



Guidelines for National Committees

International Years are customarily celebrated at the national level, steered by a National Committee or equivalent. Member States for the International Year of Youth are therefore invited to establish National Committees with responsibility for promoting activities related to the International Year of Youth to mark the event. The formation and participation of strong National Committees are central to the success of the Year.

Role and tasks of National Committees

The overall aim and objective of a national committee is to coordinate activities and initiatives for the preparation, organization and follow up for the International Year of Youth (IYY) at the national level. The National Committee serves as a national focal point for the Year and liaises with the United Nations system in regard to the IYY. Committees are encouraged to implement a diverse set of activities that may include:

Promotional

- Preparing an agenda for national action for the Year.
- Hosting meetings, conferences and special events and proposing the integration of existing events related to youth into planned promotional and public awareness campaign.
- Stimulating and coordinating activities by appropriate governmental and non-governmental agencies.
- Establishing a national committee website that links to the official website for the Year (social.un.org/youthyear).
- Providing an efficient channel for the promotion of the IYY.
- Engaging with national and local media in order to raise awareness about youth issues and to promote the International Year of Youth.
- Using media to encourage educational and promotional coverage in order to raise awareness of young people's positive contribution to society.
- Documenting events and initiatives carried out in celebration of the Year.
- Announcing policy and programme intentions on specific youth issues.
- Translating key youth documents presented on the official website of the Year into their own national languages, and making them available on their national and the official website for the Year.

Programmatic

- Establishing channels for young people to participate in all aspects of society and decision making processes.
- Establishing a national youth delegate programme to United Nations intergovernmental meetings. For more information about the youth delegate programme see: www.un.org/youth
- Strengthening existing networks and regional cooperation efforts to improve channels of communication among young people, the Government and other stakeholders on the national level.
- Enabling young people to take part in developing and carrying out communication strategies for the International Year of Youth.
- Developing TV programmes, radio shows and articles related to youth issues.
- Integrating youth issues into overall national development planning.
- Encouraging incorporation of youth programmes into national development strategies.
- Mobilizing funds and resources for effective adolescent and youth programmes at country and regional levels, including through public-private partnerships.
- Supporting the creation of innovative partnerships promoting development, education, health and peace through youth related activities.

Evaluating

- Reviewing the situation of youth and identifying specific issues and problems.
- Identifying, monitoring and evaluating various governmental programmes in relation to youth issues, especially with regard to the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth.



- Establishing research centers or working with existing research centers to generate research and data on youth.
- Preparing an evaluation report when the International Year of Youth is over with information on activities carried out throughout the Year, their success, impact and lessons learned.

National Committees are strongly encouraged to register their activities and events on the calendar of events at: social.un.org/absolutewc/. National activities that are listed on the Year's official website can serve as models for international activities and for other National Committees. Moreover, the activities by the National Committees will strongly contribute to the success of the Year, and activities or initiatives reported to the United Nations Programme on Youth will inform reports on the International Year of Youth.

Composition

The composition of National Committees varies from country to country. It is recommended that National Committees appoint a Chair, a secretary and a treasurer as well as a contact person for the Committee. The Committees should engage and include a broad range of country level actors, both from urban and rural areas, preferably consisting of:

- National government representatives
- National Youth Councils
- Youth-led and youth focused organizations and other civil society organizations
- Schools and Universities
- Private sector
- Academia
- Media
- UN system organizations within the country

Funding

National Committees should raise financial support within their own countries to implement their activities on a national scale. They are strongly advised to develop a formal relationship with the United Nations. By doing so, National Committees benefit from the preparatory work that has been carried out on an international level including the official website and the official logo for the Year, the calendar of events and publications prepared by the United Nations.