
- Developing a school curriculum that introduces all aspects of the local culture so as to foster mutual cultural understanding and appreciation;
- Encouraging multilingual appreciation through various means such as education, entertainment and in the media as a method of cultural exchange and promotion;
- Promoting the celebration of the richness of local cultures through their increased exposure in the mass media.

2. Urge education on youth action movements, cultural awareness and the principles of the universal declaration of human rights through all available media channels:

- Recognizing that education exists on many levels including dialogue, discussion, the sharing of ideas, personal interaction among individuals from different backgrounds, traditional academic channels, via the internet and other free and open forms of media;
- Realizing that globalization contributes to education by providing mechanisms that will foster the spread of information through channels of information communication technology;
- Recognizing that issues such as cultural oppression, slavery and other forms of economic exploitation, discrimination due to ethnicity, religion, gender relations, class, as well as the lack of empowerment of

youth have become highly static issues due to ignorance and lack of awareness;

- Fostering the education of youth in order to bring down the barriers created by ignorance and lack of awareness;
- Encouraging cooperation between youth for the spread of information relevant to youth.

3. Realize the corporate nature of the media, and henceforth encourage the youth to be actively critical users of the corporate media network:

- Urging the implementation of initiatives that raise awareness of the corporate nature of mass media, with the purpose of educating youth to be a sensible and discerning audience;
- Seeking to enhance the role of the youth in influencing the content of mass media by giving critical feedback;
- Urging the mass media network to practice social and ethical responsibility in the determination of its contents.

4. Strongly encourage youths to join youth organisations:

- Recognising that youth play an important role in contemporary society – they are the co-leaders of today;
- Realising that there is further need for securing equity of youth participation in the decision-making process at all levels;
- Recognising with concern the lack of awareness about the existence of youth organisations;
- Appealing to youth organisations to further promote themselves;
- Imploring governments to provide greater support for youth through the funding of education schemes and community awareness programs to promote youth activities and initiatives;
- Encouraging greater networking between youth organisations at various levels;
- Highlighting the important role of talks, workshops, performances, and other multimedia activities within education systems in motivating youth to join youth organisations.

5. Encourage greater networking among grassroots organizations, international organizations and governments:

- Advocating the early education of youth with regards to their rights and their legitimate and necessary role in their local communities;
- Urging the utilization of umbrella organizations as reference points for youth to learn about smaller and more localized organizations;

- Encouraging the utilization of the media to promote organizations from various sectors and enabling an exchange of ideas;
- Particularly seeking the involvement of youths in rural areas as well as urban areas to secure a more even representation of backgrounds;
- Ensuring information and expertise are exchanged through networking in all sectors;
- Ensuring that appropriate and relevant information gained through networking is referred to the work of policy and decision-makers.

6. Strongly urge and expect youth organisations to adhere to democratic processes of electing youth representatives, and associated consultative processes between youth and youth representatives, in order to ensure effective representation of youth:

- Noting that the processes taken in selecting youth representatives can be biased and corrupt;
- Recognizing that youth representatives who are selected through biased and undemocratic processes are not fit representatives of their organizations;
- Deploring governmental and non-governmental organizations which allow unjust selection processes to occur;
- Urging the immediate reform of governmental and non-governmental organizations which do not adhere to democratic youth selection processes;
- Strongly urging all youth representatives to consult with a sufficient cross-section of youth from their respective organizations in the aim of accurately representing the organization;
- Urging youth representatives to foster a comfortable environment wherein youth are not intimidated to approach youth representatives;
- Imploring youth representatives to take the necessary action to achieve effective communication and accurate representation of youth organizations.

7. Strongly advocate for governments to adopt a youth policy; this youth policy should incorporate the UN standard definition of youth:

- Acknowledging that there is a universally recognised standard of youth, however this definition lacks relevance without appropriate youth policy;
- Urging governments to allocate adequate resources in the aim of effectively addressing youth issues and problems.

8. Demand national governments, non-governmental and inter-government organizations to research, address and work towards a solution pertaining to the global problem of slavery by:

- Recognizing the definition of a slave as “a person controlled through violence or its threat, working without payment for economic exploitation;”
- Urging national governments, non-governmental organizations and inter-governmental organizations to acknowledge slavery as a problem that should be addressed urgently;
- Encouraging research on the factors that give rise to slavery in light of rapid globalization;
- Recognizing that public awareness is an important step in combating slavery at all aspects and levels.

9. Encourage youth to challenge the current exploitative global economic trends:

- Recognizing that exploitative economic trends include the free flow of capital that puts the interests of the investors before the interests of the local populations;
- Realizing that policies that give priority to investors’ interests is actively supported by the current policies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF);
- Recognizing that exploitative economic trends are of particular concern to youth as they are presently victims of the global capitalist system that impedes their potential for prosperity and creativity;
- Noting that oppressive conditions are sometimes not recognized and therefore not challenged or addressed due to established cultural, economic and gender roles perceived and constructed within societies;
- Recognizing that this can be rectified through the empowerment of the individual using education, vocational training, confidence building and awareness that is much needed to address established oppressive norms.

10. Realize that global problems such as environment, drugs, illegal immigration, poverty, health issues et cetera require cooperation on local, national and international levels:

- Urging further discourse on the local, national and international levels about various global issues;
- Mandating the World Assembly of Youth to regularly convene such youth dialogues at the national, regional and international levels.

11. Urge United Nations member nations to adhere to their commitment of providing a youth representative to the General Assembly:

- Recognizing that, in December 1996, one hundred and fifty member states of the General Assembly of the United Nations passed the resolution for youth representation of member states at annual sittings of the Assembly;
- Acknowledging that only eight member states have fulfilled their commitment to send youth representatives to the General Assembly;
- Realizing the powerful impact youth representatives would have in shaping the emerging global community by partaking in the General Assembly;
- Imploring all other United Nations member states to immediately rectify their lack of adherence to this resolution and provide a youth representative in accordance with democratic youth selection processes.

12. Urge all participants of the MIYD, as well as other youth forums, to maintain contact with the aim of coordinating global campaigns executed on a local to international level.

- Appreciating that the fostering of relationships between youth globally assists in the globalization of the youth movement;
- Recognizing that youth can add potency to their local campaigns if particular issues are addressed simultaneously by youth globally;
- Mandating the World Assembly of Youth to act as a positive and pivotal force in the global coordination of such campaigns, through regional youth platforms, national youth councils as well as international youth organizations.

Malacca, MALAYSIA

Date: 27 June 2001

MELAKA ACTION PLAN FOR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

A. Preamble

We, the 312 delegates from 50 nations have participated in the MELAKA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DIALOGUE, which has been held from 29th July to 1st August, 2002, at the Equatorial Hotel, Melaka, Malaysia.

We express our gratitude to the organisers, the World Assembly of Youth (WAY), in cooperation with the Asian Youth Council, Malaysian Youth Council, the Ministry of Youth and Sports Malaysia and the State Government of Melaka. We are thankful for the support of the National Information Technology Council, Global Knowledge Partnership, Mimos Smart Computing Sdn Bhd, and Jaring Internet.

We note the outcome from other regional dialogues convened by WAY, including the Latin American Youth Dialogue, European Youth Dialogue, African Youth Dialogue, Caribbean Youth Dialogue and the Asia-Pacific Youth Dialogue.

We have hereby adopted the theme: Action for Youth Employment for this dialogue, realising that youth employment is one of the most urgent and pressing global concerns, and needs to be addressed if peace, justice and equity are to exist in the Global Community.

This Dialogue is of great significance as it is the first international event following up on the recommendations of the UN General Assembly and the UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Youth Employment. We are pleased to note the Recommendations passed by the UN Secretary General's High Level Panel on Youth Employment, which were discussed in the plenary of the UN General Assembly on 19th November, 2001, under the Agenda Item "Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit." We support the UN Secretary General's Youth Employment Network, and urge the Member States to implement the High-Level Panel's Recommendations in partnership with youth and other social actors.

We commend the efforts by civil society, and the support by the government of Egypt, to convene the Youth Employment Summit in Alexandria in September 2002. We commit to participating in the Summit and sharing the outcomes from this Dialogue.

We realise that 66 million young people are estimated to be unemployed throughout the world, representing more than 40 per cent of global unemployment. We realise also that hundreds of millions more work fewer hours than they wish, and still others, largely in developing countries where 85 per cent of the world's young people live, work long hours with little gain and no social protection in the informal economy.

We are deeply concerned about the heavy toll that unemployment and underemployment takes on young people, their families and communities through economic hardship, human suffering, social exclusion and lost production.

Opportunities presented by rapid globalisation and fast-paced technological developments have offered many young people unprecedented new opportunities for education, innovation and productive and rewarding work.

However, these technologies have also added to uncertainty and insecurity by exacerbating already vulnerable situations, and widening the gap between those young people with well-paid and productive work, and those with low wage and poor quality jobs.

We believe that the challenge for all societies is to generate sufficient opportunities for all young people to obtain decent and productive work that makes use of their talents, experience and aspirations; and does so under conditions of freedom, security; equality and human dignity.

There is therefore a great need to launch a dialogue amongst young people, and to mobilise partners for action. There is a role and responsibility for everyone; governments, the private sector, youth organizations, employers, workers, community groups and civil society coalitions, in providing decent work for young people.

We have therefore deliberated on four broad themes:

- Institutional Support and Partnership for Youth Employment.
- Entrepreneurship for Employment Creation.
- Bridging the Gender Divide in Youth Employment.
- Youth Creating Digital Opportunities for Development.

B. Institutional Support and Partnerships for Youth Employment
We recommend that:

1. WAY develop a brief concept paper, based on experiences in Italy and Germany, about providing compulsory social service programs as an alternative to compulsory military duties in countries where such programs exist and lobby such governments about the idea through its membership.

2. WAY members advocate to their governments, educational institutions, business sectors and non-governmental organisations to implement more internship programs for youth. Such programs should target those studying at school or university and utilise government incentive schemes such as matched cash contributions to cover allowances.

3. WAY call on the UN Secretary General's Youth Employment Network and the Youth Employment Summit to provide good practice examples of schemes that deliver entrepreneurship training and venture capital to youth and disseminate this information through the WAY network so that WAY members can seek the implementation of such schemes in their countries.

4. WAY, through its members and partners, examine existing research on the use of youth quotas within the government sector to see if this is a viable and feasible means of enhancing youth employment and inform its members of the outcome of this activity.

5. WAY recommend to the UN Secretary General's Youth Employment Network to explore, and strive for greater transferability of skills and qualifications between countries, particularly as it affects refugee and migrant workers.

6. WAY work with its member bodies to convene a dialogue on Youth Health with the joint goal of realising the youth employment opportunities in delivering health solutions and addressing the health issues which reduce for many young people their opportunities to gain long term employment. This dialogue should be pursued in partnership with the International Young Professionals Foundation and the Youth Employment Summit. The conference should include health professionals, representatives of relevant government departments, the WHO, the ILO, and Medicines Sans Frontiers.

7. WAY arrange a panel of experts to conduct a feasibility study of partnerships between government, business and educational institutions that would provide further education and training for youth while

providing them with secure employment. The WAY panel should include delegates from business, vocational training institutions and universities, youth (as defined by the UN), and government departments, particularly the Malaysian Ministry for Youth And Sports (as a scheme, similar to the kind we propose, is already in place in Malaysia). The panel should meet within the next year to decide whether a scheme, similar to Malaysia's, could be created and promoted by WAY in its member (and other) nations. The results of the feasibility study should be presented to the WAY President by March 2004.

8. WAY convene a meeting of stakeholders in the next 12 months to progress the formation of a global media organisation that generates media related training and jobs for young people around the world while also providing a much needed resource to the growing world youth sector. Stakeholders invited to participate should include: youth and activist internet and radio groups (e.g. in media, adbusters); representatives of the Ministry of Youth and Ministry of Communications from as many countries as possible; representatives from the World Bank and UN; and global and national media corporations (e.g. News Corp).

9. The Melaka International Youth Dialogue notes the recommendation of the European Youth Dialogue to establish a World Youth Bank, and we append herewith Annex 1 being a resolution in this regard.

C. Entrepreneurship for Youth Employment Creation

Our workshop discussed and explored how Entrepreneurship can create more and better jobs for the Youth.

We recommend that the following general actions be taken at all levels:

1. Remove Barriers to Youth Entrepreneurship;
2. Create Conducive Environment for Youth Entrepreneurship;
3. Promote Youth Entrepreneurship; and
4. Ensure Sustainable Youth Entrepreneurship.

We also recommend that:

1. Youth be provided with the opportunity to learn from the experienced and skilled businesspeople;
2. Increased government fiscal support and public funds should be directed towards youth entrepreneurship;

3. Governments should introduce entrepreneurship curriculum in schools;
4. Governments, national and international organisations should be encouraged to set up Youth Development Banks that provide support to youth entrepreneurs and realise the potential of youth as a banking resource;
5. Developmental agencies and financial institutions should provide micro- credit systems of loans;
6. There be greater awareness and promotion of social entrepreneurial ideas;
7. There should be responsible governance of funds and resources meant for youth entrepreneurship projects;
8. Family and community should value and encourage youth entrepreneurship; and
9. There should be more provision of technical, managerial and human relation skills for young entrepreneurs.

D. Bridging the Gender Divide in Youth Employment

In recent years, the Gender Divide in Youth Employment has been widening. The burden of unemployment has fallen disproportionately on young women and girls. Approaching the youth employment issues from a gender perspective poses various challenges. We need to reconcile the lack of social protection for women working in the informal economy and the protection available for those working within the formal economy.

On Bridging the Gender Divide through the Formal Sector, we recommend that:

1. National or International Standards for Gender Issues (SGI) be formulated by governments or the UN to be implemented in formal organisations. This should take the following into account:
 - (a) Equal opportunity for career advancement.
 - (b) Prevention: of sexual harassment through proactive policies.
 - (c) Stimulation of education and training.

- (d) Balanced representation at management, policy, economic and decision- making levels.
 - (e) Implementation of equal pay for work of equal value.
 - (f) Promotion of an active and visible policy of gender mainstreaming in all policies and programs.
2. The participation of youth in implementing the SGI within the community can be promoted through:
 - (a) Encouraging youth to be constantly involved in promoting awareness of the SGI.
 - (b) Communication and information in schools by special peer-to – peer programs.
 - (c) Monitoring of changes in the working environment.
 - (d) Ensuring continuity of efforts to promote the SGI.
 3. Compulsory syllabi are implemented in schools to incorporate values that minimise current gender prejudice with a more positive atmosphere conducive for justice and equality.

On Bridging the Gender Divide through the Informal Sector, we recommend that:

4. Young men and women be empowered by having policies that extend to the grassroots level through:
 - (a) Awareness campaigns.
 - (b) Educational materials geared towards fostering gender equality.
5. Informal traders in particular youth are provided with the infrastructure (i.e. shelter, water and sanitation services) to earn a sustainable livelihood in a conducive business environment.

On the Role of Membership-based Organisations, we recommend that:

6. Youth organisations actively embark on gender awareness and skills training programs at all levels of society using creative methods of delivery that lead to:
 - (a) Balanced gender representation in the workforce ,
 - (b) Youth being more informed and equipped to be effective in the work force.
7. Youth organisations inculcate volunteerism by working hand in hand with school systems, as this will equip youth with life skills that provide equal opportunities in capacity building.

8. Balanced representation be ensured at all levels of membership-based organisations including ensuring participation of:
 - (a) Youth by UN definition (15 to 25 years)
 - (b) Rural youth
 - (c) Young women

On the Role of Government Agencies and International Organisations, we recommend that:

9. International organisations work with governments to:
 - (a) Provide resources for the implementation of free or highly subsidised compulsory education for all.
 - (b) Eradicate quotas that do not promote gender equality in all educational institutions especially at the tertiary level
 - (c) Review curriculum and gender related policies in educational institutions.
10. International organisations act as supporting structures that work with the media to bring attention to violations of ratified conventions.
11. Supervise implementation of policies and conventions that take into account marginalised youth, such as street children, and act as advisors to governments in reviewing gender policies.

E. Youth Creating Digital Opportunities for Development We recommend that:

In the short term (1 year):

1. Youth should get organised, network and link themselves with global networks such as the Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) to access available information and resources for youth Information and Communications Technology (ICT) projects/initiatives.
2. ICT internships and volunteer programs such as Malaysia's CyberCorp and Canada's Netcorps should be supported and expanded particularly to war-torn countries like East Timor in the areas of education, health agriculture and ICT.
3. Governments introduce ICT and entrepreneurial courses into the education syllabus to better employment opportunities.

4. ICT businesses donate computers to communities in developing countries and employ youth to customise the computers to local needs and contexts
5. Governments and developmental bodies set up incubator programs for youth businesses and to encourage youth to become self-employed in ICT as employers.
6. Governments and developmental bodies provide entrepreneurial courses/ modules / programs with mentors and assistance in developing business models.

In the mid term (1-3 years):

7. Youth organisations leverage on the media for awareness raising on youth actions in the ICT sector.
8. Youth expand ICT access in developing countries through venturing into ICT businesses.
9. Governments, private sector, and communities expand ICT skills training for youth, including "Train the Trainer" programs to increase capacity.
10. Governments ensure equal opportunities and participation of young women in ICT businesses.
11. Youth should be an integral part of each country's official delegation to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and its preparatory meetings to ensure that youth can directly participate in decision- making related to the Information Society and that they are involved in follow- up actions related to youth.

In the long term (3-5 years):

12. A Youth-Donor platform/ forum be established to explore funding opportunities for youth ICT projects.
13. Governments and UN bodies should allocate and disburse funds for youth ICT projects targeted at youth, vulnerable groups and marginalised communities in developing countries.
14. Governments intervene to reduce taxation on ICT companies and imported ICT goods to promote domestic digital economies.

Annex 1

MIYD Special Resolution on the World Youth Bank

1. Drawing on the Declaration of Youth as a Global Banking & Financial Resource, adopted at European Youth Dialogue 2002;
2. Realising that unemployed youth, at a global, regional, national and local level is a respectable labour resource. No only that, youth is a respectable economic, social, political, financial, security, intelligence, and cultural power. As the UN Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan said in his Global Alliance for Youth Employment - Recommendations of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Youth Employment –“ In the next ten years 1.2 billion of young women and men will enter into working age population, the best educated and trained generation of young people ever, a great potential for economic and social development.”
3. Witnessing the emergence of new knowledge economies with their networked societies that form a Global Digital World.
4. We, the Global Youth, believe that the right time has come for the full realisation of the youth banking and financial potential.
5. A youth banking system can:
 - (a) ensure an effective promotion of entrepreneurship among young women and men;
 - (b) provide better know-how and information on market opportunities;
 - (c) organise training in business skills;
 - (d) access the sources of capital and financial services; and
 - (e) become a mentoring service to support other business activities.
6. The concept of a World Youth Bank Network represents the oncoming New Cosmopolitan Praxis of the imminent One World of Tomorrow. Sustainable banking strategies of a World Youth Bank represent new forms of "virtual banking" - intensive investment in ideas and knowledge based on a new understanding of realities virtually and virtuality's reality. In other words, investing in the

Future will be the WYB's long-term development strategy, compared to traditional capital relations where investments were being done in a manner to prolong the socio-economic relations of the Past.

7. The World Youth Bank shall:
 - (a) improve and develop the quality of life of youth around the World;
 - (b) fight unemployment, ignorance and youth social exclusion by providing fast access to low-cost capital and life- long learning facilities to all segments of Global Youth and Civil Society.

We, the participants of the MIYD 2002, hereby resolve to establish a Global Youth Banking and Financial Network, and call upon the United Nations system, governments, private sector and civil society to support us in this endeavor.

Melaka, 1st August 2002

DECLARATION
ON
YOUTH AND ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT
MELAKA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DIALOGUE
21-24 June 2003
Melaka, Malaysia

Preamble

We the 206 youth delegates from 32 nations have convened at the Third Melaka International Youth Dialogue (MIYD) under the theme Youth and ICT for Development, from the 21st to the 24th of June 2003, at the Century Mahkota Hotel, Melaka, Malaysia.

We would like to thank the World Assembly of Youth (WAY), Melaka State Government, Asian Youth Council, Malaysian Youth Council, Ministry of Youth and Sports Malaysia, who have organised and sponsored the MIYD 2003 and all who have ensured that this has been a successful dialogue. We recognise the potential contribution of ICT towards youth development and acknowledge that ICT can play a significant role in critical issues including HIV/AIDS, youth employment, poverty alleviation, gender issues and governance.

We encourage developing countries to harness ICT for local content creation and dissemination to encourage better and more accurate representation of themselves in the information world.

Our input will be submitted to the World Summit on the Information Society 2003 (WSIS) as input from the youth of various national, regional and international non-governmental organisations who have attended MIYD 2003. We call upon governments to not only include young people in their delegations to the WSIS but also to actively involve them.

A. Providing Internet Connectivity

Providing Internet connectivity is a challenging and daunting task, but it has to be recognised that Internet connectivity opens and paves the way for nations and individuals to compete in a globalised world. Youth should be able to tap into this resource in order to maximise on their potential for development.

Key issues affecting Internet connectivity were identified and discussed during this Dialogue.

We recommend the following:

1. In order to realise a sustainable return on investment from heavy private sector investments in the provision of Internet connectivity, NGOs, governments and the private sector need to work in concert to translate people's desires and needs for ICT into a thriving market for Internet access.
2. A mechanism to translate diverse languages into a commonly accepted language should be created to encourage greater Internet usage and to improve cross-cultural understanding.
3. National communication infrastructures should be liberalised and the provision of Internet access should not be drawn along national lines especially where it makes no economic sense to do so.
4. Governments should make computer education a compulsory part of the national school curriculum to ensure, at least, a minimal computer literacy among all segments of the youth population.
5. There is a need to look into hybrid solutions to improve Internet access as hybrid solutions build on existing infrastructure and resources.
6. Satellite technologies should be installed in remote geographical areas to provide the people of these areas with Internet access.

B. Providing Hardware and Software Requirements

Mankind is in the midst of a powerful technological revolution. Those with understanding of and access to these new technologies have immense potential to shape the structures and trends of society. Those who do not, risk succumbing to dictatorship by those who control these trends and structures. The gap between these 'haves' and 'have nots', commonly known as the digital divide, is drawn along many lines such as gender, age, income, social standing, race and religion.

We recognize that in modern society, access to ICT is a vital need. We therefore recommend that universal access to ICT be accepted as an international youth, if not human, right. There is a need to look into communal usage and hybrid solutions as an alternative to PCs, where individual PC ownership is not a viable means of gaining access to ICT.

We recommend the following measures:

1. Businesses involved in the provision of hardware and software should be made aware of their social responsibility to provide for special needs and marginalized groups.
2. Multilateral institutions such as the World Bank and International Telecommunications Union should take the lead in promoting tri-sectoral, cross border partnerships, to provide universal ICT access.
3. Governments should create national plans and take responsibility for ensuring the provision of basic infrastructure, ICT literacy, financing mechanisms, network connectivity, and all other pre-requisites for the adoption and usage of ICT.
4. Governments should give incentives to encourage win-win partnerships between open-source and commercial software providers, especially in marginalized areas currently underserved or neglected by both parties.
5. Governments should create an environment that would allow the development of alternative forms of software with the long-term view of allowing the market to diversify.
6. Software and content providers provide cheaper alternatives to marginalized communities. In the absence of cheaper forms of software, we suggest that governments formulate strategies and policies to deal with issues of intellectual property rights based on their particular circumstances.

C. ICT for Youth Development

We recognize ICT as a global access point for youth. ICT can provide bases for information sharing. With ICT, youth have a medium that they can personalise to express themselves and be heard. Using ICT, youth can empower themselves to influence, impact and inspire other youth.

We recommend the following measures:

1. Youth be informed and trained to create employment initiatives through ICT. Best practice initiatives can be used to demonstrate how youth can create their own opportunities for development.

2. Youth use ICT to communicate and interact with other youth in order to help themselves improve in all aspects of their lives (Youth for Youth).
3. Youth be proactive and create their own business opportunities via the Internet – they should not only be provided with the necessary resources needed to launch any venture, but they need to be guided and supported to create sustainable ventures. Government, NGOs, and the private sector should encourage the setting up of Incubator Programmes to give young, newly skilled entrepreneurs an opportunity to develop their own ICT start-ups.
4. Youth should be trained not only to use but also to innovate using ICT so that ICT can be a great resource in fostering development.
5. Government adopt a long-term commitment towards providing ICT by developing and implementing clear policies and guidelines.
6. In an era where youth are better positioned to play leadership roles, especially in areas affected by ICT, governments should educate and equip older generation leaders to progressively pass on their leadership mantles to the younger generation through mentoring programmes.

Adopted at Melaka on this 24th day of June 2003.

The 4th Melaka International Youth Dialogue

28-30th June 2004

DECLARATION

Youth Participation in Decision-Making Processes

Preamble

We, the participants of the 4th Melaka International Youth Dialogue (MIYD), convened in Melaka from the 28th – 30th of June 2004 to discuss Youth Participation in Decision-Making Processes. Over 200 participants from 43 countries around the world attended this MIYD.

The focus of this dialogue was to empower youth to be active participants in decision-making process in issues that affect them, thus ensuring that they make informed decisions.

The dialogue was based on major issues affecting youth:

- Individual knowledge and skills development for effective youth participation in decision-making processes
- Overcoming barriers to effective youth participation in decision-making processes at community level
- Enhancing institutional capacity of youth organizations for effective youth participation in decision-making processes

After thorough evaluation through plenary sessions, workshops and side events we, the MIYD participants identified challenges in decision-making processes that youth face today.

We, as MIYD participants from around the world have put together this document with recommendations that we strongly feel need to be implemented for effective youth participation in decision-making processes.

Challenges and Recommendations

1. Barrier - Lack of Quality Education

Recommendations:

- Make education available to all.
- Further emphasis on character building.
- Improve education facilities.
- Employ committed and qualified staff in the education system.
- Change the education system from being objective to being rational, shifting emphasis from academic results to personal development.

Refer to Appendix

2. Barrier - Inadequate personal and social education

Recommendations:

- Provide parenting skills to youth (potential parents) and the family unit to allow a more holistic development for the young person.
- Make informal education available to all to ensure that a child is developed socially, emotionally, mentally, spiritual and physically.

3. Barrier - Negative attitude and perceptions

Recommendations:

- Ensure that youth participation is interesting, engaging and enjoyable.
- Create awareness of youth rights to encourage meaningful participation.

4. Barrier - Negative Peer Pressure

Recommendations:

- Educate youth through interactive methods concerning their rights to ensure that their opinions are not compromised by others.
- Create youth programs to sensitize youth to express their own views and not that of their peers.

5. Barrier - Poor dissemination of information

Recommendations:

- Make information available to all.
- Enhance youths own media channels through newsletters, radio and television programmes.

6. Barrier - Poor media coverage

Recommendations:

- Obtain Good Media coverage/exposure by educating the media on youth issues.
- Highlight the work of youth organizations within the community.

7. Barrier - Domination of adult influence incompatible with young people's wants/needs.

Recommendations:

- Create awareness groups that target all levels within society.
- Youths should actively and effectively be involved in designing the structures that govern, and issues that concern, us, specifically at organisational level.

8. Barrier - Economic and Social Class leading to Inequality & Discrimination in treatment

Recommendation:

- Encourage inclusive participation from all youth without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of her/his race, colour, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, orientation, property, disability, birth or other status.

9. Barrier- Gender Inequality

Recommendations:

- Encourage young women to realise and exercise their rights in male dominated societies. This will allow more women to become involved in decision making processes.
- Lobby the government to create equal opportunities for all young people.

10. Barrier - Poverty & Lack of Societal Support

Recommendations:

- Empower youth to become entrepreneurs.
- Government, NGOs, private sector working together to provide poverty eradication.
- Implement infrastructure that support the creation of job opportunities for young people and provide a means for young people to support themselves financially, gain independence and self-sufficiency.
- Government to offer support to community based programmes to alleviate poverty and create a better quality of life.

11. Barrier - Inadequate capacity to affect change

Recommendations:

- Governments of the world should ratify and implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UN Declaration on Human Rights and the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights; and to abolish or amend all laws and policies that are not in agreement with these treaties.
- Ensure that the civil liberties of all youth are protected, including the right to voice their concerns in all areas of public affairs and the right to public assembly.
- Look to youth organisations as partners in decision-making, and youth building – so that engagement may be constructive, not contentious.
- Youth must be encouraged to comply with appropriate protocol.

12. Barrier - Political Situation that prevent youth from active participation

Recommendations:

- Involve youth in Peace Making Processes at the national and international level.
- Create awareness on the objectives of political parties to ensure that youths make informed voting decisions.

13. Barrier - Inadequate organisational structures within youth organizations

Recommendations:

- Work to eliminate bureaucratic red tape and corruption, nepotism and cronyism from all levels of public service.

- Discourage the influence of donor implementation of programmes and decision making that hinder youth from participating effectively ie ensure organisations are principle-driven and NOT donor-driven.
- Work in participation with other organisations/private sector to increase access to more avenues for funding. Look at alternative means of raising funds, and minimising costs.
- Ensure youth participation is actively sought and maximised – and appreciated for the value and diversity of experience and opinions that it adds, as opposed to mere token participation.
- Organise regular and accessible trainings for leadership skills (e.g. public speaking trainings, gender sensitising workshops, motivational seminars) specifically for young people to encourage youth initiative and generate enthusiasm. Further, allow young people to take on leadership roles to build up capacities through experience.
- Enhance development capabilities through dialogue and trainings which will create motivation, build confidence and encourage risk taking amongst youth that will abolish the culture of fear and convince young people that they are capable, rational and responsible citizens and members of society, able and willing to affect social change for the better.

Conclusion

We young people have to take it upon ourselves to apply pressure at the right points to the right people at the right time. This is the only way we can have the recommendations of this dialogue implemented in our individual countries.

A step in the right direction would be to create youth forums for lobbying starting from community level rising to international levels.

The power lies within YOU to affect change. Go forth and use it!