

**Mr. José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs,
Executive Director of the ILO Employment Sector
Member of the Steering Committee
Youth Employment Network**

Dear Mr. Salazar,

We are writing you on behalf of the Youth Consultative Group (YCG) of the Youth Employment Network (YEN).

This letter is the result of a consultation among the members of the YCG which was held during the ICMYO (International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations)¹ held in Geneva 27-30 June 2007. As you may know, members of the YCG were nominated by ICMYO. The YEN process was discussed as a specific agenda item of this meeting. During this meeting the YEN Secretariat highlighted recent YEN activities and informed us that new Terms of Reference for the Secretariat as well as efforts to reconfigure the YEN's governance structure (necessitated by the disbanding of the Kofi Annan's High Level Panel in December 2006) were currently under preparation.

Following this a discussion was held amongst YCG members on its engagement with the YEN and in this regard, we would like to communicate with you on the following outcomes of our deliberations:

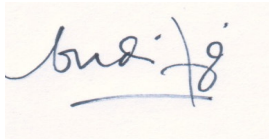
1. The YCG, on behalf of the wider pool of ICMYO member organisations views its engagement with YEN as a useful and fruitful collaboration. Guided by its existing Terms of Reference (see Annex 1), the members of YCG and its network have made the issue of youth participation in the field of youth employment one of our main global priorities. Since 2004 we have worked to realise two main objectives:
 - a. At the global political level, the YCG has worked to represent the concerns of young people on the functioning and strategic priorities of the YEN and promote the issue of youth employment through its networks and to youth in general in multiple fora.
 - b. At the national level it has acted as a catalyst and resource to support youth participation in process of developing and implementing NAPs, both in the YEN Lead Countries and beyond.
2. At the global level the YCG has served as an advisory body to the YEN partnership, monitoring the participation of youth organisations within the YEN processes such that youth perspectives could be sufficiently integrated into its policies and programmes. This engagement has taken place both through the YEN Secretariat on a day-to-day basis and through direct and equal interaction with former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's High-Level Panel both during their annual meetings and also on an ad hoc basis. Furthermore we have been active advocates for youth employment at the global level including advocacy through major global forums such as the UN General Assembly, ECOSOC and regional structures like the UN ESCAP on the Committee on the Emerging issues.
3. At the country level the YCG has been active in mobilising its members and other national and grassroots youth organisations through providing practical advice, tools and lobbying support to help assist the effective and substantive participation of youth in formulation and implementation of National Action Plans on youth employment (for example in Egypt and

¹ ICMYO is network of 26 membership-based, democratic, representative and accountable International Youth NGOs (INGYOs) and Regional Youth Platforms (RYPs). The main objectives of the ICMYO are the strengthening of the cooperation among youth organisations at regional and global levels and the coordination of political inputs to global youth policy as e.g. the Youth Employment Network (YEN), the World Bank Youth Dialogue and the "World Programme for Youth to the year 2000 and Beyond" evaluation process (WPAY).

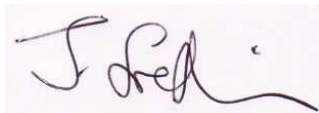
- Indonesia). We are concerned that all partners should be involved in drawing up National Action Plans on an equal footing; in our experience this has not always been the case. We believe it is vital that governments, trade unions, youth organisations and employers representatives are all involved.
4. The YCG has also been taking a pro-active role in promoting the issue of employment within our own organisations and activities. A range of YCG member organisations including YMCA, YWCA, the Scouts, Pax Romana, and the European Youth Forum have worked with the YEN to promote employment issues to their members and the communities in which they operate. A recent example of this is a series of capacity building workshops on youth employment run by the Scouts in partnership with the YEN Secretariat during the World Scout Jamboree in the UK in August 2007.
 5. The publication of *Joining Forces with Young People: A Practical Guide to Collaboration for Youth Employment*, prepared by the YCG in partnership with the YEN Secretariat is another expression of the importance of the engagement and involvement of youth organisations in employment issues. In this guide, the YCG presents the concrete experiences of its members, both examples of good practice as well as some challenges. We plan to launch this guide very soon, probably during the UN General Assembly in autumn 2007.
 6. The YCG is convinced that this partnership is important and therefore is committed to continuing it. However, given the present work underway to prepare new Terms of Reference for YEN Secretariat and efforts to revisit the overall governance structure of the YEN we would like to receive some information on both the future directions of the Network, its management and its Secretariat so that we can determine how to best continue our work, if so desired by the YEN, and agree on the nature and mechanisms for future engagement with the YEN. Clarification of the role of the YCG is especially important in view of the fact that there is no longer a High Level Panel.
 7. We would welcome the opportunity of a meeting between the YCG and the Steering Committee of YEN, where we can discuss these issues further, and seek to define a mutually beneficial partnership for the foreseeable future.

We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you in advance.

Yours Sincerely



Budi Tjahjono
Programme Coordinator of Pax Romana
Rapporteur of the YCG, 2004-2006



Jenny Fretheim
Executive Secretary, World Alliance of YMCAs
Member of ICMYO Taskforce



Bettina Schwarzmayr,
General Secretary, European Youth Forum
Member of the ICMYO Task Force

On behalf of Youth Consultative Group to Youth Employment Network.

Cc:
Secretariat of Youth Employment Network

Annex 1. Terms of Reference of Youth Consultative Group to Youth Employment Network

1. YEN Youth Consultative Group

The Secretary-General's UN/ILO/World Bank Youth Employment Network (YEN) sets up a Youth Consultative Group in accordance with the conclusions of the 2nd meeting of the YEN High Level Panel Meeting (Geneva 2003).

2. Composition

The YEN Youth Consultative Group, holding YEN partner status, will consist of 13 (see annex a.) organisations out of a pool of 30 (see annex b.). These partners are large membership-based, international or regional youth organisations with extensive constituencies and a global reach. The composition of the YCG should aim to reflect the global spread and representativity of youth organisations and include student organisations, political groupings, regional youth platforms and young representatives of worker and employer organisations. In order to ensure good representation of all regions of the world, the YCG member organisations have the mandate to review the composition of the pool. The YCG will strive to have a balance within the group between developed and developing countries as well as relating to gender.

3. Membership Criteria

The Youth Organisations should meet the following criteria:

- Democratic processes
- Membership based youth organisation (assuring a link between the local, the national, the regional and the global levels)
- Be accountable and transparent in their activities and programmes at the various levels
- Legitimacy and credibility
- Have constructive, positive common goals in relation to youth employment
- Effectiveness and efficiency impacts
- Be committed to a sustainable global cooperation in relation to youth issues
- Respect of cultural and ideological diversity and human rights
- The current pool of YCG member organisations stands at 30. The YCG in consultation with the YEN Secretariat will set up a formal procedure to include other youth organisations, as and when they apply and are deemed eligible in accordance with the criteria stipulated under point 3 above.

4. The aims of the YCG shall be as follows:

- At the global political level, the YCG will work to represent the concerns of young people on the function and strategic priorities of the YEN through interaction with High Level Panellists (HLP) and other structures of the YEN.
- At the national level, YCG will act as a catalyst and resource to support youth participation in the development, implementation and review of National Action Plans (NAPs) in the YEN Lead Countries and beyond.

5. The tasks of the YCG members shall be as follows:

- To act as an advisory body to the YEN with regard to monitoring the participation of youth organisations within the YEN processes and sufficiently integrating the youth perspective into its policies, programmes and the YEN's research activities,
- To work for the full participation of youth organisations in youth employment policy and programme formulation and implementation at all levels, international, regional, national and local.
- To represent and advocate for the issue of youth employment and the YEN amongst other civil society organisations, platforms, and activities as well as in other linked United Nations fora and initiatives, such as the UN World Programme of Action on Youth and the World Bank's Youth, Development and Peace Network, and the ILOs International Labour Conference.

- To mobilise their constituents to support the work of the YEN at the international, regional and country level e.g. help in the development, implementation and review of NAPs on youth employment.
- To assist in identifying other representative and active youth organisations at the national and grassroots level to contribute the youth perspective to the NAP processes currently under development and implementation, both in YEN Lead Countries and other countries.
- To support both their constituents and other youth groups at the national and grassroots levels by providing practical advice, tools and advocacy support to help capacity build and raise awareness amongst these organisations to assist their effective and substantive participation of youth in the NAP processes.
- To establish and maintain a comprehensive database of international, regional, national and grassroots youth organisations working on the issue of youth employment.

6. Rapporteur

One of the 13 members of the YCG will be named as the Rapporteur for the group. This Rapporteur will be elected each year by the YCG².

The Rapporteur's role is as follows:

- She/He will act as the direct liaison between the HLP - YCG, the YEN Secretariat and the Core Agencies and will report on the YCG's activities on a regular basis.³
- Facilitate the flow of information on YEN activities to the YCG members
- Co-ordinate the collection of information and inputs from YCG members to various requests by the YEN Secretariat and/or the HLP
- Help with the interpretation of communications through the giving of initial reactions and advice to the YCG
- Preparing agendas for the YCG for meetings and activities

7. Role of the YEN Secretariat

- The Secretariat will facilitate the implementation of the YCG tasks by providing timely information and technical support to the YCG
- The Secretariat will also strive to secure resources for the activities and programmes related to the YCG tasks.

8. Representatives of Youth Organisations

Organisations shall nominate representatives who are:

- 35 years old or younger
- Willing to commit to the expectations and workload associated with a 2 year tenure on the YCG
- Experienced through their organisation, in youth employment policies or activities and in mobilising constituencies
- Able to effectively articulate the aspirations of their constituents to senior international policy makers
- An official appointee of their organisation

Should the organisation's representative no longer be able to meet his/her commitments to the initiative a replacement will be considered by the other members of the YCG in consultation with the YEN Secretariat. It is therefore, incumbent on the organisation concerned to ensure a good transition between its representatives in order to maintain a strong YCG. If situation arises whereby a representative of the YCG is not available for a meeting or activity due to prior commitments, a representative from their organisation may be selected as a replacement. For purposes of continuity, substituting of representatives should be kept to a minimum, and efforts should be made to share information in detail between substitutes and official YCG representatives.

² For the first YCG term September 2004 - September 2006, Mr. Budi Tjahjono of Pax Romana - IMCS, will hold this position.

³ This does not preclude individual YCG representative interaction with members of the High-level Panel and the other YEN groupings throughout the year.

10. Status of youth organisations with the YEN:

Youth organisations will have official partner status with the YEN. This status will be acknowledged through a partnership agreement drawn up in consultation with the YCG between the youth organisations and the YEN.

11. Functioning of the YCG

- The YCG will meet annually concurrent with the YEN High-Level Panel
- YCG members either as a whole grouping or individually (on the basis of region, issue or mandate) may be asked to attend additional meetings on behalf of the YEN. The YEN Secretariat encourages further ad-hoc discussions by YCG members in other fora such as those activities being run by the World Bank, the UN Secretariat and the ILO as well as through the communications tools outlines in section 13 below.
- The mandate of each organisation will be 2 years. Following the initial two-year term the wider pool of 30 youth organisations will meet to elect a new grouping.

12. Operating Costs

Travel and living expenses of members for the annual meeting of the YCG shall be borne by the YEN. Costs for YCG participation at other YEN related meetings will be decided upon during the preparation phase of such activities.

13. Communications

The YCG and the YEN Secretariat will work to raise awareness of the YCG, these Terms of Reference and its activities with all other YEN stakeholders at the international, regional and national levels to be able to better inform them on the role and relevance of the YCG. This will help the YCG in assuming its role especially at national level, where the involvement of youth organisations in the policy-making process concerning youth employment needs to be improved.

The 13 YCG representatives have a responsibility to share information on their activities with the wider pool of 30 youth organisations from which they are drawn on a regular basis and serve this pool by bringing any information and concerns they have to the attention of the other YEN stakeholders. Such communication will be facilitated by the creation of a YCG email list-serv moderated by the YCG which will include representatives of this wider pool of youth organisations, as well as identified youth groups in the YEN Lead Countries and other interested countries.

The YCG pool of organisations are encouraged to mobilise their constituents in the YEN Lead Countries and in other partner countries as agreed with all YEN stakeholders in order to support and strengthen youth involvement in the National Action Plan processes. The YEN Secretariat will be in a position to assist their introduction and involvement in any national stakeholder initiatives underway in the countries. The country offices of ILO, UN and World Bank will be encouraged to take an active role in supporting youth participation.

To strengthen communication between the YEN Secretariat, and between and within the YCG, a web site will be created specifically for the YCG. This site, which will be operational in July 2005, will enable YCG members to share information and news, upload and download relevant documentation and run discussion forums to facilitate exchanges of ideas and comments on YCG activities. Representatives of the wider pool of youth organisations, as well as identified youth groups in the YEN Lead Countries and other interested countries will be invited to use this site.

Annex a.**YCG representatives September 2004 - September 2006**

- World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM)
- Asian Student Association (ASA)
- Arab Youth Union (AYU)
- African Youth Network (AYN)
- European Youth Forum (YFJ)
- Latin American Youth Forum (FLAJ)
- International Confederation of Free Trade Union (ICFTU) Youth
- International Organisation of Employers (IOE) Youth
- Mouvement International des Etudiants Catholiques (MIEC - Pax Romana)
- International Young Democrat Union
- International Federation of Liberal Youth
- International Union of Socialist Youth
- International Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth (MIJARC)

Annex b.**List of YCG Member Organisations**

1. World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM)
2. World Association of Girl Guide and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)
3. Young Men Christian Association (YMCA)
4. Young Women Christian Association (YWCA)
5. International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC)
6. Asian Student Association (ASA)
7. Asian Youth Council (AYC)
8. Arab Youth Union (AYU)
9. African Youth Network (AYN)
10. Caribbean Federation of Youth (CFY)
11. European Youth Forum (YFJ)
12. Latin American Youth Forum (FLAJ)
13. Pacific Youth Council (PYC)
14. Pan-African Youth Movement (MPJ)
15. International Confederation of Free Trade Union (ICFTU) Youth
16. International Organisation of Employers (IOE) Youth
17. General Union of Arab Students (GUAS)
18. International Union of Students (IUS)
19. All-Africa Students Union (AASU)
20. AIESEC International
21. International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS/MIEC - Pax Romana)
22. International Young Catholic Students (IYCS/JECI)
23. National Unions of Students in Europe (ESIB)
24. European Student's Forum (AEGEE)
25. Organisation of Latin American Students (OCLAE)
26. International Young Democrat Union
27. International Federation of Liberal Youth
28. International Union of Socialist Youth
29. World Federation of Democratic Youth
30. International Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth (MIJARC)