



**Utrecht, July:** Some of the Youth Delegates to the UN General Assembly 2010 and their supporters, enjoying ice-cream after a long day of work

### **Meet the future – and the present**

From Australia to Bulgaria, from Botswana to Sweden – a new generation of Youth Delegates to the United Nations General Assembly is ready to invade New York and the UN Head Quarters. Their priorities vary – but they share a common concern for the future – and believe in youth participation for adjusting the course of the United Nations and to overcome the challenges of today and tomorrow.

### **Preparation meeting in Utrecht**

By invitation from the European Youth Forum and kindly hosted by the Dutch National Youth Council, the European Youth Delegates had their traditional preparation weekend in framework of the UN Advocacy Meeting – together with global youth organisations attending the UN General Assembly.

### **Focus on Youth Employment**

The participants decided to organise a joint seminar; “Challenges and opportunities – Youth Employment in times of Crisis”, to take place during lunch-time October 8, and kindly co-hosted by Germany.

A working breakfast on Successful Environmental Policy; Youth Participation in decision-making, will be hosted by Switzerland on October 12. More information on the side-events will follow.

### **Dialogue and Mutual Understanding**

August 12, the International Youth Day, also marked the kick-off of the International Year of Youth; Dialogue and Mutual Understanding.

During the launch of the year UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon highlighted that the global economic crisis had had a disproportionate impact on young people, particularly the 87% of people aged 15 to 24 living in developing countries as they have lost jobs, struggled to find even low-wage employment and seen access to education curtailed.

The IYY was called for in a UN GA resolution sponsored by Tunisia by the end of last year. The UN Program on Youth is coordinating the year together with the UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development.

Read more on [www.un.org/youthyear](http://www.un.org/youthyear)



## Our Year, Our Voice: Switzerland dealing with the International Year of Youth

The Swiss Youth Representatives to the UN engaged in the creation of the Swiss National Committee for the Coordination of Actions of the International Year of Youth. Via the Internet platform [www.youth-year.ch](http://www.youth-year.ch) all events organized in the framework of the International Year of Youth in Switzerland or nearby. But what expectations do they have to the IYY?

- The International Year of Youth gives symbolic value and a global meaning to our local, regional and national actions, as it creates the feeling of unified youth around the world. Despite our different needs, priorities and cultures, world youth will fight together to improve its wellbeing in terms of employment, education and participation in decision making procedures, says Laura Crivally, one of the Swiss Youth Representatives to the UN.



She admits that the legitimacy of the year was challenged by the little number of countries showing enthusiasm to support it. Still, she highlights, young people have expectations and clear goals to be achieved during this year.

**The Youth Boat: "You define the course!"**  
On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October Laura and her colleagues are gathering more than 100 motivated young people (14-25 years) on a full-day cruise on the lake of Biel. The participants will work on on equality of chances and gender in education, labour and market access, Swiss Foreign policy on MDGs and the current challenges of international climate change policy.

## The World Youth Conference 2010

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September Mexico introduced the outcome of the World Youth Conference 2010 to the UN General Assembly. But what was it actually like to be there? We asked Felix König, the Youth Delegate of Sweden, who also attended the conference in León:

- There were ups and downs. After two days in working groups we spent 7 full hours negotiating the NGO statement in the plenary. Clearly many of the participants were not so used to democratic processes. But in the end we managed to agree on strong text on LGBTTIQ and health issues in the final statement, despite quite some local resistance.



## Then what happened with the NGO Statement?

- The Governments had quite some debate whether it should be attached to their declaration or not. Now the introduction to the Governments Declaration mentions it and Mexico has promised to promote all the three documents – there is also an outcome document of the Legislators Forum. We trust on the 10 countries acting as co-chairs to support the work on the global level.

## Disappointed about anything?

- We had a lot of African youth ministers present. I wish the European ministers also had come. That would have given more weight in the negotiations and in the follow-up. I hope youth ministers from all over the world will come to the UN World Youth Conference in 2011!

**Questions? Comments on the Newsletter? Input for the next issue?** Please get in touch with Christoffer on [christoffer.gronstad@youthforum.org](mailto:christoffer.gronstad@youthforum.org) or Jens on [jens@jugenddelegierte.de](mailto:jens@jugenddelegierte.de)