



12TH MELAKA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DIALOGUE

“HEALTH, IT’S MY RIGHT!”

28-30 JUNE 2012

PUTERI RESORT, MELAKA, MALAYSIA

DECLARATION

1 PREAMBLE

- 1.1 We, the participants of the 12th Melaka International Youth Dialogue (MIYD) convened in Melaka from 28-30 June 2012 for an annual program organized by the World Assembly of Youth which brings together young people and youth leaders from around the world to discuss pertinent and topical youth issues.
- 1.2 By recognizing the human right to health and considering the statistics and research done, WAY has made it an obligation this year that the 12th MIYD will encompass health as an enduring concern faced by the youth with the theme: Health It’s My Right. This theme has been recognized to fulfill the predominant opinions of young people hence an interactive discussion on this topic will be of significance to form, educate, increase awareness and promote youth health in the different levels of society that we represent.
- 1.3 Therefore, with the above mentioned theme, all young people, youth leaders, government and organization officers gathered to call for action in areas such as assessing the problem; tackling the challenges; forming partnerships; focusing on the needs; structuring experience; and conveying the right message in order to ensure health as a fundamental right for the youth.
- 1.4 After thorough deliberations through paper presentations, plenary sessions, workshops and field trips, we the participants have put together this document with the following recommendations that we strongly feel ought to be implemented by all the stakeholders to ensure that the youth have the right to health.

The guiding principles for this declaration were based on the following objectives:

- To raise an informative youth generation on the current situation of youth health with anticipated behavior adaptation and consequently admission to decision making amongst youth;
- To foster youth action towards implementation of ideas brought forward by the young people for the benefit of their societies;
- To catalyze the speed of transformed paradigm towards health issues;
- To address the challenges and determinants of health faced by youth today;
- To promote equality of opportunities and facilities between young men and women;
- To formulate the psychological, social, and physical protective factors that are associated with better health;
- To determine the obligations of society to respect, protect and fulfill the youth right to health;
- To identify the role and the contribution of governments, national youth councils and other stakeholders towards improving and sustaining health as a right issue;
- To create and Improve the national, regional and international policies governing youth health for the present and future;
- To incorporate networking, collaboration and cooperation between governments, society and private sectors to address the issue of youth health;
- To build and strengthen the social capacity to provide comprehensive care and a supportive environment for all youth in all regions.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Public Sector

- 2.1.1 To establish non-discriminatory policies which emphasize the right to health for youth.

- 2.1.2 To ensure the implementation of international policies and guidelines with regards to youth health and rights.
- 2.1.3 To involve youth in the decision making processes and implementation with regards to health policies and programs.
- 2.1.4 To integrate and continuously revise health curriculums throughout the education system, in partnership with relevant stakeholders.
- 2.1.5 To create legislative frameworks to set health standards for products which affect the health of youth.
- 2.1.6 To allocate resources for the necessary means to support the relevant stakeholders that address issues regarding youth health.
- 2.1.7 To establish accessible health and research centers that should provide complimentary and confidential services for all youth.
- 2.1.8 To create an enabling environment for NGOs to carry out their services for the benefit of youth through instituting helplines and hotspots.
- 2.1.9 To refine health care services and facilities and motivate health care personnel to operate in a youth friendly way where needed.
- 2.1.10 To educate and train youth on health information and services available to them.
- 2.1.11 To promote transparency and accountability of the healthcare systems, personnel, and practices.
- 2.1.12 To provide vaccinations and monitor the coverage of immunization among the youth.
- 2.1.13 To establish agencies that monitor the quality and content of medicinal and food products.
- 2.1.14 To acknowledge that both paternity and maternity leave are equal in rights for both parents.

2.2 International, Regional and National NGOs

- 2.2.1 To establish peer-to-peer and participatory learning systems aimed at meeting health needs of the youth.
- 2.2.2 To diversify the projects and carry out continuous events that will help spread awareness and address the need for youth to be involved in health issues.
- 2.2.3 To involve more youth and youth organizations in community service and volunteering through projects related to healthcare.
- 2.2.4 To encourage youth organizations to collaborate in order to improve their respective capacities.

- 2.2.5 To foster collaboration and strengthen the efforts of both the public and private sectors for improving youth health.
- 2.2.6 To provide and share resources with relevant organizations that integrate health programs in their agenda for the benefit of youth.
- 2.2.7 To utilize capacity building in order to fight stigma and discriminatory practices among the youth, for the youth.
- 2.2.8 To recognize and communicate success stories in order to impress upon the youth the consequences and challenges of living unhealthily.
- 2.2.9 To directly involve the media in programs related to health issues in order to instantly communicate the relevant information.

2.3 Media

- 2.3.1 To establish social network platforms where the youth can find information and effectively communicate ideas on health challenges and rights.
- 2.3.2 To publish reliable and up-to-date information on health issues and services related to the needs of the youth.
- 2.3.3 To flood all avenues of media with positive messages which promote general well-being of the youth.
- 2.3.4 To encourage investigative and critical journalism that addresses the factors and issues which directly and indirectly affect youth health.
- 2.3.5 To assist in marketing healthy products according to the international standards, through free advertising, articles, business columns and air time.
- 2.3.6 To be more creative in grabbing the attention of the youth in order to be engaged in health issues.
- 2.3.7 To involve youth and youth organizations in talk, roundtable, drama and music shows related to youth health issues

2.4 Private sector

- 2.4.1 To provide facilities and services to employees within company premises and encourage a healthy and balanced work-life.
- 2.4.2 To offer health insurance to the employees and their families.
- 2.4.3 To discourage practices of discrimination on the basis of health status and promote a working environment that supports equality.
- 2.4.4 To be supportive of NGOs targeting health programs for the youth and assist in implementing the outcomes.

- 2.4.5 To promote social capitalism by establishing access to healthcare services for the youth in need.
- 2.4.6 To integrate telecommuting into the working environment so the youth can work at their convenience.
- 2.4.7 To encourage companies to provide programs for youth health as part of their corporate social responsibility (CSR) strategies.

2.5 Society

- 2.5.1 To change the negative mindset and provide necessary support to the youth with health-related issues.
- 2.5.2 To acknowledge the physical, mental, and social limitations on health in order to provide timely and effective services.
- 2.5.3 To recognize that youth have the right to make informed decisions regarding their health, lifestyle, and well-being.
- 2.5.4 To define and eradicate unhealthy practices within the communities irrespective of culture, norms and traditions.
- 2.5.5 To showcase and reward success stories to integrate behavioral change and build informed and empowered youth.
- 2.5.6 To provide first aid courses to all members of community and keep them up-to-date on the current health issues and protocols on epidemics.

2.6 Education

- 2.6.1 To recognize the importance and need to equip youth with the right knowledge and skills to tackle health-related issues.
- 2.6.2 To engage the existing professionals working on youth health in iterative training.
- 2.6.3 To emphasize the importance of physical education for a better and healthy lifestyle of the youth.
- 2.6.4 To have competent and well-equipped health professionals that can address current health issues and manage crisis situations.
- 2.6.5 To empower out-of-school youth with the necessary training in order to build their capacities.
- 2.6.6 To promote alcohol, drug and tobacco free lifestyle.
- 2.6.7 To integrate comprehensive sexuality education to empower young people to make informed choices.

2.6.8 To establish curriculum of medical and health related educational institutions to give special concern to local and international youth health issues.

3 GENERAL COMMENTS

3.1 To stimulate all stakeholders to strengthen their partnership for the enhancement of youth health services and rights.

3.2 To generate opportunities that would allow the youth to participate, create, develop and stand for rights to health.

3.3 To strengthen the social capacities between the private and public sector for the establishment of youth health rights in all regions.

3.4 To encourage collaboration among the stakeholders in order to provide easy access to quality health for youth.

4 CONCLUSION

We, the participants of the 12th MIYD, realize and recognize the importance of prioritizing the health of youth worldwide as a fundamental right. We seek to generate youth dialogues to advocate for legislations, policies and programs at all levels of society in order to ensure a positive and healthy lifestyle for youth globally.

Appendix

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

Albania	Malaysia
Azerbaijan	Maldives
Bangladesh	Namibia
Botswana	Nigeria
Brunei Darussalam	Oman
China	Pakistan
Denmark	Palestine
Egypt	Philippines
Germany	Sri Lanka
Ghana	Sudan
Hong Kong	Thailand
India	Trinidad and Tobago
Indonesia	Tunisia
Iran	Uganda
Italy	United Arab Emirates
Kenya	United Kingdom
Laos	United States of America
Libya	Yemen
	Vietnam