



Youth of the World

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World Youth Forum

August 10th – 15th, Bucharest, Romania

Having met in Bucharest on the occasion of the World Youth Day at the initiative of Pro-Youth Romania, the participants in the World Youth Forum, have debated on various themes specific to youth policies.

The discussions at the World Youth Forum crystallized around the following subjects: education, poverty, youth representation, youth participation in decision making, fundamental rights and obligations of young people, the role of youth in the consolidation of civil society, in the reduction of crime and substance abuse, the role of the younger generation in the resolution of global conflicts caused by the lack of tolerance and socio-cultural differences, as well as the active involvement in fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals set forth by the United Nations.

After debating on the issues mentioned above, the representatives of youth from all over the world have agreed upon the following:



World Youth Declaration
August 15th, Bucharest, Romania

1. Young people around the world must get actively involved in decision making both at the local, national and most importantly at the international level. Young people are in fact the future of society and have to convince authorities that they should be considered active partners in constructing this future. (Annex 1)
2. Young persons must be considered not as problems to be administered, but as unlimited resources, with an immense potential for innovation and progress. These young persons are part of the society they live in with both rights and obligations. (Annex 2)
3. In order to create the proper environment for sharing information and experience among young people, a global communication platform called Youth of the World should be created. Pro Youth has assumed the role of taking the first step in this project by creating the on-line platform that will aid youth all over the world to communicate better. In the meantime, through the General Secretariat, suggestions for building a viable and enduring network of youth will be collected and debated. (Annex 3)
4. In order to develop consistent youth policies, a set of indicators for measuring efficiency should be established. These indicators should be used in all countries and should be correlated with the Millennium Development Goals. (Annex 4)
5. Also, youth should assume an active role in promoting the Millennium Development Goals, proposing at the same time concrete local solutions for their implementation. In the context of globalization, the MDG are the key to establishing priorities so that youth will have a better, safer future. (Annex 5)
6. The participants have also concluded on the importance of youth involvement. The reasons why youth would get involved at both the civic and politic level are that such an involvement would represent a route for their personal development, a first step in assuming responsibilities and becoming mature. (Annex 6)
7. Young people are and will be an important segment of the population, both in terms of numbers and as a **category that has age-specific aspirations, values and problems**. This is the part where the government should get involved in developing those policies that would concomitantly allow and support the harmonious development of the youth, so that they would reach maturity as healthy and socially integrated persons. (Annex 7)

August 15th, Bucharest, Romania

Annex 1

Decision-making youth involvement

1. Young people around the world must get actively involved in decision making both at the local, national and most importantly at the international level. Young people are in fact the future of society and have to convince authorities that they should be considered active partners in constructing this future.
2. In order to establish a plan to stimulate youth involvement in decision making, one first step would be that of identifying the stakeholders involved in decision making as well as those that can influence these decisions. Usually, the stakeholders involved in the process are: young persons, parents, formal and informal leaders, local, national and international authorities, the private sector, the academia, local and international NGO's.
3. Considering the nature of the decision, youth must contact those stakeholders that could make it possible for young people to participate in decision-making. Youth participation may be passive through the prism of the benefits that various measures can bring or may be take the form of active mechanisms conducted by NGOs through letters, legislative drafts, public letters, press releases, discussion forums, public debates, conferences, studies, research reports and cooperation with international organizations (the UN, the EU)
4. One of the paths is that of building a strong, credible NGO that will act as a (national or international) voice of the youth that cannot be ignored by authorities.
5. Knowing the barriers to youth participation in decision-making is one of the key elements to avoiding failure and maximizing desired results. Knowing these barriers, understanding them and eliminating them is in fact the great challenge of the young generation. These barriers are: old mentality, corruption, lack of objectives, lack of information, bureaucracy, social differences, religion, poor legislation, ignorance, and lack of funding, governmental policy, lack of experience, realism and project feasibility.

Annex 2

Rights and obligations of the youth

Young persons must be considered not as problems to be administered, but as unlimited resources, with an immense potential for innovation and progress. These young persons are part of the society they live in with both rights and obligations. Promoting youth involvement should be made responsibly, in the sense of understanding and assuming both rights and obligations.

In any action they undertake, young people must demand the rights that they are entitled to. These have been identified as:

- Constitutional rights
- The right to assemble
- Freedom of expression
- Right to work
- Security
- Access to public funding
- The right to be promoted
- The right to get education

As rights give birth to obligations, it is important that when youth understands that it has both rights and obligations:

- Protecting the environment
- Responsibility for actions taken
- Respecting the law
- Contributing to the development of the private sector
- Contributing to social and cultural development
- Providing correct and objective information to young people
- Public responsibility
- To prevent abuses of any kind

To conclude, it is important that young people are aware of their rights and obligations in order to maintain a constant verticality and transparency needed in order to undertake constructive action for youth.



Annex 3

Youth of the World - Network

1. In order to create the proper environment for sharing information and experience among young people, a global communication platform called Youth of the World should be created. Pro Youth has assumed the role of taking the first step in this project by creating the on-line platform that will aid youth all over the world to communicate better. In the meantime, through the General Secretariat, suggestions for building a viable and enduring network of youth will be collected and debated.

2. **YW** (Youth of the World) is intended to be the next level in global cooperation between the young members of civil society. Being based on information technology and acting at a global level, YW should be able to accomplish tasks that until now were difficult to approach (from both financial and human resource point of view).

3. YW will have two components: the first one will be an Internet portal that gathers some of the most NGO-used services and a few unique ones under the same umbrella - the YW portal - which will also serve as main communication platform between the various affiliates to YW, and a second component, which is designed to be the linkage NGO in this framework, the YW Network.

4. The main role of the YW Network will be facilitating communication and cooperation between young persons across the world, so that together, youth will succeed in implementing viable, realistic and durable youth policies in their respective countries, regions or globally. The main event, which will gather all YW Network NGO's representatives, the World Youth Forum, is intended to lay out the basis of the YW network, raise awareness of the importance of communication and unity as well as to establish a set of commonly agreed upon methods, patterns of action and moral stands that will govern the actions that Youth of the World will undertake in pursuing its goal of promoting and implementing no-nonsense, constructive and enduring youth policies.

Annex 4

Indicators for measuring the efficiency of youth policies

In order to develop consistent youth policies, a set of indicators for measuring efficiency should be established. These indicators should be used in all countries and should be correlated with the Millennium Development Goals.

Below we offer a framework that may be taken as a model for measuring the efficiency of youth policies:

<i>Type</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>What is measured</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Instrument</i>
INDICATORS OF SUBSTANCE	Employee training	Employee training level in accordance to the tasks to be accomplished	Qualificative	Relevant experience in the field
	Political involvement	Role of governmental authorities	Declarations, Drafted documents	Monitoring
	Information of NGOs	The degree of NGO information with respect to the politics to be implemented	Quantitative and Qualitative percentages	Surveys
	Information of Youth	The degree of youth information with respect to the politics to be implemented	Quantitative and Qualitative percentages	Surveys
INDICATORS OF FORM	Youth policy coherence	Policy coherence	-number of social actors involved -clear distribution of tasks - degree of communication between actors	Analysis



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<i>Content indicators</i>	<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Efficiency</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Instrument</i>
DEMOGRAPHIC	Birth rate	Number of births for 1000 inhabitants	Birth rate	Statistics
	Fertility	Number of children for one family	Fertility rate	Statistics
	Migration	-internal migration -external migration	Migration rate	Statistics
	Marriage	Young persons that choose not to get married	Percentage	Statistics
	Potential	The valuing of the potential of youth	Percentage	Statistics
EDUCATION	School Drop-out	Number of young people with no access to education	drop-out rate	Statistics
	Training	Total number of young persons enrolled in education	gross coverage rate for primary and secondary education	Statistics
	Beneficiary perception of the education	Perception of youth on the quality of education	Percentage	Surveys
	Qualification	Youth inclusion on the labor market on the field they have been trained on	Percentage	Statistics
	Under-qualification	Number of young persons working below their qualification	Percentage	Statistics
	Graduate competency	Correlation between college training and labor market dynamics	Percentage	Employer surveys
	Logistics	Logistics in schools and universities	Percentage	Reports
	Non-formal education	Short term trainings	Number	Reports
LABOR MARKET	Unemployment	Number of unemployed young persons	Unemployment rate	Statistics
	Positions	Number of young		Statistics



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		people in management positions	Percentage	
	Workplace	Number of young persons working in the place of residence	Percentage of youth working in the place of residence	Statistics
	Remuneration	Medium income of youth compared to medium income	Income	Statistics
	Legal employment	Number of young persons working illegally	Percentage	Statistics/Surveys
	Entrepreneurship	Number of young persons having their own enterprise	Percentage	Statistics
STANDARD OF LIVING	Income level	The degree to which income covers basic needs	Degree	Surveys
HEALTH	General health	General perception of youth on their health	Percentage	Surveys
	Medical care	The quality of medical care	Percentage-degrees	Surveys
	Number of diseases	The existence of diseases with a high rate among youth (Tuberculosis, STD, AIDS etc.)	Rate of illness	- Statistics - Monitoring
	Medical education	The degree to which young people are aware of minimum hygiene	Degree	Surveys
	Contraception	Knowing and applying some measures to avoid undesired pregnancies	Degree	Surveys
	Abortions	Number of abortions among youth	Abortion rate	Statistics



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DRUG ABUSE	Consumption	Number of young persons using drugs	Numbers	Studies-reports
	Education	Programs preventing drug abuse	Number	Monitoring
	Distribution	Distribution Networks	Number	Studies-reports
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY	Crime	Crime rate among young people on different tiers (violent, property, sex, drug-related)	Number	Statistics
	Damage caused	Material damage resulting from juvenile delinquency	Value	Reports
	Victims	Number of victims of crime	Number	Monitoring
	Suicide	Number of suicides among youth	Number	Monitoring
LEISURE TIME	Leisure time	The offer of leisure time activities available to youth	Number	Monitoring
	Sport activities	Local and national competitions	Number	Monitoring
	Mass media dependency	Exaggerated mass-media consumption as main leisure time activity	Number	Surveys
	Infrastructure	The existence and adequate outfitting of sport arenas for	Number	Statistics



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		youth		
	Cultural consumption	Leisure time allotted to cultural consumption	Hours	Surveys
YOUTH INVOLVEMENT	NGO involvement	Number of young people involved in volunteering	Percentage	Surveys
	Involvement in politics	Number of young persons who are members of a political party	Percentage	Surveys
	Level of trust in institutions	Degree of trust that youth grants to institutions	Degree	Surveys
	Level of trust in politicians	Degree of trust that youth grants to politicians	Degree	Surveys
	Decision making	Real involvement of youth in decision making	Degree	Surveys
	Youth Associative Structures Performance	Successful projects implemented by Youth Associative Structures	Number	Monitoring
QUALITY OF LIFE	General perception	Youth perception on the quality of their life	Degree	Surveys
	Personal security	Youth perception on their personal safety	Degree	Surveys
	Social relationships	General perception of youth on social	Degree	Surveys



Youth of the World

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		relationships (family, friends)		
	Standard of living	General perception of youth on their standard of living	Degree	Surveys
	Housing	Youth access to housing	Percentage	Statistics
	Financial independence	Degree of youth financial independence	Degree	Surveys



Annex 5

Youth and the Millennium Development Goals

1. Youth should assume an active role in promoting the Millennium Development Goals, proposing at the same time concrete local solutions for their implementation. In the context of globalization, the MDG are the key to establishing priorities so that youth will have a better, safer future.
2. We have concurred that it is very important to raise awareness of the Millennium Development Goals in every country, so that young people will get actively involved in promoting their fulfillment. Youth must not limit their actions to promoting the eight goals, but should take concrete steps by getting actively involved in devising solutions and offering support for their implementation.
3. Also, we recommend setting up a department (or an organization) that will monitor for every country the level of MDG implementation, so as to see to which extent the measures proposed have good results in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.
4. Next, youth should initiate a dialogue with central authorities in every country in order to establish partnerships aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The actions that will be implemented in every country will have a global effect in the present and will assure a better future for the new generation.



Annex 6

Stimulating youth for civic and political involvement

The participants have also concluded on the importance of youth involvement. The reasons why youth would get involved at both the civic and politic level are that such an involvement would represent a route for their personal development, a first step in assuming responsibilities and becoming mature. These reasons are:

1. Gaining a unique experience
2. Accessing information and knowledge
3. Gaining high moral values
4. Gaining the ability to find the proper solutions
5. Raising the awareness of responsibility
6. Gaining the sentiment of social usefulness
7. Training to build up a career
8. The satisfaction of a job well done
9. Getting involved in actions that would aid other people
10. Raising trust in one's own powers

The participants in the World Youth Forum recommend that concrete actions be taken so as to get more young persons involved both in the civic and the politic sphere.

Annex 7

Values of youth

1. Young people are and will be an important segment of the population, both numerically and as a category that has aspirations, values and problems of their specific age. This is the part where the state should get involved in developing that policy that concomitantly allows and supports the harmonious development of the young, so that they can reach maturity as a healthy and socially integrated person.
2. The double posture of the young people in the present context of transition makes their situation even more difficult for a simple reason: biologically speaking it is difficult enough to adapt to an environment, but when the environment is in perpetual change we deal with a greater problem – adapting to something that changes.
3. At the same time, society cannot afford to absolutely suppress the potential of youth, this desire to change, to innovate. It would be a waste for any society to stop these tendencies of youth, it would mean standing in the way of creativity, of the technological process and social dynamics determined by the behavior of the youth.
4. In this context the values that young people follow are:
 1. the values expressed in the MDG
 2. cooperation
 3. equality
 4. respect for diversity
 5. accessibility
 6. tolerance
 7. civic and politic involvement
 8. correct information
 9. honesty
 10. the fight against youth passivity
 11. the fight against drug abuse
 12. the fight against discrimination
 13. trust
 14. peace
 15. increasing participation (cooperation, solidarity, friendship)
 16. liberty
 17. promoting volunteering
 18. openness towards progress and evolution

To conclude, it is necessary to accomplish a convergence between the personal needs of the youth and the general social needs, especially because most of the changes are the result of the social dynamics even characterized by irreversibility.