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POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES RELATING TO YOUTH

Channels of communication between the United Nations  
and youth and youth organizations

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1 - 3	2
II. PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ADOPTED GUIDELINES ON CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND YOUTH AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS . . . . .	4 - 27	2
III. SUGGESTED MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND YOUTH AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR . . . . .	28	8
IV. PROPOSALS FOR ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES . . . . .	29	8

\* A/36/150

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. Guidelines for the improvement of the channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations were adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-second session, in resolution 32/135. Reports on the progress achieved in the implementation of the guidelines were submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions. At its thirty-fourth session, the Assembly, in resolution 34/163, requested the Secretary-General to transmit the resolution, together with its annex containing draft additional guidelines, to all Member States, regional commissions and regional and international youth organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council for their comments and to submit a report in this regard to the Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

2. At the thirty-fifth session, in resolution 35/139, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, to report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the adopted guidelines at the international, regional and national levels. It further requested the Secretary-General, taking into account the views expressed by Governments, to submit to it at its thirty-sixth session, for adoption, proposals for additional guidelines, consistent with the guidelines already adopted in resolution 32/135, and on the basis of the draft additional guidelines contained in the annex to resolution 34/163, as well as the suggestions made by the Secretary-General in his reports to the Assembly at its thirty-third, thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth sessions.

3. The present report is submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 35/139.

## II. PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ADOPTED GUIDELINES ON CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND YOUTH AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

4. As at June 1981 comments on the progress achieved in the implementation of the guidelines for the improvement of the channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations and/or some considerations in that regard had been received from the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America, the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Volunteers programme of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Views expressed on this subject

during discussions at the first session of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year and those of non-governmental organizations are also reflected in the present report.

5. Activities related to channels of communication with youth include those designed to work with youth and youth non-governmental organizations at all levels in order to involve young people in the work of the United Nations and at the same time to provide opportunities to them to learn about the Organization. They also include work aiming at stimulating international exchanges of information through networks of research and information centres. A concern to improve and systematize such exchanges of information was reflected in the guidelines for the improvement of the channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations adopted by the Assembly in resolution 32/135.

6. At the national level, the United Nations system has been requested to assist in exchanges of information among national youth organizations by identifying a national liaison and focal point on youth within each country, taking into consideration the networks of national correspondents which have been set up to facilitate communication between countries and with the United Nations in allied fields of social development (resolution 32/135, annex, para. 3), and to establish a co-operative arrangement among youth research and information centres (resolution 31/129, para. 5). Activities falling under this mandate would be those designed to inform young people about the activities of the United Nations system, to involve them directly - through youth organizations - in the activities of the United Nations and to facilitate exchanges among national youth organizations themselves.

7. The decision by the General Assembly to designate 1985 as International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace (resolution 34/151) is expected to lead to a consolidation of national and international efforts in the field of youth in general, and to the strengthening of the channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations in particular. The three themes of the Year - participation, development, peace - broadly summarize the various legislative mandates which guide the activities of the United Nations system.

8. The work of the United Nations covers the international, regional and national dimensions of communication with youth, including collaboration with all the agencies and offices of the United Nations system in carrying out various activities relating to youth, publication of a quarterly Youth Information Bulletin, preparation of a global directory of youth organizations and of an annotated list of activities of national and international research and information centres in the field of youth, annual reviews of youth activities of the United Nations system and participation in meetings, training sessions and seminars. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs acts as liaison with non-governmental organizations to promote the participation of young people in developmental activities. During the biennium 1982-1983 technical papers will be published on measures for strengthening channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations within the framework of the International Youth

Year. Several United Nations offices, regional commissions and the specialized agencies are closely associated with activities carried out by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in this field.

9. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), through its work programme in support of the mobilization of youth for national development, has organized 12 workshops, forums, field study and training programmes on different aspects of youth problems during the period 1980-1981. The meetings at both regional and country levels have included youth, policy makers, administrators, trainers and front-line workers from governmental, intergovernmental, international, regional, national and non-governmental organizations concerned with youth development. These meetings have provided opportunities for communication on common concerns relating to young people.

10. In particular, an ESCAP/OISCA Regional Forum on Active Youth Participation in National Development, held at Jakarta from 8 to 11 December 1980, brought together 67 youth workers, leaders, administrators, and policy makers, including five government ministers responsible for youth development and other representatives from governmental and non-governmental organizations. The Forum discussed, inter alia, programmes for bilateral and multilateral collaboration, including regional guidelines for the observance of the International Youth Year.

11. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific also organized at Bangkok, from 18 to 22 November 1980, an ad hoc interagency meeting with non-governmental organizations concerned with youth development in the region. The meeting recommended, among other things, that ESCAP should convene a Steering Committee or an informal annual interorganizational meeting to generate specific collaboration and co-operation among the different organizations in the preparation for and observance of the International Youth Year. A Directory of regional youth organizations was compiled and published in 1980. The Commission has also initiated preparations for publishing a regional newsletter on youth activities in the region.

12. In the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), youth is an important category of analysis in its social development programme. With a view to improving channels of communication in this area, ECLA participated in the Regional Meeting on Youth in Latin America and the Caribbean held at Bridgetown, Barbados, in 1980. The Commission has also envisaged the preparation of a regional inventory of institutions which are designed for or deal with youth, as well as a regional workshop on issues relating to the participation of youth. Such activities, however, are not in the regular programme budget of ECLA.

13. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has undertaken a study on youth policies in the region. Training programmes have been carried out in selected African countries. In addition, it carries out a fellowship programme for young people to study in institutions of higher learning outside their own countries. In the biennium 1979-1980, 542 young people benefited from the programme. An internship programme has been initiated under which young people sent by their

Governments worked with various ECA Divisions and outside institutions for varying periods of time. Twenty-seven young persons were trained under this programme in the biennium 1979-1980.

14. The Economic Commission for Africa, through its Voluntary Agencies Bureau, has strengthened its contacts with non-governmental organizations. It has drawn up a list of national correspondents from 32 African countries. Each is acting as a focal point of contact between ECA and the countries on matters concerning youth and social welfare. A directory of youth organizations in Africa was compiled and published in 1979.

15. Since 1975, the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has made considerable efforts to mobilize youth organizations for the implementation of the new international economic order and the International Development Strategy. Although the mandate of UNCTAD does not call for close links with youth or youth organizations as such, in practice such links have been developed as a corollary to its work in the mobilization of public opinion in support of its specific policies for promoting the trade and development of developing countries. Issues of interest to UNCTAD have traditionally met with interest from young people, particularly university students. For example, in the UNCTAD national campaigns, which were conducted in many developed countries, youth organizations played a major part both in terms of substantive input and the mobilization of financial resources.

16. The UNCTAD secretariat has remained in close communication with the Committee of European National Youth Councils (CENYC). Recently, youth organizations have taken an active role in preparing non-governmental organization support for the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

17. The main contact of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) with a youth organization has been with the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE), which has a consultative status with UNIDO.

18. Within the context of its public information activities, UNIDO has provided in 1980 special orientation programmes at the request of youth organizations such as the United Nations Student Association of Poland, the Student Association of International Law of the University of Leyden (Netherlands), and the Friedrich Eberd Stistung, Bonn (students from developing countries), and it will continue to do so on specific requests. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization is planning to make consistent efforts towards the dissemination of information on its activities to youth and youth organizations.

19. The activities of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in the field of

youth deal with rural and under-privileged youth by providing a package of training and advisory services and equipment for youth leaders, young farmers and out-of-school youth.

20. The United Nations Volunteers programme's activities in this respect give due consideration to the request, in paragraph 1 of the guidelines annexed to resolution 32/135, to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to seek "ways to involve youth organizations in development activities of the United Nations at the national level". The United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV) is involved in some 17 youth-related projects, four of which are sub-projects of a large-scale regional project for the promotion of youth in economic and social development activities in Latin America. The project, involving 10 Governments, began in 1977 as the first UNV major operational activity designed to give practical effect to its mandate in the youth field. The sub-projects include the strengthening of the institutional system servicing all aspects related to youth; the training of human resources necessary to the development of youth policies; the design and execution of youth projects; and the development of associative forms of production, including youth enterprises. Most of the remaining UNV activities consist of work on training of youth by providing volunteers to projects assisting various training institutions and programmes which are executed by specialized agencies. The United Nations Volunteers programme works with the International Labour Organisation in industrial training projects, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in teacher-training projects, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in agricultural training projects, and others. In addition, the UNV regional project of technical co-operation with youth and domestic development service organizations is fully operational, involving multinational team exchange assignments of youth and domestic development service volunteers, training in appropriate technology and other fields in Asia and the Pacific. The United Nations Volunteers programme is also now preparing for publication a special issue of its World Statistical Directory of Volunteer and Development Service Organizations. It also publishes quarterly its Newsletter, which carries general information of relevance to youth and youth service organizations.

21. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) has a mandate to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations, particularly in the areas of peace and security and the promotion of economic and social development. In its various internship and fellowship programmes, UNITAR has fostered activities designed to educate youth for peace through promoting awareness about human rights, international law and opposition to apartheid and racial discrimination. Since 1968, UNITAR, in co-operation with the Office of Legal Affairs, has continued to administer the International Law Fellowship Programme. The Programme is organized jointly with the Academy of International Law of The Hague. The Institute is also collaborating with the Centre for Disarmament in carrying out fellowship programmes on disarmament.

22. In the field of youth research studies, UNITAR published in 1973 a report entitled International Youth Organizations and the United Nations. A second study

entitled United Nations Internship Survey is currently being completed. The latter is the first in-depth report on three decades of internship and fellowship programmes sponsored by the United Nations and UNDP. The study surveys the wide range of informational and work-study experiences for youth from a range of countries with a view to developing guidelines for future programmes.

23. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) reports the largest number of technical co-operation projects as youth-related. With over 80 projects, its assistance focuses on planning and implementing national vocational training programmes, especially in the rural areas and on vocational and manpower training. The Organisation is also involved in the development and implementation of modular training systems in the various sectors of the national economy. In addition, the ILO assists Governments in developing policies, programmes, services and facilities for vocational rehabilitation.

24. The integration of rural youth in the development process is of concern to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The major channels of communication with youth are through the extension services of the ministries of agriculture. A considerable number of rural youth programmes in developing countries have, over the years, received assistance from FAO through these channels. In recent years, support for the rural youth sector has been mainly through training components of larger and more comprehensive FAO/UNDP or Trust Fund projects. Umbrella-programmes such as "People's Participation in Development" and "Women in Development" are programmes which cater to rural youth and therefore also aim at establishing channels of communication with this sector. In this framework a new feature starting in 1981, the World Food Day (16 October), will provide each year an opportunity to strengthen communications with rural youth organizations.

25. Under the "Freedom from Hunger/Action for Development" (FFHC/AD) programme, a number of meetings have been organized at the national, regional, and international levels. Although youth is not a specific target group for FFHC/AD, the Programme maintains relations with a large number of youth organizations. The Programme has now expanded its activities so as to include a variety of non-governmental organizations and national institutions working closely at the grass-roots level.

26. In addition to the above-mentioned activities, communication with youth is maintained through various training schemes for development work, either at Headquarters or in the field. This is done through the Associate Expert Programme, the United Nations Volunteers programme, the In-Service Training Award Programme (INSTA), the Guest Auxiliary Programme, and the Professional Training for Agricultural Development (PTAD).

27. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) provides assistance to national and international youth non-governmental organizations, particularly through the holding annually of a Collective Consultation whereby non-governmental organizations are involved in the design and implementation of the UNESCO youth programme. In order to gain a better

understanding of the problems and aspirations of youth at the national and regional levels, a series of regional meetings have been held in Europe (1977), Asia and the Pacific (1978), Africa (1979), Latin America and the Caribbean (1980). The last in this series of regional youth encounters will be held in the Arab States in December 1981. Evidence of the co-operation existing between UNESCO and youth non-governmental organizations is supplied by the following figures:

43 subventions were provided to international youth non-governmental organizations and 23 member States benefited from financial assistance contracts for youth activities in 1979-1980. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has also endeavoured to improve channels of communication by providing assistance for the strengthening of youth organizations. Moreover, within the framework of the 1981-1983 Approved Programme and Budget, the youth programme foresees the organization at UNESCO Headquarters of annual student seminars on world issues within the field of competence of UNESCO. The Organization has also encouraged the idea that young people should be included in the delegations to its General Conference.

### III. SUGGESTED MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND YOUTH AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR

28. Effective channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations form a basic prerequisite for the successful preparation, observance and follow-up of the International Youth Year. The Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year has recommended a series of measures to strengthen channels of communication, which are contained in its report to the General Assembly (A/36/215, annex). Attention is called, in particular, to paragraphs 35, 38, 39, 42, 45, 47 and 48 of that report.

### IV. PROPOSALS FOR ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

29. The channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations should be strengthened at the international, regional and national levels. The following additional guidelines are suggested in this regard:

(a) At the national level, the co-ordinating committees for the International Youth Year should be established as soon as possible. Such committees, in addition to serving as the focal points of national action for the International Youth Year and maintaining liaison with the United Nations regarding the programme for the Year, should have the responsibility for strengthening the activities related to the channels of communication;

(b) At the regional level, each regional commission should set up a regional co-ordinating committee for the International Youth Year to co-ordinate activities



related to the Year and enhance channels of communication, at both the regional and national levels;

(c) At the global level, co-operation between the United Nations system and international youth and youth-related organizations, as well as among those organizations, should be strengthened. In this connexion, Governments should be encouraged to give voluntary assistance to the Geneva Informal Meeting of non-governmental organizations. Other international non-governmental organizations should be urged to support the implementation of the programme of measures and activities for the International Youth Year and to take initiatives to this effect at national and regional levels;

(d) Governments and non-governmental organizations should be encouraged to provide material and identify channels of distribution for the Youth Information Bulletin;

(e) The Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC), in close co-operation with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, could establish contacts with young people to advise it on the production and circulation of United Nations publications which will be of interest to youth, with special emphasis on the activities relating to the International Youth Year.

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