

From Mollina to Medellín

A Brief Report of ICMYO Collaboration 2005-2006

Introduction:

The International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations began in 2004 as an initiative of the major global youth NGOs and regional youth platforms to strengthen and develop global and regional youth cooperation.

The first ICMYO meeting took place in Geneva from 11 to 13 July, 2004 with 20 regional platforms and international youth NGOs present. ICMYO I developed strategies to outreach to other potential partners, reflected on ways to strengthen regional cooperation and drafted a set of principles and goals of global cooperation. In relation to the global youth processes, ICMYO I focused especially on the development of the Youth Consultative Group of the Youth Employment Network and the Youth Development and Peace Network of the World Bank. At the end of the meeting, it was agreed to continue the ICMYO process into the future by organizing informal meetings during the global youth events and by holding a second ICMYO in July of 2005.

ICMYO II took place from 10-12 July, 2005 in Mollina, Spain. During ICMYO II, the taskforce was asked to continue its work, adding an additional member. The event reviewed the different major youth processes and developed a lobby paper to help the ICMYO organizations lobby governments at the UN General Assembly's review of the World Programme of Action for Youth.

ICMYO III will take place in Medellín, Colombia with the aim to review the present global youth processes in light of the debates during the 2005 UN General Assembly and the on-going process of UN Reform.

UN General Assembly 10 Year Review of the WPAY

In 2005, the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly held two plenary sessions on October 6th to evaluate the progress made in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY). Throughout the whole week, several ICMYO organizations were actively present in New York to lobby the governments on the points developed at ICMYO II. ICMYO organizations, took an active role in the interactive roundtable on October 5th and in several workshops and side events during the week. With the support of several governments and youth delegates, many of the points in the ICMYO Lobby Paper were included in the final outcome documents. For more information, including web casts of the events, visit: www.un.org/youth.

Commission for Social Development

From 8 to 17 February, 2006, the UN Commission for Social Development met at the UN Headquarters in New York with the goal to "Review of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)". In addition to the priority theme, the session included review of relevant UN plans and programs of action pertaining to the situation of social groups including disabled persons, youth (WPAY), ageing, and the family. Several ICMYO organizations were present at the Commission. The 2007 session of the Commission will focus on "Promoting full employment and decent work for all." For more information, please visit: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/>.

ECOSOC High Level Segment

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) organized its 2006 High Level Segment from the 3rd to the 5th of July in Geneva on the theme of "Creating

an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development.” ICMYO organizations participated in the segment, raising the importance to issues around youth employment.

Youth Employment Network

In 2005 and 2006 the UN-ILO-World Bank Youth Employment Network continued to look at the issues of youth employment. Since 2003, the Youth Consultative Group (YCG), which is made up of thirteen ICMYO organizations has been providing input into the YEN process. Several ICMYO members organized a workshop on behalf of the YCG during the Civil Society Forum of the High Level Segment of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) (29-30 June). The event highlighted some of the best practices of youth employment policies. More information on the YEN and the YCG can be found at www.ilo.org/yen.

Youth Development and Peace Network

From June 18-20, 2006, the YDP Steering Committee met in Marseille, France for the annual face-to-face meeting. The main discussions of the meeting focused on:

- The concrete implementation of the GTZ-funded Trust Fund to increase capacity building among youth organizations.
- The creation of a YDP-Africa chapter for the YDP Network, as a response expressed by youth and World Bank colleagues from the region.
- The YDP activities in relation to the launch of the World Development Report at the international and country levels.
- The future of the YDP network, including the next YDP conference.

The YDP Steering Committee is made up of 8 organizations, including 4 ICMYO

members representing the global youth organizations and regional youth platforms.

For more information on the YDP Network, visit www.ydpnetwork.org.

Expert Group Meeting on Youth Development Indicators

From 12 to 14 December 2005, the United Nations Programme on Youth organized the Expert Group Meeting on Youth Development Indicators at the UN Headquarters in New York. The event brought together representatives of youth organizations, United Nations Agencies, and intergovernmental organizations, academia, and policy advisers to provide inputs on a draft set of indicators that could monitor and measure youth development over time. Two ICMYO organizations represented youth NGOs during the meeting.

World Development Report 2007.

The 2007 World Development Report focused on youth with the theme: Development and the Next Generation. In 2005 and 2006 ICMYO members participated in the many events related to the report through the YDP Steering Committee. Although, the focus on youth and development was welcomed by most ICMYO members, the report failed to adequately address many of the concerns raised by youth NGOs, especially in relation to the importance of non-formal education. ICMYO organizations were invited to participate and critique the report in events that launched the report in Geneva and Brussels.

For more information on the World Development Report 2007, visit: www.worldbank.org/wdr2007.

UNESCO Joint Programmatic Commission (JPC) NGO - UNESCO “Youth
During the last ICMYO meeting in Molina, the organizations agreed to support the process of the creation of a JPC on Youth

at UNESCO. In December, 2005 during, the International conference of NGOs, the “informal youth group” was transformed into the JPC. Two ICMYO organizations are coordinating the JPC with the involvement of many other members.

The JPC is settled to serve as an interface between UNESCO secretariat (Youth Section) and Youth NGOs with official relations with UNESCO). During the year, the Commission offered many opportunities for Youth NGOs to speak in front of member states and other NGOs; one of the members of the JPC is part of the drafting committee of the sexennial report of UNESCO; the JPC took actively part at the Youth week of UNESCO and also the one on the Non Formal Education. In December, during the NGO day, the JPC will issue the annual report.

Working Group for the Creation of the World Youth Forum Against Hunger and Poverty

In October, six ICMYO organizations met at the headquarters of FAO in Rome to launch discuss the youth policies of the FAO and the efforts to create the World Youth Forum Against Hunger and Poverty. The reflections of the group were formally shared by MIJARC during the FAO Committee on World Food Security. The group is expected to continue its work efforts in 2007.

NGO Committees on Youth

ICMYO organizations continued to take leadership roles in the two CONGO NGO Committees on Youth in Geneva and New York. The two committees regularly organize events in relation to youth issues. A continued challenge for all ICMYO organizations is how to develop a regular and active presence at the main UN centers, especially in New York.

For more information, visit:
www.ngocongo.org.

Welcome to the New UN Youth Focal Point

Welcome to Ms. Patience Stevens, the new UN Youth Focal Point. ICMYO organizations welcome her to her new post and look forward to working with her in the coming years.

Alliance of Civilizations

ICMYO organizations have been consulting with the High Level Group of the Alliance of Civilizations which has included youth as one of its priority areas. The final report of the Alliance and summary of research relating to youth can be found at www.unaoc.org.

Taskforce

Since ICMYO II, the taskforce has met and communicated regularly to try to coordinate the different advocacy efforts and to facilitate communication on these processes, with the member organizations. The taskforce is presently made up of the European Youth Forum, the International Movement of Catholic Students- Pax Romana, the World Alliance of YMCAs and the World Organization of the Scout Movement.



Principles and Goals of Global Cooperation

Developed at ICMYO I

ICMYO is based upon the following principles and goals for global youth cooperation, and it proposed some essential means to achieve them.

Goals of Global Youth Cooperation

Why do our organisations believe in cooperating and with which purpose?

- Exchange information and best practices
- To become stronger and overcome individual limitations (financial, geographic...)
- To influence political processes and decisions of international institutions working/impacting youth issues
- To work together in our common thematic priorities
- Increase our access to international institutions working/impacting on youth issues
- Share information about ongoing global youth issues and processes

ICMYO Organizations 2005-2006

- ASA - Asian Students Association
- AIESEC - International Association of Student of Economics and Commerce
- AYC - Asian Youth Council
- AYU - Arab Youth Union
- ICFTU - International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
- IFLRY - International Federation of Liberal Youth
- IFM/SEI - International Falcon Movement - Socialist Educational International
- IFMSA - International Federation of Medical Students' Associations
- IFRC - International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- IMCS - International Movement of Catholic Students (Pax Romana)
- IUSY - International Union of Socialist Youth
- IYCS - International Young Catholic Students
- IYDU - International Young Democratic Union
- FLAJ - Foro Latinoamericano de Juventud/Latin American Youth Forum
- PYC - Pacific Youth Council
- MIJARC - International Movement of Catholic Rural and Agricultural Youth
- RAJ/AYN - Réseau Africain de la Jeunesse/African Youth Network
- UPJ/PYU - Union Panafricaine de la Jeunesse/Pan-African Youth Union
- WAGGGS - World Association of Girl Guides & Girl Scouts
- WFDY - World Federation of Democratic Youth
- WOSM - World Organization of Scout Movement
- WSCF - World Student Christian Federation
- YDC - Youth for Development and Cooperation
- YFJ - European Youth Forum
- YMCA - World Alliance of YMCAs
- YWCA - World Young Women's Christian Association

Principles for Global Cooperation

With which youth organisations should we engage in political dialogue/processes?

- Youth NGOs (35 years old as maximum age reference for representatives)
- Democratic processes
- Membership based youth organisations (assuring a link between the local, the national, the regional and the global levels)
- Accountability and transparency
- Legitimacy and credibility
- Constructive, positive common goals
- Effectiveness and efficiency impacts
- Sustainability of the global cooperation
- Respect of cultural and ideological diversity and Human Rights

How can we cooperate globally?

- Have an ICMYO every year
- Maintain communication by email in between meetings
- Request International Institutions to invite all our organisations to global consultation processes on youth
- Keep ICMYO as an informal coordination space for the moment