

Young People today, and in 2015

-World Youth Report 2005

The ten priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and beyond, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/81 of 1995, include the following:

- 1) Education
- 2) Employment
- 3) Hunger and Poverty
- 4) Health
- 5) Environment
- 6) Drug Abuse
- 7) Juvenile-time activities
- 8) Leisure time activities
- 9) Girls and young women
- 10) Youth participation in decision making

Five additional priority areas identified by the General Assembly resolution 58/133 of 2003 are as follows:

- 1) Globalization
- 2) Information and communication technology
- 3) HIV/AIDS
- 4) Youth and conflict
- 5) Intergenerational relations.

Marking the tenth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth in 2005 with a review of major developments and the progress achieved in each of the areas of concern. Some of the main findings of the analysis are summarized in the following:

- **Poverty.** Estimates based on available poverty data from 2002 indicate that some 209 million young people, or 18 per cent of all youth, live on less than US\$ 1 per day, and 515 million live on less than US\$ 2 per day. As poverty indicators are usually not disaggregated by age, it is unclear whether the poverty situation of young people has improved or deteriorated since 1995. The effects of intergenerational transfers on young people's income and well-being also need to be better understood.
- **Education.** Since 1995, the number of children completing primary school has continued to increase, and four out of five young people in the eligible age group are now in secondary school. Tertiary enrolment has risen as well; it is estimated that some 100 million youth are presently engaged in university-level studies worldwide. The current generation of youth is the best educated so far. However, 113 million children are not in school, and 130 million young people are illiterate.
- **Employment.** In spite of the progress achieved in education, global youth unemployment has increased to a record high of 88 million. Rates of unemployment among young people are highest in Western Asia, North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa. There is growing pressure on young people to compete in an increasingly globalised labour market.



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Young Peoples recommendation been shared by the youth Representative from Mexico at the UN General Assembly 05'

- **Health.** Globally, young people are reaching adolescence earlier and marrying later. Premarital sexual relations appear to be increasing. Although early pregnancy has declined in many countries, it is still a major concern. HIV/AIDS is the primary cause of mortality among youth, followed by violence and injuries.
- **Environment.** Young people continue to be concerned about a sustainable future. There is a need to increase their involvement in decision-making processes that relate to the environment.
- **Leisure.** The past decade has seen growing recognition of the vital role leisure time can play in the lives of young people in terms of promoting social inclusion, access to opportunities, and overall development. Young people are increasingly seeking and finding new ways to spend their free time, both out of necessity and out of choice.
- **Drug abuse.** There has been an unprecedented increase in the use of synthetic drugs worldwide, mostly in recreational settings. The demand for illicit substances among youth in developing countries has risen to levels typically found in industrialized countries.
- **Juvenile delinquency.** Delinquency among young people perpetuates negative stereotypes and is often perceived as a threat to society. Some countries respond to this threat by imposing policies of incarceration and active deterrence, while various United Nations instruments promote social rather than judicial approaches to dealing with young offenders.
- **Girls and young women.** There has been greater awareness of gender issues among Governments. However, equal access to higher education and labour markets remains a concern in some countries. Negative stereotypes of women persist in both old and new media.

- **Participation in decision-making.** Over the past decade there has been growing recognition of the importance of youth participation in decision-making. New efforts to include young people in decision-making must take into account the significant changes occurring in the patterns and structures of youth movements.

- **Globalization.** Young people are adaptable and perhaps best able to make use of the new opportunities offered by globalization. However, large numbers of young people have not benefited from this process, especially in developing countries. Globalization has had an impact on youth employment opportunities and migration patterns, and has led to profound changes in youth culture and consumerism and in global youth citizenship and activism.

- **Information and communication technology.** The proliferation of ICT within the context of globalization over the past decade has presented both opportunities and challenges for young people. The global digital divide affects individuals of all ages, including youth.

- **HIV/AIDS.** Ten million young people, most of them in Africa and Asia, are currently living with HIV/AIDS. The epidemic has had a devastating impact on the sexual and reproductive health of young people, as they are particularly vulnerable to infection.

- **Youth and conflict.** A disproportionate number of young people have been involved in conflicts over the past decade. While an international legal framework is in place to protect minors and prevent their engagement in conflict situations, there has been no improvement on the ground.

- **Intergenerational relations.** The share of young people in the world's total population is gradually declining, and youth development will increasingly be geared towards the potential benefits it can bring to other generations. Despite its changing structure, the family remains the primary social institution for the congregation and interaction of generations.



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**TEN-YEAR REVIEW OF THE WORLD
PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR YOUTH AT THE
60TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**