



Getting ready – the Youth Delegates speak at the UN

During the upcoming days the UN Youth Delegates from all over the world will deliver their speeches to the UN General Assembly.

The number of UN Youth Delegates is continuously growing and in 2009 Youth Delegates from more than 25 countries will attend the GA. In their speeches the Youth Delegates point out the concerns, needs and demands of young people.

– For me it is a once in a lifetime opportunity that I can advocate the ideas and recommendations of my generation, explains Chris Varney, the Australian Youth Delegate. – I will focus on youth un-employment, the important role of non-formal education and volunteering, says Gita Hulmanova from Slovakia when gives a short forecast to her speech. Other priorities will be e.g. climate change, the need for global youth rights or youth in armed conflicts.

Christoffer Grønstad, Vice-President of the European Youth Forum and a former Youth Delegate, explains: – The Youth Delegates' speeches are highlights at the UNGA – presenting strong ambitions and clear demands on behalf of the young people, the organisations and the countries they represent..

– We will speak on behalf of the youth in our countries – but many statements stand for the demands of the youth worldwide, adds Manop Sinfungphankawi, one of two Thai Youth Delegates.

New: Youth-led organisations had a say on the Zero Draft

The Youth Delegates had a busy summer. In addition to fundraising, preparing their speeches and meeting thousand of young people to prepare for the UNGA they also participated in an online consultation on the upcoming resolution on youth.

Among the demands:

- a wish for the UN to work more on **migration** and youth, and to strengthen the work on migration in the framework of the World Program of Action for Youth
- a strong appeal to ensure **climate justice** and prepare for the social consequences of climate change, keeping vulnerable groups like children and young people in mind and working with them and their organisations to find the solutions
- a request to change the **image of alcohol** use in order to promote a responsible and healthy lifestyle among youth

The Youth Delegates are ready

Eleven topics will be covered by the Resolution on youth. Simeone Azoska, one of the Youth Delegates from Ghana promises: – Things are moving faster than we thought – but we will be prepared!

Background: Moldova, Portugal and Senegal co-sponsor the resolution and mandated the UN Programme on Youth to consult with youth-led organisations world-wide. The consultation was carried out in cooperation with the Latin-American Youth Forum, the Pan-African Youth Union, the Asia-Pacific Student and Youth Association, the European Youth Forum and the UN Associations in regions not covered by these youth platforms.

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What does it mean to be a Youth Delegate? In the focus: Peru (Denisse Becerra)

What are your top 3 priorities for the UNGA?

Poverty and Hunger is definitely a priority for Peru. Even if we have good Macroeconomic numbers, compare to all the countries of the region, that growth is not reaching everybody. I will focus in the rural areas, where undernourishment and extreme poverty is killing people. Concerning Girls and Young Women the National Youth Council deals with prevention of teenage pregnancy. Climate Change is a big topic here in Peru for young people. They are very concern about the awful effects climate change has. For example the Pastoruri, a famous glacier in the Peruvian Andes, has reduce 48%. Due to it's actual size, scientists say that it can't be consider a glacier anymore.

How were you selected?

I followed the steps that were proposed in the UN Youth web page. I made a proposal which covered everything and I knocked every possible door (Congress, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Youth Council, Ministry of Education etc.). I was interviewed by the National Youth Secretary and by two other members of the Youth Council. After those evaluations and due to my perseverance in opening the Programme they have chosen me.

How did you prepare?

For the first 4 months I've been investigating about the topics that are considered priorities by youth people. Like Poverty and Hunger & Climate Change. I've been in touch with UN organisations and several NGO's that work on that topics, to learn about their work and their goals.

What's up? Important activities

October 05 to 07: Youth Delegate's speeches to the General Assembly (read more on page 1)

October 05: Working breakfast of the UN Programme on Youth and the Youth Delegates

October 07: Meeting His Excellency UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon

October 08: Working breakfast to the topic of 'Migration and UN youth policy' (in the Permanent Mission of Switzerland)

October 12 (12.30 – 2.00 pm): The EU Delegation to the United Nations and the European Youth Forum co-host a side-event on the UNGA youth resolution and youth participation. The side-event will include screening of the documentary "The young" and have participation from the EU delegation in New York, the Portuguese mission to the UN, the European Youth Forum and DG Education and Culture from Brussels via video-link.

October 13 (1.15 – 2.45 pm): Side event to the topic of climate justice and the impact on youth – jointly organised by the Youth Delegates to the UNGA (in the Permanent Mission of Germany)

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More Youth Delegates than ever before are attending the 64th session of the General Assembly – list of the countries that will have Youth Delegate(s):

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|------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Australia | Belgium | Bulgaria | Botswana | Croatia |
| D. R Congo | Dominican Republic | Finland | Ghana | Germany |
| Jamaica | Korea | Mexico | Netherlands | Norway |
| Peru | Portugal (tbc) | Romania | Russia | Rwanda |
| Slovakia | Sweden | Switzerland | Thailand | Tonga |
| Turkey | | | | |

Is your country interested in youth Participation at UN level? Tell us: falko@germanyouthdelegate.de

We'd love to hear from you! Please contact the editors Christoffer Grønstad (European Youth Forum) and Falko Mohrs (Germany) on youngnews09@googlemail.com.

Keep in touch with your Youth Delegates! Visit www.unyouthdelegates.org, learn more and subscribe for the electronic version of our newsletter!