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**CIS FORUM ON YOUTH:
“Youth of the XXI Century: Realities and Perspectives”**

Kiev, Ukraine, 24-26 September 2003

**KEY ROLE OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION
IN THE SUSTAINABLE AND INDEPENDENT
NATION AND STATE BUILDING PROCESS**

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We, at the World Youth Bank (WYB), consider CIS Forum on Youth as a major breakthrough in dealing with youth problems in this region (as well as the First UNECE Regional Forum on Youth: “Security, Opportunity and Prosperity” held in Geneva in 2002). Never in the history have various UN bodies and affiliated organizations held an international Forum on a theme so fundamental and so long-term neglected – the role of youth in the development. Political, economic and even religious matters have been talked over, elaborated, evaluated and discussed on many occasions and in every possible way, but the role of youth in the nation and state building process comes as the last, but not the least, important theme to be elaborated, evaluated and agreed upon. WYB sincerely hopes that various policies and policy instruments will be discussed and elaborated in order to agree on approaches and conditions necessary for the full development of youth in the Eurasian region. Vast natural and social resources as well as the unique cultural heritage and precious historic background of this region raise hopes that, in the nearest future, this region could become not only economically advanced but powerful strategic partner of the developed world. We also hope that the key historic role of youth in that process at all levels, national, regional and local, will soon be recognized, empowered and legally formulated.

At the very beginning, let us be reminded on the basic Global Youth Facts and Figures as described by UN Secretary-General’s “Youth Employment Network”:

- Over 510 million young women and 540 million young men live in the world today according to United Nations estimates. Approximately one person in five is between the ages of 15 and 24 years: ***youth comprise almost 18 per cent of the world’s population.***
- ***The majority of young people, 85 per cent, live in developing countries,*** with approximately 60 per cent in Asia alone. By 2020, the number living in developing countries will grow to about 89 per cent.
- Over 70 million young people are unemployed throughout the world according to ILO estimates. In countries as diverse as Columbia, Egypt, Italy and Jamaica, more than one in three young persons are classified as “unemployed”—declaring themselves to be without work, to be searching for work and to be available for work. However, even more youth are struggling for survival in the informal economy.
- Half of the world’s unemployed are between the ages of 15 and 24 and women are particularly disadvantaged.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) estimates that approximately 96 million young women and 57 million young men are illiterate, most of them in developing countries.
- Of the 30 million people with HIV infection or AIDS, at least 10 million are aged between 10 and 24 years according to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). It is estimated that every day 7,000 young people worldwide acquire the virus. This means that there are around 2.6 million new infections a year among young people, including 1.7 million in Africa and 700,000 in Asia and the Pacific.
- Access to primary education is still a luxury in many parts of the world. Gross enrolment rates for Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia are 78 and 100 per cent respectively. Net enrolment rates—which measure primary school access to the 7 to 11 age cohort rather than

counting all children enrolled in primary school—tell a different story. Net primary enrolment drops to 51 per cent in Sub-Saharan Africa and 77 per cent in South Asia.

Also, let us here be reminded on the famous evaluation of Global Youth state-of-affairs:

"Youth make up more than 40 per cent of the world's total unemployed. There are an estimated 66 million unemployed young people in the world today – an increase of nearly 10 million since 1965. Under-employment is also another growing concern. The majority of new jobs are low-paid and insecure. Increasingly, young people are turning to the informal sector for their livelihood, with little or no job protection, benefits, or prospects for the future."

Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General, July 2001

With the world major economies slowing down and threatening the growth prospects of developing countries, the unemployment of youth is now a major focus for concerted UN action.

Besides the UN, the ILO has set up a task force, led by the InFocus Programme on Skills, Knowledge and Employability, to coordinate an Office-wide technical contribution to the activities of the Youth Employment Network. In close collaboration with the UN Secretariat, through its Division of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), and the World Bank, through its Human Development Network, the ILO contributed to the substantive preparatory work for the High-Level Panel meetings. The technical preparations focused on five policy areas:

- Incorporating youth employment into development strategies, including major UN system initiatives;
- Promoting youth employment in poverty reduction programmes at the country level;
- Improving the impact of education and training on youth employment;
- Generating opportunities for young people through information and communication technologies;
- Bridging the gap between the informal sector and the knowledge economy.

The ILO's substantive work in this regard is guided by the overall policy framework and strategic directions established within the Decent Work agenda, taking into consideration ILO standards, policy instruments, knowledge and experience that have particular relevance for the promotion of youth employment. The Office (YEN) undertakes additional research and analytical work, as well as operational networking with a number of technical partners.

World Youth Bank – Key impact of Poverty Alleviation on global level

From the earliest times of its development, mankind knows that basic fundament of any form of Poverty is Ignorance. Lucky as our generation is, Knowledge is being recognized today as the fourth pillar (productive power and resource) of the development of any form of capital (global, regional, national, local - "fourth" besides economic/financial assets, labour and land).

Therefore, Poverty is basically three-dimensional: material (biological, economic), intellectual (education, knowledge, science) and spiritual (moral, religious, etc). Also, burdening principle of actual "state-of-poverty-affairs" is the "ignorance mix" of previous, actual-ruling and oncoming-young generations (also three-dimensional).

If we could agree on that, it seems that key development of mankind as a whole is being structurally unresolved for several thousand years - because Poverty is not the cause but the consequence of our misgoverned development as the Human Civilization. Accordingly, Youth Poverty is not the cause but the consequence of the Poverty of the related society as the whole (material, intellectual or spiritual - inherited, prevailing or future).

So, in order to deal with Youth Poverty on a long-term basis, one has to recognize that this multidimensional problem requires related structural multidimensional approach, meaning coordinated political, economic, spiritual, cultural and broader social action on all levels (global, regional, national, local) throughout all three key sectors of our contemporary form of Sustainable Development - governmental, private-business and Civil Society.

In our opinion at the WYB, major international and various national Youth policies have to be upgraded in the above described manner in order to meet the requirements of their common task - *to explore the common understanding of the general nature of youth poverty and models of its sustained alleviation.*

To describe here how various visible and invisible forms of Youth Poverty feed each other would be out of reason, because they are magnificently elaborated in recent World Bank report "Breaking the Conflict Trap". A series of regional WB/UN/ILO/WHO/FAO/etc. (WYB) conferences on that theme could open many closed doors for sustained Youth Poverty Alleviation on all levels.

We, at WYB, consider ILO's "Decent Work" agenda (and all that it implies) the main "methodological dynamo" of attacking Youth Poverty on a global scale, on all levels of course. Dignity and decency of contemporary life is at stake everywhere, and it reflects grown-ups, elderly and youth almost the same. Therefore, Education (as the key social tool for sustained eradication of Ignorance) should also be promoted on a tripartite basis (education of Youth, grown-ups and elderly alike, because they all live in the same, new, substantially unmanageable and complex, Global World). Therefore, for us at WYB all programs that promote and empower trans-generational partnership and understanding had proved to be the most efficient in Youth Poverty Alleviation.

Also, in our opinion at WYB, Africa should be our common global responsibility on which we, as the civilized mankind, should prove or disapprove our human, common sense of responsibility for all! African Youth, being the most endangered generational segment of the World, should be empowered to realize what "freedom for something" really is, not only to have partial rights to "free themselves from something" always and forever.

As the conclusion, fighting Youth Poverty is best done by trans-generational approach of "shared responsibilities" between all existing generations - and in our Global World, this seems to be more dependent on "political good-will" than on economic knowledge or "resources" (although "political good-will" can be easily managed by economic means, it seems that "political good-will" is lacking on global level, not only on national, local and regional)... this is why we at WYB believe that besides "UN Role in the 21 Century", there will soon have to be elaborated a brand new "WB Role in the 21 Century" as well (which will include Civil Society in the decision-making process at WB much more substantially in order to achieve the state of human development as self-sustainable).

Breaking the Conflict Trap

Civil War and Development Policy

(A World Bank Policy Research Report – April 2003

- from the “Foreword”)

“...civil war usually has devastating consequences: it is development in reverse. As civil wars have accumulated and persisted, they have generated or intensified a significant part of the global poverty problem that is the World Bank’s core mission to confront. Part of the purpose of this report is to alert the international community to the adverse consequences of civil war for development. These consequences are suffered mostly by civilians, often by children and by those in neighbouring countries. Those who take the decisions to start or to sustain wars are often relatively immune to their adverse effects. The international community therefore has a legitimate role as an advocate for those who are victims. The second reason why the World Bank should focus on civil war is that development can be an effective instrument for conflict prevention.

The risk of civil war is much higher in low-income countries than in middle-income countries. Civil war thus reflects not just a problem for development, but a failure of development. The core of this report sets out the evidence on the efficacy of development for conflict prevention and proposes a practical agenda for action. The World Bank and its partner development agencies can undertake parts of this agenda, but other parts depend on international collective action by the governments of industrial countries. One important forum for such action is the Group of Eight.

Our research yields three main findings. First, civil wars have highly adverse ripple effects that those who determine whether they start or end obviously do not take into account. The first ripple is within the country: most of the victims are children and other noncombatants.

The second ripple is the region: neighbouring countries suffer reduced incomes and increased disease. The third ripple is global: civil war generates territory outside the control of any recognized government, and such territories have become the epicenters of crime and disease. Many of these adverse consequences persist long after the civil war has ended, so that much of the costs of a war occur after it is over.

The second finding is that the risks of civil war differ massively according to a country’s characteristics, including its economic characteristics.

As a result, civil war is becoming increasingly concentrated in relatively few developing countries. Two groups of countries are at the highest risk. One we refer to as the marginalized developing countries, that is, those low-income countries that have to date failed to sustain the policies, governance, and institutions that might give them a chance of achieving reasonable growth and diversifying out of dependence on primary commodities. On average, during the 1990s these countries actually had declining per capita incomes. Such countries are facing a Russian roulette of conflict risk. Even countries that have had long periods of peace do not seem to be safe, as shown by recent conflicts in Côte d'Ivoire and Nepal. It is imperative that such countries are brought into the mainstream of development. The other high-risk group is countries caught in the conflict trap. Once a country has had a conflict it is in far greater danger of further conflict: commonly, the chief legacy of a civil war is another war. For this group of countries the core development challenge is to design international interventions that are effective in stabilizing the society during the first postconflict decade.

The third finding is that feasible international actions could substantially reduce the global incidence of civil war. Although our proposals are wide-ranging, including aid and policy reform, we place particular emphasis on improving the international governance of natural resources. Diamonds were critical to the tremendous economic success of Botswana, but also to the social catastrophe that engulfed Sierra Leone. The Kimberley process of tracking diamonds is intended to curtail rebel organizations' access to diamond revenues. The "publish what you pay" initiative, launched by the nongovernmental organization Global Witness, is intended to increase the transparency of natural resource revenues to governments. Transparency is, in turn, an input into enhanced domestic scrutiny of how such revenues are used. If rebel finances can be curbed and citizens come to believe that resources are being well used, civil war will be less likely. A third element in a package of improved international governance of natural resources is to cushion the price shocks that exporters commonly face. Price crashes have been associated with severe recessions that directly increase the risk of civil war and have sometimes destabilized economic management for long periods. At present the international community has no effective instrument to compensate for these shocks.

International collective action has seldom looked so difficult, but the cost of failure will be measured in violence and poverty".

New Europe?

Born in the middle of the «big-bang» of the cold-war World Order, raised by the nuclear socio-economic fission of the so-called Socialist system on its eastern «front», troubled by its

warring neighbourhoods (War in ex-Yugoslavia, Middle-eastern «disputes» between Israel and Palestinian Occupied Territories, stubbornness of Iraq and recently globalized terrorist threats and political violence of various kinds and forms), New Europe is projected to develop into a fully-integrated, sustainable and manageable socio-economic system against all historic and present odds. Never before in the history had preconditions for the «Making of Europe» been more unstable, un-secure and non-promising than today and never before had nations of Europe been afront such an intriguing common task – to build an international community based not only on historic experience, but on their common, complex and dynamic ever-evolving knowledge-base. Four-dimensional fully-balanced European democracy is therefore a civilization minimum on which we should be building our Common Destiny, without pre-considering some of us «more» and some of us «less European» than others. If we do not start the process of just balancing of European «development diamonds, indexes and cubes» by implementing the principle of «equal opportunities for all», enlargement of Europe will only lead us to new divisions on Global Level instead being a sustained model for nuclear socio-economic fusion of the One World of Tomorrow. This is why today the Eyes of the World are directed towards Europe, just as they were focused on America more than two hundred years ago – it depends only on us whether Europe will become an Intelligent Vanguard of the Real New World or will it stay an old, tired and reluctant lady who can not think of a New Beginning because her End is much too near to be neglected!

New World?

As we have learned at the NYSE and other SE's recently, inherited global economic system is non-reliable and un-secure because it is non-transparent, non-ethical and unaccountable and therefore it is non-decent and non-responsible, and by that it is non-democratic, «mysterious» and non-sustainable. We sincerely hope that New European Economy will be based on a new synergy of knowledge, new social values and economy because New Economy is really new only if it is knowledge-based, and New Knowledge is socio-economically approved only if it is productive and profitable for all! Therefore New European Economy has to be accountable if it wants to be responsible, decent if it wants to be democratic and ethical if it wants to be sustainable. In our opinion, only in that manner European socio-economic system may emerge into a fully-integrated manageable political system based on intercultural tolerance and understanding as sustained preconditions for real development of the expected European Participatory Democracy, Information Economy and Knowledge Society.

Almost the same goes for the rest of the World as well.

“Classical” Sustainable Development definition (United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987) is: “development is sustainable if it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. Intergenerational Justice that under-lays this honourable concept of SD shows that there are many preconditions needed for its practical implementation, one of which is most assuredly the new concept of Humanity as such (according to UNDP “Human Development Report”, 1996 – “Human Development is the end – economic growth a means”). According to various UN documents, Human Development is measured by life expectancy, adult literacy, access to all three levels of education as well as people's average income which is a *conditio sine qua non* of their freedom of choice. This proves that Culture of Sustainability is a trans-political concept which should not be limited but empowered by politics, economy and other social and natural resources (renewable and non-renewable). This leads us to a logical conclusion that benefits of economic growth of SOME should be transferred into the higher quality of life for ALL if our Global Civilization really aims to become a Global Culture of Sustainability, eventually one day. We must be reminded today that

contrary (selective and therefore non-sustainable) model of development had ruined several human civilizations so far!

From the viewpoint of the present Global Monetary System, experts of the World Bank use so-called “development diamonds” to portray the level of socio-economic development of related country or society: the relationship between life expectancy at birth, gross primary (or secondary) enrolment, access to safe water and GNP per capita, which then form a joint development polygon (rather problematic comparative approach to countries which belong to different income groups, but almost ideal for individual country analysis).

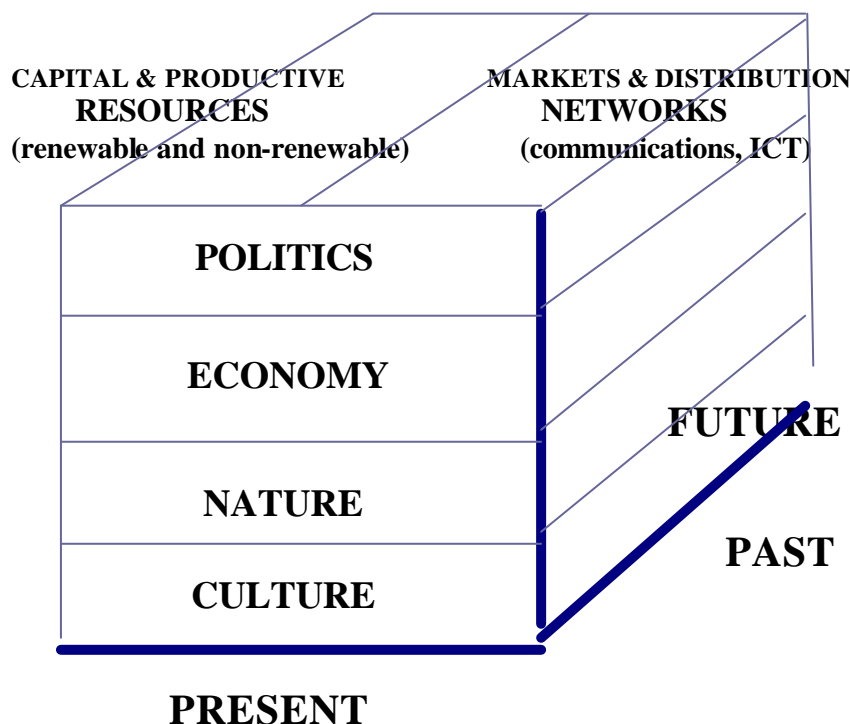
On the other side, United Nations experts use “Human Development Index” to measure development – a simple average of three indexes: achievement in health and longevity (measured by life expectancy at birth), education (measured by adult literacy and combined primary, secondary and tertiary enrolments) and living standard (measured by GDP per capita in purchasing power parity terms). HDI, being an abstract value, in most cases expressed as decimal share of the supposed ideal, does not allow us to see which component is crucial for related change over a certain period of time, but is almost ideal for comparative socio-economic development analysis.

World Youth Bank experts (WYB IEEB) have elaborated a new tool for measuring the level of development of any country or society (could be implemented on measuring the level of development of human civilization as a whole, if we suppose it exists as One): so-called “Life Quality Cube”. It is based on a Trans-generational Equality Agenda (past, present and future being an indivisible whole, separated only by human perception) and represents the complex network of indicators which form the basic standard or “Quality of Life” of related individuals, groups, minorities, majority and society as a whole.

Four groups of indicators which form the WYB “Life Quality Cube”:

1. **Dimensions:** past, present, future
2. **Levels:** politics, economy, nature, culture
3. **Capital & Productive Resources:** natural, physical, human, financial
4. **Markets and Distribution Networks:** global, state, private business, civil society
(subdivisions: local, regional, national, international, transnational)

WORLD YOUTH BANK “LIFE QUALITY CUBE”



LOC legend:

«The Cube» consists of three dimensions (past, present and future) and four levels (politics, economy, nature, culture), which are intersected with two main networks (Capital & Productive Resources, and Markets & Distribution Networks) of which either one consists of four sub-levels:

1. CPR – natural, physical, human, financial (divided into renewable and non-renewable ones)
 2. MDN – global, state, private business, civil society
- (both networks are divided into five sub-levels: local, regional, national, international, transnational)

Notice: If any of Indicators become self-sufficient and eventually separates from the whole as an “independent” entity, the whole cube-architecture falls down, inevitable process of erosion starts and development heads into a non-sustainable direction with rather catastrophic socio-economic and other consequences.

Special WYB “Life-quality Cube Match-making programmes” (LQCMMP) are now at the developing stage and it is expected that their implementation will strongly empower the very sustainability of countries and societies in which WYB Network operates (higher level of employment and job-creation, especially Youth Employment and Youth job-creation).

New (civic) Humanity?

According to relevant UN, ILO and World Bank Annual Reports and other internationally referral documents, Youth are in most cases socially, economically, politically and culturally mistreated, underestimated, miss-conducted, mislead and misgoverned throughout the world, being irrelevant whether they live in highly developed, developed, developing, underdeveloped or non-developed countries or societies. This is why participants of the World Assembly of Youth “European Youth Dialogue” (23-28 March 2002, Brijuni Islands, Croatia) had adopted the

“Declaration on Youth as a Global Banking & Financial Resource” which had truly recognized Civil Society as a brand new LABOUR & CAPITAL MARKET, with Youth as its real key vehicle and the utmost ever-renewable resource of Sustainable Development as such. Proposed Youth Banking Concept is therefore deeply rooted in a new form of contemporary social differentiation (state-governmental, private business and civil society sectors), based upon new division of labour and related to new forms of capital (“intelligent capital”, intellectual property rights, etc) that are emerging and taking affordable shape on a day-to-day basis.

Civil Society is usually called a “non-for-profit sector”, which usually leads us to a wrong conclusion that there is no profit, gain or surplus value in this segment of society - that it is not productive, efficient or effective part of economic human life in general. But, the only difference between co called profit and non-for-profit sectors is that in the later net income after taxation has to be reinvested into related programs and projects – it can not be taken out of production process (in broader sense) and spent in any known and usual private-consuming practices. Strategically speaking from the points of view of contemporary New Labour and New Capital, Civil Society is the “third pillar” of any reasonable Sustainable socio-economic Development, and it deserves to develop its own, distinctive and specific, banking and financial standards and practices through its own, brand new organizations and institutions.

As other “two pillars” (state-governmental and private business sectors) are overly developed in relation to the “third pillar” (Civil Society), the very process of gaining its real self-sustainability will take longer time than usually projected for other commercial “projects”. It is of utmost importance to notice that Civil Society sector, mainly manned with young people, does not have any real chance of development without strategic long-term partnership with other two sectors, and that this “two pillars” will forever be in their present unstable and insecure condition without the full development of their “third” counterpart. Being the unforeseeable, ever-renewable and unavoidable development resource, it is of the utmost strategic socio-economic interest of other two sectors to develop it fully so as to become really productive, operational, efficient and effective in any possible sense (models of that support on global level is a question of the broader tripartite inter-sector consensus, so we propose that this be elaborated through BWI (UN, WB, WTO, ILO and other) e.g. State Youth Bonds, various legal-framework adaptations (tax deductions for Direct Youth Investment, etc) on both national and international levels.

Being rooted deeply in the Civil Society sector, but always closely related to other two “pillars” of Sustainable Development, Youth Banks (according to the World Youth Bank Authors’ Project) should be first established as NGOs for sustainable redistribution of banking and financial assets with main mission to empower the “third pillar of SD” and Global Youth in all its segments, and then to steadily develop and emerge into sustainable Youth Banks and sustained Civil Banking System in general. Socio-economic benefits of such development direction are more than high, if compared with traditional investment short-term profits. Civil Banking, implemented through the World Youth Bank Network, should reconstitute national and international monopolies, make Global Economy in general more just, decent, human, efficient, propulsive, beneficiary and productive for all, and therefore become the real and sustained “third socio-economic pillar of the Decent and Responsible Sustainable Development for all”.

It is especially important to notice that Civil Banking and World Youth Bank represent the free and democratic will of Global Youth, recognized and recommended by the World Assembly of Youth “Special Resolution on the World Youth Bank”.

WYB estimates that Youth of the World (Global Youth) are among its key socio-economic resources, but also that without empowering the real Youth sovereignty in economic and financial sense, their prolonged stay in their under-developed homelands looks more like a dream than a sustained reality (which puts into serious question the very sustainable development of the World as a whole). As we have already learned, real democracy requires an economic minimum (or better to say an optimum), so let us altogether empower young people for their oncoming ***Decent and Responsible Development for All!***

WYB Expert Economic Board, in collaboration with a number of international organizations and specialized financial institutions and agencies, is currently developing a specific project code-named “WYB Global Debt Re-program – estimated role of WYB Network System in reprogramming of national and international financial relations”, in order to highlight the power-impact that New Knowledge, Innovativeness and Entrepreneurship of younger generations could have in boosting the needed development process on all levels. WYB estimates that major and intensive investments in Youth (vocational training, skills, education and technology-transfers as well as easy-access to capital and ICT) are several times more socially and economically efficient, profitable and cost-effective than obsolete traditional “debt management” which turns Poor into Hopeless, and Developed into Rich Without Frontiers over and over again.