



'Youth and the UN: analysis and strategies for development'

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**Youth Forum of the Americas: Building an Alliance for 21st Century Youth,
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, April 15-16, 2009**

Overview

1. Youth Programme of the United Nations;
2. MDGs and youth;
3. United Nations Information Centres (UNICS) and Youth;
4. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and Youth;
5. Youth at the UN.



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The United Nations Programme on Youth

- Focal point on youth (15-24 yrs.) within the United Nations;
- 1965: Declaration on the Promotion among the Youth the Ideas of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples.
- 1985: International Youth Year;
- 1996: World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY):
priority areas: education, employment, hunger & poverty, health, environment, drug abuse, social inclusion of youth, globalization, HIV/AIDS, intergenerational relationships.



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The United Nations Programme on Youth

ACTIVITIES:

- Publication of World Youth Report;
- Technical Cooperation: national youth policy formulation;
- Measuring youth development (indicators);
- Workshops & meetings (governments & NGOs);
- Support youth delegates;
- E-newsletter 'Youth-Flash';
- Commemoration of International Youth Day (12. August);
- Support 'Youth Employment Network' (YEN).



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MDGs & youth

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger:

- Poverty & decent employment;

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education:

- Primary education & literacy (15-24);

Goal 3: Gender equality & empowerment of women:

- Gender disparity in prim. & sec. education;

Goal 5: Improve maternal health:

- Maternal health and sexual & reproductive health;

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria & other diseases:

- Curb the spread of HIV/AIDS & secure access to treatment.



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United Nations Information Centres

- Youth a key target audience for the United Nations Department of Public Information and by extension of UNICs.
- Recognizing that today's youth will be tomorrow's leaders, UNICs involve young people in all their programmes. These include educational outreach services to educators and students and promote awareness of the role and work of the United Nations.
- There are ten UNICs in the Americas (<http://unic.un.org>).



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United Nations Information Centres

- What UNICs do:
Distribute and create youth focused products (e.g. Resource CDs, DVDs, posters, brochures, backgrounders, Q&A):
 - Academic support to Model United Nations;
 - UNIC Reference Libraries and Websites provide links to data and information;
 - Talks and briefings to primary, secondary and tertiary students.



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- Home to about 100 mio. Youth - about 18% of the population;
- Lead in regional/sub-regional follow up to WPAY;
- Major challenges: youth and social cohesion; perception of gender roles; social inclusion (inequality, poverty, education, employment, social security, intergenerational relationships); violence & crime; migration; early sexual initiation/ teenage-pregnancies.



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POLICIES - challenges:

- Construction of youth in public policies:
 - Youth a risk or fortune?
 - Youth and citizenship?
 - Youth and their identities?
- Limited focus on youth in sector policies (labor, health, education);
- Weak relationship between youth organizations/ institutions and governmental policy making bodies.



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Selected ECLAC key publications:

- La juventud in Iberoamerica: tendencias y urgencias;
- Youth in the Caribbean - a four country study;
- Series of bulletins entitled 'Desafios' (Challenges), published jointly by ECLAC & UNICEF (www.cepal.org/desafios/).



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Youth at the UN

How to get involved?

- Internships;
- National competitive recruitment exams;
- Junior Professional Officers (JPOs);
- United Nations Volunteers.



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Websites:



Youth and the United Nations
www.un.org/youth



UNIC Port of Spain
The United Nations Information Centre for the Caribbean Area

www.unicpos.org.tt

<http://unic.un.org/aroundworld/unics/en/whereWeWork/americas/index.asp?regionCode=3>



www.cepal.org;
www.eclac.org;
www.eclac.cl/portofspain



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