



FAQs about the International Year of Youth

(12 August 2010 – 11 August 2011)

1) What is the significance of having an International Year devoted to young people?

The proclamation of the International Year of Youth is a renewed commitment by Member States to place young people at the center of the development agenda. The Year presents an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges and opportunities facing 18% of the world's population and to create a momentum for advancing youth-related causes.

The United Nations has developed a Framework Approach to the International Year of Youth to provide a concrete framework for collective efforts and to set the strategic objectives for the Year. The Framework identifies three key objectives along with specific actions, essential for their implementation: (i) Create Awareness: increase commitment and investment in youth; (ii) Mobilize and Engage: increase youth participation and partnerships; and (iii) Connect and Build Bridges: increase intercultural understanding among youth. The complete Framework is available at social.un.org/youthyear.

The year 2010 also marks the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY), a landmark resolution that calls on national Governments to enact policies in 15 priority areas for youth development, ranging from employment and education to HIV/AIDS and participation of youth in decision-making. We hope that the International Year of Youth will shed a special light on this global commitment and encourage Governments to put national youth policies in place where they do not yet exist, and to implement them where they do.

2) Who is involved in the Year?

Everyone can and should participate in the Year. This includes international and regional entities, national Governments, civil society groups including youth-led organizations, and people working for or with youth, such as teachers, counselors, social service providers, and all individuals who are concerned about issues pertaining to youth. Perhaps most importantly, young persons themselves all over the world can use the Year as a spring board to make their voices heard on matters that concern them.

Within the UN system, the UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development is coordinating the activities for the Year, with the UN Programme on Youth leading this effort.

3) What sort of events are foreseen throughout the Year?

International Years are traditionally celebrated at the country level, steered by a National Committee set up in each State. As mentioned previously, however, a wide variety of actors are actively taking part in the International Year of Youth. Celebratory events are being organized by youth organizations, Governments and international organizations.





Events can take various forms. They can be awareness-raising campaigns, national and international conferences or fund-raising campaigns to support youth-led activities. Taking the Year's theme (Dialogue and Mutual Understanding) into account, events can also take the form of youth-to-youth dialogues within or across national borders, intercultural exchanges, concerts or sports events.

The International Year will kick off with launch events around the world on 12 August 2010. The UN system is organizing a global launch event at UN Headquarters in New York. Others will also take place at various duty stations around the world to highlight regional and local specificities in the context of the International Year.

There are a number of other global events coming up, such as the very first Youth Olympic Games in Singapore. The resolution on the International Year of Youth also calls for an international conference on youth under the auspices of the UN. Consultations of the General Assembly on the details of the Conference began in May 2010.

For a Calendar of Events and the most up-to-date information, visit the website for the International Year: social.un.org/youthyear.

4) What should countries and individuals be doing to get involved? How can they use this occasion?

We would like everybody to take advantage of this Year not only to highlight the local challenges that young people face, but also to focus on their positive contributions and change the image of youth portrayed in the media. Countries, civil society groups and individuals can get involved by organizing their own events and or projects, or participating in organized events.

The UN Programme on Youth, together with NGO partners, have developed an Activities Kit that provides guidance on organizing an event to celebrate the Year. The Kit includes practical advice and effective strategies on how to promote your event; engage the media; develop partnerships; build a constituency of supporters and much more.

The UN Programme on Youth is also organizing a number of activities for young people to get involved in the Year. Through its slogan consultation on Facebook (facebook.com/UNyouth), young people all over the world posted nearly 500 suggestions on its Wall, which led to the official slogan "Our Year. Our Voice". New online consultations are being organized every month, at the above link.

5) Any other questions?

For more information on the work of the United Nations in the area of youth and the World Programme of Action for Youth, please visit: www.un.org/youth. For additional questions, please contact youth@un.org. Also, be sure to keep us on your radar through Twitter: <https://twitter.com/unyouthyear>.

