



**General Assembly**

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/37/401  
8 September 1982

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-seventh session  
Item 81 of the provisional agenda\*

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES RELATING TO YOUTH

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

Report of the Secretary-General

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\* A/37/150.

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution of 32/135 of 16 December 1977, the General Assembly adopted guidelines for the improvement of the channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations. The Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly, at its thirty-third, thirty-fourth, thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions, reports on the implementation of the guidelines at the national, regional and international levels. The General Assembly, in its resolution of 36/17 of 9 November 1981, adopted additional guidelines for the improvement of the channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations.

2. In the specific Programme of Measures and Activities for the International Youth Year, adopted by the Advisory Committee for International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace and endorsed by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session, it is stated that 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 General Assembly, in its resolution 36/17, requested the Advisory Committee for IYY to promote the implementation of the additional guidelines, together with the guidelines adopted in General Assembly resolution 32/135, during the preparation for and the observance of the Year.

3. On the basis of comments made by Member States, United Nations agencies and bodies and youth organizations in reply to the Secretary-General's note verbale and aide mémoire, efforts have been made to identify and analyse emerging trends in the implementation of the guidelines.

## II. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES

### A. United Nations system

4. In accordance with recommendations made by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year, organizations of the United Nations system have developed and expanded their youth-related activities in preparation for IYY. Recognizing the important role of non-governmental youth organizations in the promotion of young people's participation in the development process, United Nations agencies and bodies have strengthened and improved relationships with non-governmental youth organizations.

5. A description of activities undertaken by the United Nations agencies and bodies to strengthen and improve the channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations is given below.

#### 1. United Nations

6. The United Nations Secretariat has been actively involved in meetings and conferences on youth held within and outside the United Nations system with a view

to promoting widespread awareness and the implementation of the specific Programme of Measures and Activities for the International Youth Year. Advisory services in matters relating to youth have been extended to Member States, upon their request. The quarterly Youth Information Bulletin, which is published in English, French and Spanish, has served as a major channel of communications between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations. It has facilitated and encouraged an exchange of information among youth and has widely disseminated developments in the preparatory work for the Year. A global directory of youth organizations and an annotated list of national and international research and information centres engaged in the field of youth, now being updated, have proved very useful in the channels of communication with youth. A study is planned to be undertaken in 1983 on measures for strengthening channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations. A substantive input is expected to be made by an expert group meeting scheduled to be held the same year.

7. The first meeting of the informal interagency working group at the technical level, held at Vienna on 18 and 19 March 1982, recommended that representatives of the Geneva Informal Meeting of international non-governmental youth organizations and the UNESCO Collective Consultation should be invited to the group's future meetings in order to get young people's input into the preparatory work for IYY. The group identified a series of promotional activities to be carried out jointly by organizations of the United Nations system in order to bring about a general awareness of the International Youth Year objectives. Each United Nations agency or body was encouraged to use its own communication media to publicize the International Youth Year. Specific measures have been taken, in close co-operation with the agencies and the regional commissions, to promote the establishment of national co-ordinating committees for the IYY with a significant representation of youth.

8. The Secretariat has continued to co-operate with the Geneva Informal Meeting of international non-governmental youth organizations in the preparations for the observance of the International Youth Year, and has provided the Geneva Informal Meeting with technical support.

9. The 62 United Nations information centres continue to be actively involved with academic institutions and youth groups at all levels by delivering lectures and providing information material. In addition, an annual publication on United Nations themes for students is produced; most recently a wallsheet, produced in 10 languages with a total print run of 1.5 million, was distributed world wide. Since 1978, an annual fellowship programme aimed at policy-makers in the educational field has been held in different regions. A collection of model teaching units on the United Nations and world concerns will be published in English before the end of 1982 and in other languages in 1983. The annual post-graduate intern programme continues and a training programme for young radio and print journalists from developing countries was instituted in 1981 in conjunction with the General Assembly. Contact with youth-oriented non-governmental organizations through their representatives in New York, is maintained on a regular basis.

10. Radio programmes produced by the United Nations reach a large audience of young people and periodically include items on their specific problems and needs,

particularly those of women through the regular women's radio series. United Nations films are continually demanded by universities, schools and youth organizations. Two recent productions with a youth audience specifically in mind are "In the Minds of Men", about the horrors of war, and "Partners in Progress" which illustrates the work of United Nations volunteers.

11. Through the guided tours at United Nations Headquarters in New York, some 250,000 students were directly exposed to the work of the organization in 1981 alone as well as to the photo exhibits mounted in the building on a wide variety of themes. Briefings were arranged for student and youth groups in New York and elsewhere and support continued for model United Nations meetings. Similar activities are regularly carried out at the European headquarters of the United Nations.

12. Among the activities of the United Nations in the field of international drug control is the provision of information to youth organizations and educational institutions, in order to promote a better understanding of the drug phenomenon and initiate appropriate preventive activities. Loan of films to interested circles form a major part of the efforts in this respect. Furthermore, the last issue in 1981 of Bulletin on Narcotics was devoted to youth and drugs in order to bring about awareness of the various aspects of the subject. A similar issue will be published in 1985.

13. The activities of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) encompasses the development of formal and non-formal education programmes and campaigns to prevent and reduce drug abuse among young people, as well as the establishment of pilot centres for social and vocational rehabilitation of drug addicts. In addition, UNFDAC is willing to provide financial support to research work concerning attitudes of youth towards drug abuse and a review of the required legislation.

14. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has developed a plan of action in order to assess the needs and aspiration of youth in the region; facilitate co-operation and co-ordination among regional youth organizations; establish a mechanism such as an interagency working group through which co-ordinated efforts to maximize youth participation in development could be made; and develop a regional programme for the observance of IYY.

15. ESCAP has organized a series of regional and national meetings and workshops on youth in which young people have taken an active part, such as a national leadership training workshop for youth leaders; ad hoc meetings with agencies and non-governmental organizations concerned with youth development in the region; regional training workshops for youth leaders and development of rural institutions for the participation of youth in national development; ad hoc advisory group meetings on youth problems and programmes; and workshops on the role of youth organizations in cities and their contribution to social development. ESCAP has also conducted an inventory of governmental and non-governmental agencies engaged in youth activities at the regional level. In addition, ESCAP has initiated an information system to publicize youth-related activities of governmental and non-governmental organizations and promote IYY objectives in the region.

16. The Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) has been assisting in the formation of an Association of Non-governmental Organizations for Development, located in Santiago, and including several youth non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. The Association, which meets monthly at ECLA headquarters, is self-financing and carries out joint projects among the member organizations. It has one committee dealing with United Nations international years, including International Youth Year.

17. ECLA is also actively seeking extrabudgetary support to sponsor a workshop of government officers responsible for youth programmes, and is examining possibilities of following up the matter in the context of its regional project on education and development in Latin America and the Caribbean, executed in co-operation with UNESCO and UNDP. ECLA is exploring ways and means for collaboration with an autonomous intergovernmental regional institution for youth, the establishment of which is at present in the negotiation stage among 10 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, a study on youth and popular participation in Latin America is under way.

18. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) supports activities undertaken at the national and local levels, the objective being the establishment of close co-operation between regional and national endeavours. ECA plans to carry out a publicity programme for promoting public awareness of the IYY objectives and for rendering advisory services, on request, to Member States in formulating their IYY programmes.

19. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) relations with youth and youth organizations have developed, particularly since 1975, as a corollary of its work to mobilize public opinion in support of its specific policies for the enhancement of trade and development of developing countries. UNCTAD issues have met with interest and positive response from young people, especially university students and youth organizations, who have supported the policy proposals made in the context of negotiations in implementing the objectives of the new international economic order and the International Development Strategy. Youth organizations have played a major part, both in terms of substantive input and fund-raising activities with regard to national campaigns conducted in many developed countries before the fourth and fifth sessions of UNCTAD to influence public opinion and policy-makers. Several youth representatives attended those sessions of UNCTAD, which were held at Nairobi and Manila, respectively. Youth organizations have recently been involved in preparing non-governmental organization support for the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. Further contacts with young people have been maintained and developed in many ways, including distribution of information material on the new international economic order and replies to queries from youth organizations.

20. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is promoting environmental education for youth, inter alia, through the setting up by major children's libraries all over the world of a special display of environmental books and the introduction of the Panda Educational Series as textbooks and wallposters in schools. In addition, UNEP is encouraging national programmes such as competitions related to the themes of World Environment Day among students and young people,

sponsoring or co-sponsoring a series of regional meetings with youth organizations and educational institutions, and assisting museums and institutions of science and technology to mount exhibits in 1982 on environmental themes.

21. Activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for the period 1982-1984 include an expansion of programmes for vocational training, self-employment, community development, co-operative groups for agricultural and small-scale industrial production, and the introduction of education on family life. It will continue to provide scholarships to refugee students as well as counselling services.

22. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is promoting the involvement of young people in the mainstream of development, especially in rural areas, through co-operation with youth organizations and youth leaders in the planning and implementation of UNICEF-assisted programmes for the benefit of both children and mothers.

23. The United Nations volunteers programme is compiling, in 1982, a further edition of the World Statistical Directory of Volunteer and Service Organizations, thereby contributing to the expansion of volunteer services. A network is planned for channeling information on IYY through the 1,000 volunteers in service. In addition, within the Latin America youth project executed by the programme, a publication series on youth training policy and studies is being expanded.

24. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) has encouraged the integration of family life and population education, maternal and child health care in the regular education systems. UNFPA's assistance will continue to be given to governmental and non-governmental activities aimed at encouraging the participation of youth in the development, implementation and evaluation of maternal and child health and family planning information and services particularly designed to respond to their specific needs and concerns.

25. Youth-oriented activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) focus on education, vocational training and the provision of scholarships to university students. The Agency will continue providing relief services to enable young people to become more involved in self-help projects. Youth services include, for example, special programmes for orphans and informal classes for the illiterate. The Agency sees the International Youth Year as an occasion to promote youth cultural events such as Palestine youth festivals devoted to music, folk dancing, painting and embroidery.

26. The World Food Programme (WFP) activities geared to youth fall under the following three categories: supplementary feeding of young people attending schools; feeding of students receiving instruction in the field of technical specialization, rural development or vocational training; and employment of unemployed or underemployed youth in practical vocational training in special camps.

## 2. Specialized agencies

27. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) is making available to Governments advisory services on all aspects relating to young peoples' professional life. It has collected and disseminated information on measures taken at the national level and organized regional or subregional meetings on priority areas of employment policies concerning youth. ILO has intensified vocational training for young people in accordance with the needs of their countries, with particular emphasis on disadvantages groups, such as young girls and women, rural disabled and migrant youth. It has encouraged increased participation of young people in the decision-making process concerning their work through trade unions. ILO publications or information material, distributed throughout the world, have contributed to the sensitization of Governments and public opinion about youth employment. A major agenda item for the sixty-eighth session of the General Conference of ILO was youth and employment. In co-operation with the Geneva Informal meeting of international non-governmental youth organizations, ILO held a Follow-up Seminar on Youth and Employment at Geneva on 13 and 14 May 1981.

28. The integration of rural youth in the development process is of great concern to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The major channels of communication with youth are the member Governments 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 to 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 "Peoples' participation in development" and "Women in development" are examples of programmes which are also catering for the rural youth and therefore aiming at establishing channels of communication with this sector. Also, the celebration of World Food Day - 16 October - that began in 1981 will provide each year an opportunity to strengthen communications with rural youth organizations.

29. An FAO special Programme, "Freedom from Hunger/Action for Development", has, over the years, organized a number of meetings and consultations at the national, regional and international levels which have enabled youth organizations to participate actively in development activities. The Programme has now expanded its activities and its partner organizations include a variety of non-governmental organizations and national institutions in developing and developed countries that are working closely with grass root groups.

30. In addition, internship programmes for young people have enabled FAO to maintain and develop communication with youth through various training schemes for development work, either at FAO headquarters or in the field. These are: the Associate Expert Programme, the United Nations Volunteers Programme, the In-Service Training Award Programme and the professional Training for Agricultural Development.

31. In 1981, FAO Visitors' Service received approximately 12,000 visitors in groups, the majority of which were at the high school and secondary school levels. In this context, an expert consultation was held on 24 and 25 May 1982 to discuss the production of development education material on food and agriculture and to

determine the most appropriate target audience. The idea is to provide prototype material that may be used for reproduction by educational establishments and the non-governmental organizations.

32. The United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has channeled information to youth through its publications, among others, Youth in the Eighties, and meeting such as the five regional meetings on youth in Asia, Africa, Arab States, Europe and Latin America, the International Round Table on Youth in the Eighties, as well as sessions of the Collective Consultation on non-governmental youth organizations and the World Federation of UNESCO National Commissions. A working group of the annual Collective Consultation has been established to ensure a permanent liaison between UNESCO's youth programme and the international non-governmental youth organization. The Collective Consultation constitutes an important channel of communication and puts into practice the principle of UNESCO's youth programme for youth and with youth, repeatedly underlined during the twenty-first session of the Organization's General Conference. UNESCO has also encouraged the development of the Geneva Informal Meeting by attending its meetings on a regular basis and providing with technical support for those meetings held in conjunction with the annual UNESCO Collective Consultation.

33. The World Health Organization (WHO) is conducting country studies on the participation of youth in primary health care, and training young people to develop and promote community-based primary health care activities with particular emphasis on rural areas. WHO's information and promotional activities for IYY include the following: production of low-cost teaching or learning materials in health by young people for use by their peers; information dissemination in the World Health and other WHO publications on the theme of youth; and distribution of educational packages on the abuse of drugs, tobacco and alcohol. In addition, WHO national and regional offices will appoint a focal point to co-ordinate IYY activities and to serve as liaison with their national counterparts, including youth representatives. It is also encouraging Governments to include education on health and family life in school curricula.

34. Furthermore, the United Nations system has continued to expand its internship programmes in order to acquaint a significant number of young people with its activities. As stated in the report of the World Association of Former United Nations Internes and Fellows, Inc. (WA/1981/7), to date some 30,000 internes have benefited from the United Nations internship programmes. In turn, these young people's contribution has been invaluable in terms of redissemination, in their respective communities, of information concerning the work of the United Nations.

#### B. Non-governmental organizations

35. There has been a generally positive response of non-governmental youth organizations to the recommendations set forth in the specific Programme of Measures and Activities for IYY, as well as in relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions. As a result, many concrete steps have taken at all levels.



36. National youth organizations have held youth rallies, set up exhibitions and stimulated governmental actions concerning such issues as employment and peace. Some of them have provided counselling services (Info Centre, Vienna; Father Ritter's Covenant House, New York) or played an active role in the vocational training (Morocco) of young people. Information concerning education, vocational training, employment opportunities, cultural activities, leisure and sports was made available to young people at the premises of youth-related institutions. Youth organizations in a number of countries (e.g. India, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland) have been encouraged to get together and work out appropriate strategies aimed at increasing youth involvement in the life of society. Youth groups in other countries have received Government support in those activities designed to develop contacts among young people at the interregional and international levels, which constitute a valuable contribution to the promotion of understanding and co-operation among nations. Some organizations in the United States of America are providing services to young people in the fields of juvenile justice, employment, education, recreation, alcohol and drug abuse, adolescent pregnancy and residential care.

37. Regional non-governmental youth organizations have encouraged their member organizations to channel information relating to the United Nations activities in the field of youth to their affiliates. To this end, efforts have been made to work out common approaches at the regional level with regard to specific questions relating to youth. The Eighth Asian-Pacific Youth Forum, held from 15 to 18 February 1982, for example, adopted a series of recommendations to be brought to the attention of governments in the Asia and the Pacific regions, including the establishment of an ad hoc committee, to co-ordinate IYY preparations and activities in the area. In Europe, the rights of migrant workers and their children was discussed in a seminar held by the European Co-ordinating Bureau which advocated the need for youth organizations to lobby their own Governments to ratify and implement international conventions or other instruments and to conclude bilateral agreements with countries facing the migrant problem. The seminar encouraged non-governmental organizations to publicize international legislation and rulings relating to migrant workers as well as measures concerning the education of young immigrants. In observance of the United Nations Disarmament Week, starting on 24 October 1981, many youth organizations, especially in Europe, carried out various activities such as marches, exhibitions, articles in publications, rallies and seminars.

38. The regional office for east, central and southern Africa of the International Co-operative Alliance, located in Moshi, United Republic of Tanzania, is carrying out a study on strategies for the involvement of youth in co-operatives in its area. The study is expected to show that co-operatives can be a means of solving youth unemployment in the region and way of reducing among young people social deviances such as prostitution, theft, delinquency. An International Co-operative Alliance Conference on Youth Participation in Co-operatives planned for 9 to 13 August 1982 in Lukasa is expected to make a significant contribution to the study.

39. Youth-related organizations and institutions have undertaken research studies on various issues of particular interest to young people, such as: youth

unemployment (Asian Students Association); youth for peace and disarmament (World Federation of Democratic Youth and the Council for European National Youth Committees); social situation of students (International Union of Students); problems of juvenile delinquent girls (Young Women's Christian Association); and youth and development (Coast Rican Institute for Research on Youth and Development). Many other non-governmental youth organizations have executed specific projects within the context of the three themes of the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace. For example, the Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement - International is planning to organize a series of meetings at the regional and national levels on the participation and development themes. It is also promoting the idea that each country within the Asian and Pacific region should proclaim a youth day or week in order to highlight the role of youth in the national development process. Similarly, in Africa and Latin America regional non-governmental youth organizations are planning to enhance the participation of youth in rural and community development projects through meetings, seminar, trainings and workshops.

40. The Geneva Informal Meeting of international non-governmental youth organizations (GIM) has played an active role as a channel of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations. In co-operation with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, GIM is circulating to its member organizations a questionnaire on the programme of activities for the preparation and observance of the International Youth Year. GIM and the International Labour Organisation have jointly organized a Follow-up Seminar on Youth Employment on 13 and 14 May 1982. Non-governmental organizations participating in GIM had issued three statements in support of the International Youth Year, and highlighted the Year's objectives in their publications and during meetings of their individual organizations. Arrangements are underway for GIM's greater involvement in the activities of the United Nations system, especially with regard to their representation at meetings. GIM is preparing a programme of activities to be carried out at the regional, national and international levels in the framework of the International Youth Year for the period 1983-1985. The UNESCO Collective Consultation of international non-governmental youth organizations has also been very active in highlighting the United Nations work in the field of youth, especially UNESCO's youth programmes.

C. Intergovernmental Organizations outside  
the United Nations system

41. The recently established International Youth Year Planning Group of the Commonwealth Youth Programme (Commonwealth Secretariat) is co-ordinating Commonwealth activities geared to young people in the context of IYY, a series of high level conferences are planned in its Commonwealth region as part of its preparations for IYY. The first one was held in June 1982 in Malawi. Frequent contacts between the personnel of the Commonwealth Youth Programme and the staff of the United Nations agencies and offices have made it possible for them to exchange information and views on issues of interest to youth. Also a Youth Day or Week has been proclaimed in a number of Commonwealth member States to sensitize both the public and the policy-makers to the aspirations and the needs of young people in

the community concerned. Efforts are being made to expand programmes for youth in all the regions and to secure a proper flow of information between the Commonwealth Youth Programme and the United Nations, among others, through an exchange of publications and participation in meetings held under the auspices of either organization.

#### D. Educational institutions

42. In addition, young students of the Vienna International School, acting as delegates of thirty-five countries, organized on 18 February 1982 a World Youth Assembly on Aging where they adopted a plan of action for the year 2025, the prospective date of their retirement. They made a series of recommendations to be brought to the attention of the United Nations World Assembly on Aging. Another group of young students from the French Lycée (Paris) discussed the rights of the elderly at UNESCO headquarters on the occasion of the Youth Day, 10 March 1982. The meeting concluded on a number of ideas that might be incorporated in a possible Declaration of the Rights of the Elderly. Population, its growth and psychological and physical effects on society, was discussed by the students of the United Nations International School in New York. The Student Conference was held on 25 and 26 February 1982 at United Nations Headquarters, and its participants drafted a working paper with the assistance of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

### III. TRENDS EMERGING FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THOSE GUIDELINES

43. The work accomplished by the United Nations system in the field of youth indicates that there is a growing interest in youth issues. United Nations agencies and bodies have developed, in recent years, a wide range of activities directed towards young people. There is also, more than ever before, an increased recognition of young people's contribution to the solution of the world's important issues. For example, recognizing education for peace as a basic precept of the entire educational approach of Scouting, UNESCO gave its 1981 Peace Prize to the World Scout Movement.

44. Another trend is that efforts have been made within the United Nations system to adopt a common approach vis-à-vis youth issues. Several interagency meetings have been held to co-ordinate efforts in this field, particularly in the context of International Youth Year. Also, a number of joint projects directed to young people have been planned. As mentioned before, an informal interagency working group at the technical level, established in accordance with a recommendation of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year, has voiced in a recent meeting the need for the involvement of representatives of international youth organization in its future meetings, in order to get young people's views on the preparatory work of the United Nations system for IYY.

45. The interest of young people and their organizations in the work of the United Nations system has increased considerably during the last two years. The number of

invitations sent to the United Nations to attend meetings held by youth organizations has almost doubled. The increased number of written and oral queries from young people is another indication of youths' wish to learn about the United Nations. Yet, the desired two-way flow of information between the United Nations and youth needs to be developed further. Although young people are actively promoting United Nations activities, opportunities for their contribution to the conceptual stage of United Nations programmes should be further explored.

46. In addition, Governments have shown a growing interest in youth issues. Most of them have developed or are planning to work out policies and programmes geared towards young people. The requests for United Nations advisory services in the elaboration of national youth policies have been increasing. A number of Governments have proclaimed a Youth Day or Week and organized meetings focusing on youth, to augment public awareness concerning the situation, aspirations and needs of young people. As at 20 May 1982, Japan, Kuwait, The Philippines, Romania, Sweden and Yugoslavia have established National Co-ordinating Committees for IYY, which include youth representatives. These Committees are expected to plan and co-ordinate activities of governmental and non-governmental agencies for the preparation of IYY, and will serve as the liaison organization with the United Nations regarding the programmes of the Year.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

47. In spite of the achievements and the generally positive trends outlined above, information disseminated all over the world on the United Nations, three decades after its founding, does not seem to have fully achieved its target in terms of generating among young people awareness concerning the work of the Organizations.

48. An analysis of the present status of communication shows a lack of balance between endeavours of the United Nations to reach out to young people and the actual feedback from youth. The gap could be filled by encouraging young people to act as disseminators of and contributors to the formulation of United Nations policies and programmes directed to youth.

49. However, the Secretary-General feels that attention should also be given to additional channels of communication such as educational institutions and the mass media in order to reach the largest possible number of young people.

50. Experience having shown that youth can be an invaluable resource for development activities, their preparation for a meaningful participation therein becomes of utmost importance. Reaching young people while they are receptive to new and innovative approaches relating to the global life of society also becomes vital. This is where communication can play a key role in preparing young people to assume responsibilities in the society and sensitizing both policy-makers and the general public to the situation, the aspirations and the needs of youth.

51. The participation of young people in the policy-making process not only opens opportunities to youth, but permits the maximum use of national resources in addressing priority issues. When associated in national efforts for development, young people can make significant contributions.

52. The proclamation of the International Youth Year is evidence of the international community's concern for the problems facing young people. It also provides Governments, United Nations agencies and bodies, and indirectly youth and youth organizations as well as the public at large with an opportunity of strengthening and improving the existing channels of communication in order to bring about widespread awareness concerning youth issues. International Youth Year will also lead to the elaboration of appropriate youth policies designed to integrate young people in the over-all development process.

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