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POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES INVOLVING YOUTH

Policies and programmes involving young people: Participation,
development, peace

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 40/14 of 18 November 1985, endorsed the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth (A/40/256, annex). During its forty-first to forty-fourth sessions, the Assembly reviewed the implementation of the Guidelines.

2. On 8 December 1988, the Assembly adopted resolution 43/136 on the evaluation of the implementation of the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples (resolution 2037 (XX) of 7 December 1965) and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the matter to it at its forty-fifth session. On 8 December 1989, it adopted resolution 44/59 on policies and programmes involving youth and decided to consider that item at its forty-fifth session on the basis of a report of the Secretary-General.

3. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 43/136 and 44/59. It is based on available data and information received from Member States, United Nations bodies and agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

II. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4. Follow-up activities to the International Youth Year are continuing at all levels, encouraged by the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth. Initiatives have included incorporating skill training in out-of-school programmes, identifying needs of sub-categories of youth, reviewing existing legislation and assessing various governmental and non-governmental youth-related programmes. There has been an increase in the number of national youth organizations. Two basic features of the follow-up period at the national level are enhanced efforts to formulate and implement integrated national youth policies and programmes and the increasing recognition of the vital role of national co-ordination mechanisms in youth policy development.

5. Despite serious resource constraints, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna has continued to provide Governments with policy guidance and information, technical expertise and direct operational support in order to enhance national capacities. The Centre has also been active in strengthening co-ordination efforts, both within and outside the United Nations system.

6. The regional commissions and other agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, have assisted Member States in formulating, implementing and evaluating national youth policies, with particular emphasis on research, policy analysis, infrastructural development and identifying priority areas and emerging issues.

7. Inter-agency co-operation has concentrated on assistance to national co-ordination mechanisms, encouraging the implementation of technical assistance field level projects and exploring ways and means to promote joint actions within the context of the guidelines.

8. Concerned non-governmental organizations have worked with Governments on the development of youth policies, often through participation in national mechanisms. They continue to provide Governments with information, training expertise and research findings, thus drawing attention to salient issues and programmes.

9. Despite many achievements, numerous problems persist in the development of effective youth policies and programmes at all levels. Some of these problems were analysed in recent reports of the Secretary-General, (see A/43/601 and A/44/387). Additional obstacles are mentioned below.

10. To date, national co-ordination mechanisms on youth have achieved limited results in programming and implementation. During International Youth Year, they were established for the principal purpose of preparing for and observing the Year. Once the Year ended, however, some were disbanded. Not emphasized adequately was their important role in securing the effective integration of youth policy into national development planning and enhancing the channels of communication between youth, governmental and non-governmental organizations.

11. At the regional level, human and financial constraints have prevented the regional commissions from expanding their role as clearing houses for information on youth or undertaking regular reviews of the progress achieved in the implementation of the regional plans of action on youth. Further, research and technical co-operation activities have decreased considerably.

12. At the international level, inter-agency efforts aiming at ensuring continued advocacy for youth concerns have been hampered by the lack of resources. Inter-agency co-operation with regard to technical assistance to operational projects and co-operation between the United Nations system and the non-governmental organizations sector have not increased sufficiently.

13. While youth-related activities are continuing at the national level, concern has been expressed that the momentum created by the Year and the impetus to sustain follow-up activities have been declining at the international and regional levels. In order to stimulate renewed action at all levels, the tenth anniversary, in 1995, of the Year, presents a suitable occasion to focus global attention again on youth issues, particularly in light of the changing international political and economic situations and the effects of those changes on youth and youth-serving organizations.

14. In view of the above and in light of the need to determine future priorities and needs, the General Assembly may wish to consider the following recommendations:

(a) Governments should be encouraged to elaborate, with the active participation of youth, national youth policies that are fully integrated into the overall national planning framework on a cross-sectoral basis;

(b) National youth co-ordinating committees or similar mechanisms should be requested to prepare profiles of youth by category and priority issue, using both qualitative and quantitative data;

(c) Academic institutions and research centres should co-operate with national youth committees and similar co-ordinating mechanisms for the preparation of such profiles and action-oriented studies on emerging youth trends and issues in the 1990s and beyond;

(d) Governments should be encouraged to develop a programme of action with regard to the tenth anniversary of the Year based upon an in-depth evaluation of the situation and needs of youth and an identification of future strategies for the year 2000 and beyond;

(e) The regional commissions, together with regional youth and youth-serving organizations, should be requested to consider the possibility of undertaking a comprehensive review of progress achieved and obstacles encountered in the region since 1985, taking into account the implementation of the guidelines and regional plans of action in relation to the tenth anniversary of the Year for the purpose of preparing a regional youth strategy for the year 2000 and beyond;

(f) The international preparatory work on the draft programme of action to mark the tenth anniversary of the Year should be based on recommendations of regional and national programmes of action;

(g) An inventory should be prepared on the youth-related projects and activities of the United Nations system and of youth organizations at global, regional and national levels, with a view to identifying priority areas for joint action. The inventory may be prepared in close co-operation with the Inter-Agency Working Group at the Technical Level in the field of Youth and with concerned non-governmental youth organizations;

(h) Pursuant to paragraph 5 of Assembly resolution 44/59, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs was mandated to convene in 1990 a meeting, if necessary from extrabudgetary resources, between United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies concerned and non-governmental youth organizations to discuss the problems of existing channels of communications between the United Nations system and youth organizations. The aim of the meeting is to achieve effective results for the improvement of existing channels of communication and for the establishment of effective functioning structures of communication and co-operation between youth and the United Nations. Owing to financial constraints and to permit more time for preparations, the meeting has had to be rescheduled for 1991. It is recommended that the meeting focus on how non-governmental organizations could co-operate in preparing for the tenth anniversary of the Year;

(i) There is an urgent need to revitalize the resource base of the United Nations Youth Fund by attracting increased contributions from both governmental and non-governmental donors. This is especially important in view of the present resource problems confronting the Fund and the need for new ideas for joint youth projects in view of the tenth anniversary of Year and the fiftieth anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations (1995).

15. As indicated by the continued low response of Member States to questionnaires on measures taken to implement international standards on and for youth (see sects. IV and IX below), it is the view of the Secretary-General that time and resources would be better spent in designing, implementing and evaluating projects based on the criteria established by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/59.

III. GLOBAL ACTIONS TO THE YEAR 2000 AND BEYOND

16. The current international climate is characterized by progress in diminishing international tensions, reduced ideological confrontation and increased international co-operation. This climate promises to alter the landscape of the youth question and open up new vistas for action at all levels. For example, at the national level, allocation of resources can be transferred for social planning purposes and at the international level youth exchanges between East-West can be reinforced and transnational co-operation in crucial areas increased.

17. Drug abuse continues to be a major problem of young people since they are not only victims but, in many instances, carriers and distributors of illicit drugs. Efforts, ranging from education and prevention to the provision of direct treatment and rehabilitation services, have not been adequate.

18. Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) has become a major concern of youth. It is rising sharply among this population group, and AIDS prevention and control measures often have not been sufficiently geared to the needs of youth.

19. Environmental concerns have increased since the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Environment held at Stockholm. The issue, particularly the integration of environmental and developmental concerns, affects young people who have a stake in a sustainable and environmentally sound habitat.

20. The changing international climate and the continuing search for concrete solutions to salient and emerging youth issues calls for new approaches towards youth policy development at all levels.

21. At the international level, youth concerns have been placed on the agenda of various United Nations legislative bodies for the 1990s. The 1990 International Literacy Year identified out-of-school youth as a target group in the struggle against illiteracy. The Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Havana from 27 August to 7 September 1990, discussed the topic of juvenile delinquency. The situation of young women will be discussed under the priority theme "Equality" at the thirty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, scheduled for February 1991. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, scheduled for 1992 in Brazil, will consider, *inter alia*, the role of non-governmental organizations, including youth-related organizations in maintaining the quality of the Earth's environment. The General Assembly, in its resolution 44/82 of 8 December 1989, proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of the Family, where youth concerns will be an important aspect.

22. In addition, the issue of youth will continue to be discussed from regional perspectives, by several of the regional commissions, and from sectoral perspectives, by legislative bodies (such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Governing Council, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Executive Board, the International Labour Conference, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) General Conferences and the World Health Assembly).

23. The Commission for Social Development, at its thirty-first session in 1989, decided to give priority attention, at its thirty-second session in 1991, to the question of the integration of young people into society. An international symposium on this topic (Toledo, Spain, 4-8 June 1990) was held to facilitate the effective preparation for this discussion by the Commission (see para. 38). On the basis of the outcome, the Secretary-General will prepare a working document for consideration by the Commission at its thirty-second session of its priority topic: the integration of young people into society.

24. In its resolution 1989/51, the Economic and Social Council requested the Commission for Social Development, at its thirty-third session in 1993, to prepare a draft programme of action to mark the tenth anniversary of the Year and to identify future strategies. That request was reiterated by the General Assembly in paragraph 16 of its resolution 44/59. Accordingly, the draft programme will be submitted through the Commission and the Council to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

25. Its basic objectives will be (a) to evaluate, at all levels, the progress achieved and obstacles encountered in the implementation of the guidelines, (b) to identify future strategies, with a view to refining the concept and practice of long-term planning on youth for the year 2000 and beyond, (c) to evaluate, at the national level, youth policies and select realistic targets for the year 2000 and beyond, and (d) to revise the guidelines and regional plans of action on youth with a view to adapting them to the changing situation and needs of youth. On that basis a refined global strategy on youth for the year 2000 and beyond could be adopted.

IV. ACTIVITIES OF MEMBER STATES CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GUIDELINES FOR FURTHER PLANNING AND SUITABLE FOLLOW-UP IN THE FIELD OF YOUTH

26. In January 1990, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Governments of Member States, requesting information on their activities and current trends in implementing the guidelines and in integrating young people into social and professional life. Some 24 Member States responded to the note verbale. Those States included Australia, Austria, Burkina Faso, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Ireland, Jamaica, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, the Philippines, Rwanda, Somalia, Thailand, Turkey, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It is the

view of the Secretary-General that such a limited response from Member States not only questions the amount of time and resources allocated for that exercise, but raises the overall question of the utility of future such questionnaires to Member States.

27. Several Governments stressed the importance of and the need for an integrated national youth policy in line with the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth. In this regard, Governments underlined their commitment to promoting the active and effective participation of youth in the political, economic and cultural life of society as an essential objective of youth policy. For example, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic formulated a Republic-wide programme entitled "Youth", which provided a comprehensive approach to solving basic youth problems and sought youth participation in the socio-economic restructuring of society along democratic lines. Ecuador has included a youth section in its national development plan. In Finland, a new Youth Policy Programme of Action is under preparation and focuses on young people's subsistence and housing, quality of work and legal status. In the Philippines, government agencies and youth organizations have collaborated to formulate a National Youth Development Plan in conformity with the guidelines. In Thailand, the Five-Year Children and Youth Development Plan has been formulated and integrated in the Sixth National Economic and Social Development Plan (1987-1991). Turkey has included youth policies in its Five-Year Development Plan (1990-1994).

28. Several Governments have set up institutional structures to assist in formulating and implementing national and local youth programmes and activities, either by maintaining their national co-ordinating committees by reallocating to existing ministries, councils, secretariats and offices the responsibility for follow-up action to the Year and long-term planning on youth-related issues or by setting up new co-ordination mechanisms. For example, in Burkina Faso, young people participate in national development programmes through the National People's Service. In Ecuador, the National Directorate of Youth within the Ministry for Social Welfare is responsible for integrating youth policy into the national development plan. In Greece, the General Secretariat of Youth implements youth policies and programmes for the five-year period 1988-1992. In Jamaica, the National Youth Council, an independent non-partisan organization, acts as a forum for the articulation of all youth matters. In the Netherlands, interministerial harmonization of the national youth policy takes place in the Intersectoral Youth Policy Committee. The Government also supports projects aimed at achieving "local integrated youth policy" from a local, regional and provincial perspective. In New Zealand, the Office of Youth Affairs is responsible for youth policy development. In the Philippines, the Presidential Council for Youth Affairs is responsible for policy and programme formulation and implementation. In Thailand, the National Youth Bureau within the Office of the Prime Minister is the central agency for the formulation, co-ordination, monitoring and implementation of the national youth policy.

29. In some countries, youth affairs are decentralized. For example, in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Kingdom Youth Service is a kaleidoscope of bodies responding to a variety of needs: apart from a small statutory youth service based in local authorities, there is a wide range of

voluntary youth provision, from large organizations with a national structure to very small local organizations. In several countries, the important contribution of non-governmental organizations in promoting active youth participation in all spheres of life, including decision-making, is widely recognized. In this respect, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic is undertaking a study on foreign experiences regarding the relationships between youth organizations and State institutions for incorporation into its national youth policy. In several countries, non-governmental organizations also receive governmental funding in support of their youth-related activities and services.

30. Education, training and employment have remained high priority issues. Among the responding countries, many have increased efforts to gear the educational system towards the needs of the labour market by improving informal educational services and by providing vocational training programmes. Employment schemes for school-leavers or unemployed youth have been set up by many countries. Several Governments have improved social services for young people, including information and counselling, while others have promoted active youth participation in culture, sports, youth exchange and leisure-time activities. Some Governments have also increased efforts to integrate disadvantaged and marginal groups of youth, notably young women, ethnic minorities, juvenile delinquents and young people with disabilities, into the mainstream of life and to facilitate their full participation in society. The struggle against drug and alcohol abuse among young people has been intensified by various countries.

V. ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT VIENNA

31. As the substantive secretariat on youth for the concerned United Nations legislative bodies, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna has encouraged a dialogue with Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on the need for a co-ordinated and cross-sectoral approach to youth policies and programmes at national, regional and global levels. During the past year, it organized four meetings on youth policies and programmes: (a) a Consultative Meeting on Interregional, Regional and National Co-ordination for Integrated Youth Policies and Programmes (in co-operation with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), which was held at Pattaya, Thailand, from 2 to 5 November, 1989); (b) an International Meeting on Establishment and Development of National Mechanisms for Youth (jointly with the Department for Technical Co-operation and Development of the Secretariat and in co-operation with ESCAP, which was held at Bangkok from 8 to 12 November 1989); (c) the seventh meeting of the United Nations informal inter-agency working group at the technical level on youth (in co-operation with FAO, ILO, UNESCO, the United Nations Volunteers programme, UNICEF and WHO, which was held at Vienna on 4 and 5 December 1989); and (d) an International Symposium on the Integration of Young People into Society (in close co-operation with the Youth Institute, Ministry for Social Affairs of Spain, held at Toledo, Spain, from 4 to 8 June 1990).

32. The Consultative Meeting held at Pattaya was attended by representatives of the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP), the League of Arab States (LAS), the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Organization of American States (OAS), ESCAP, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). Its major objective was to enhance the capacities of interregional and regional organizations for effective planning and co-ordination of activities, particularly information exchange, applied research and technical co-operation. The meeting reviewed the progress achieved in co-operation and co-ordination within and outside the United Nations system and formulated recommendations for further action.

33. The Bangkok meeting was attended by senior decision-makers, scholars and practitioners from 20 developing countries. Its basic objective was to assist developing countries to establish and strengthen national capacities and institutional structures for youth. The meeting adopted guidelines for the establishment and development of national co-ordination structures, which addressed the central role of an appropriate policy framework for co-ordination related to youth development and set forth a strategic perspective on the establishment and development of appropriate mechanisms.

34. The Vienna meeting was attended by substantive officers responsible for the youth programmes of FAO, ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, the United Nations Volunteers programme and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. The Centre is the co-ordinator of the United Nations informal inter-agency working group at the technical level on youth. The group contributed to the follow-up of the Year (see A/41/578, A/42/595, A/43/601 and A/44/387). The meeting reviewed progress achieved in the implementation of the Guidelines, ways of strengthening national co-ordination mechanisms for youth, and co-operation with non-governmental organizations at the field level. It was decided to publish an information leaflet on the youth-related activities of and services provided by concerned United Nations agencies and bodies. The group also plans to analyse resolutions on youth emanating from the governing bodies of the member agencies to determine priorities of Member States.

35. The Toledo Symposium was attended by 27 experts representing 20 countries that are current members of the Commission for Social Development, resource persons from ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA, and observers from UNESCO and UNICEF and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. It reviewed the concepts concerning young people's integration into society and analysed issues and problems encountered in the integration process. Salient recommendations focused on ensuring access of young people to the means for productive work, creating innovative schemes for income-generating opportunities, ensuring that educational systems better reflect current socio-economic and cultural realities, and developing and strengthening prevention and rehabilitation services for young people in areas of drug and alcohol abuse as well as AIDS. It was recommended that the draft programme of action to mark the tenth anniversary of the Year should identify future strategies and refine the concept and practice of analysis, long-term planning and implementation of youth policies at all levels for the year 2000 and beyond.

36. Through those four meetings in 1989-1990, the United Nations youth programme co-ordinated activities to strengthen existing global, regional and national machinery for the advancement of youth. In addition, through its periodical publications, such as the "United Nations Youth Information Bulletin" (three times per year), the "IYY Newsletter" (quarterly) and its directories (such as a recent one on international non-governmental youth organizations), the programme publicized youth policies and programmes on a global scale. Decisions of relevant meetings organized during the reporting period were also disseminated to national co-ordination mechanisms, interested non-governmental organizations and concerned United Nations agencies and bodies. As a sponsor of action-oriented research and studies, the programme has helped to identify needs and emerging trends in the global response to youth. It conducted a study on marginal youth, and initiated a study on the situation of youth in the 1990s. It co-operates with selected research centres for studies on specific youth issues and publishes a Directory of Centres and Institutes Engaged in Youth Research. Through the services of an interregional advisor, provided by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, advisory services were provided to Member States to strengthen youth policies and programmes at the national level.

United Nations Youth Fund

37. The United Nations Youth Fund plays a catalytic role to further the implementation of the development objectives of the guidelines. Since its inception, the Fund has provided \$352,445 in seed-money grants for 48 small-scale catalytic and innovative projects in the field of youth. The majority (77 per cent) were implemented in developing countries and were devoted to strengthening national capacities to deal with youth-related issues.

38. During the period from January 1989 to June 1990, the Fund received many more requests for financial assistance than it could support. Only seven requests were approved for funding, involving disbursement of \$38,000. This decrease in disbursements was due to the considerable constraints imposed by the Fund's diminished resource base. Data collection and applied research, a prerequisite activity for the development of youth policies, strategies and programmes, and training were the main activities, accounting for some two thirds of the resources disbursed and projects supported. Technical exchange of knowledge and experience and income-generating projects were the other priority activities.

39. The Fund provided modest but critically needed support by reinforcing specific youth-related concerns in large-scale development plans of developing countries, enhancing awareness of youth issues at the grass-roots, national and international levels and complementing larger-scale development projects by providing seed-money grants for small-scale activities.

40. For instance, in the Comoros the Fund co-operated with UNDP and the United Nations Volunteers programme in a project concerned with integrating youth in the socio-economic development of the country; in Colombia it supported a youth organization to train rural youth in farming to enhance their self-employment opportunities, and in Somalia the Fund supported a national seminar on youth policies and programmes to reinforce youth-related components of a large-scale

UNDP-financed social development project. The Fund is co-operating with ECLAC in a research project focusing on the situation of youth in the socio-economic development of the countries in the region. The Fund also provided financial assistance for a study on the impact of drug abuse among youth in Western Asia, being carried out by ESCWA, and for a conference on youth and drugs organized by the Commonwealth Youth Programme.

41. Beside providing direct funding assistance and raising awareness on youth-related issues, the Fund has played an important role in mobilizing additional resources in activities of benefit to young people. During the period from January 1989 to June 1990, for instance, by providing \$38,000 in co-financing or seed-money grants, the Fund helped the recipients of those grants in the mobilization and expenditure of over \$150,000 in youth-related projects and activities.

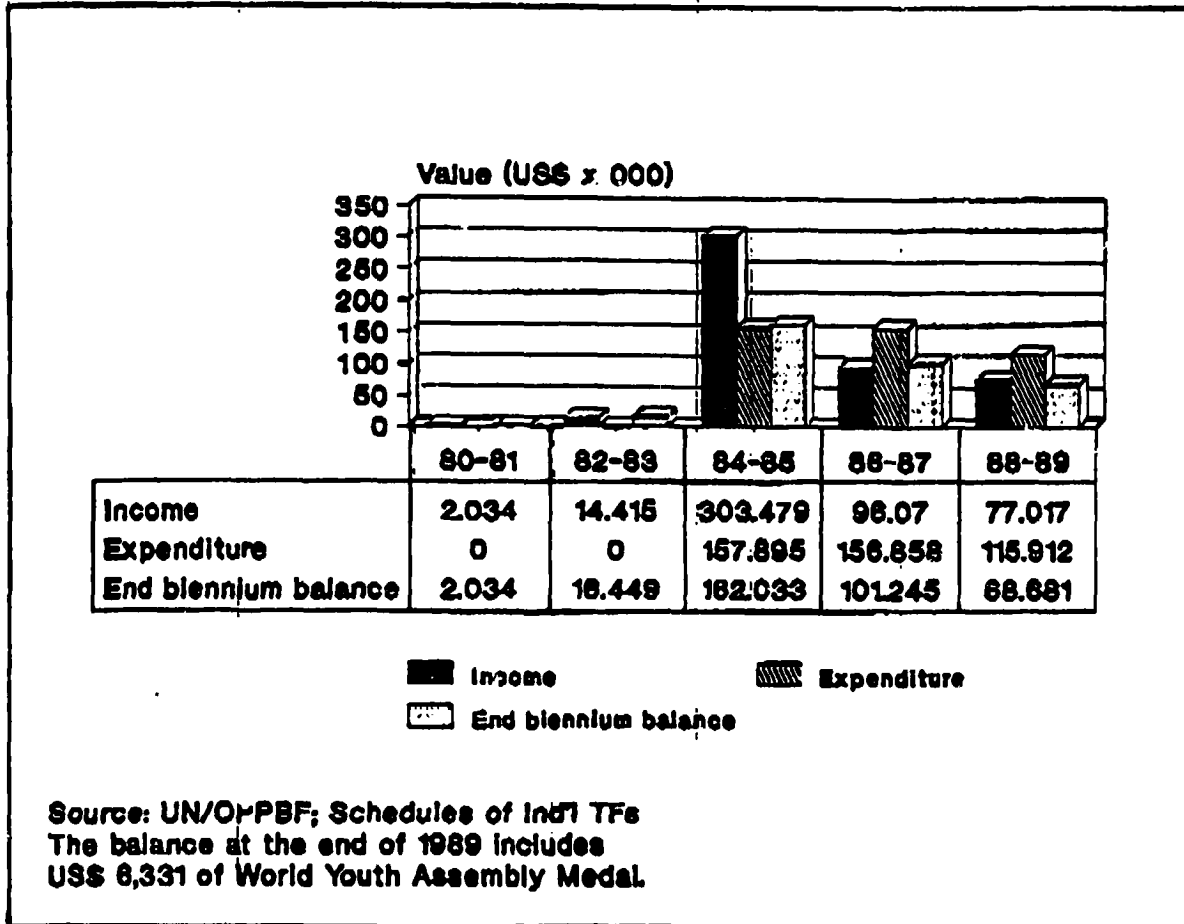
42. The Fund continues to suffer from financial constraints. As a result, many requests, particularly those coming from the least-developed countries, as well as non-governmental and youth organizations, remain unmet. The contributions to the Fund have continued to decline as against an increasing number of requests; expenditures, even though modest, have continued to exceed income, particularly since 1986 as presented in the following chart.

43. The Fund participated, for the first time since its establishment, in the United Nations Pledging Conference in 1989. Regrettably, only one Government, that of Greece, pledged a contribution to the Fund. Subsequent to the Pledging Conference, Austria made a contribution to the Fund.

44. As at 31 December 1989, the balance of the Fund was a meagre \$68,681 as against many pending requests whose combined need for financial assistance is several times greater. In the light of the significant role that the Fund has been playing despite its limited resources, it is important to strengthen its resources base so that it can respond more effectively to the requests of many developing countries. The willingness of the international community to strengthen the Fund through financial contributions is essential if it is to sustain the interest and follow-up to the International Youth Year and assist in attaining the goals established by the General Assembly in the guidelines.

Chart. Income and expenditure of the United Nations Youth Fund:
 January 1980 to December 1989

(Thousands of United States dollars)



VI. YOUTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

45. Numerous organizations of the United Nations system have continued their youth-related activities within the context of the objectives of International Youth Year. Focus has been on research and studies, information, training, operational activities, meetings and interfacing with youth organizations.
46. Various organizations have conducted action-oriented studies on specific research topics, such as health needs of youth, needs of young women, drug abuse, AIDS, youth and the environment etc. For example, within the United Nations Secretariat, ECLAC is undertaking a study on youth and the economic crisis in Latin America: the under-utilization of human resources. ESCWA is preparing a study on drug abuse among youth in the region. Elsewhere in the United Nations system, the treatment by UNESCO of youth as a transverse theme in all its major programme areas has allowed for multi-disciplinary studies in the areas of culture, communications, science and sports. ILO is conducting research on youth employment in selected developing countries.
47. Several organizations of the United Nations system have disseminated publications, newsletters and bulletins in order to sustain and increase public awareness of youth issues. For example, UNESCO, which plans to create an international information service on youth, has recently published an "International Directory of Youth Bodies". FAO has established a communication network among rural youth programme leaders in developing countries.
48. The training of youth workers and leaders has been a major concern; special emphasis on youth leadership training has been given by WHO, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, ESCAP, the United Nations Volunteers programme and the United Nations Office at Vienna. FAO focuses on the training of nationals working with rural youth. The United Nations Volunteers programme trains youth groups to act as agents of change in local communities.
49. Numerous organizations have provided advisory services to Governments with a focus on (a) developing appropriate national and local structures, (b) securing the effective integration of youth policy into national development planning and (c) assisting in project formulation to address sectoral-specific and group-specific youth issues. For example, WHO has assisted Governments in policy development, research and training for adolescent health promotion. FAO assists Governments in developing and implementing rural youth programmes.
50. Moreover, joint operational activities have been undertaken. Youth programmes and projects executed by the Volunteers programme around the globe have increased and the Governing Body of UNDP has decided that 15 per cent of the programme's special Voluntary Fund could be used for youth projects. Also, the 34 UNICEF national committees and 119 field offices have continued to promote the concept of "youth-in-service-to children" at the field level.
51. Various organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, have organized conferences and workshops to assist Governments in

developing, implementing and evaluating national youth policies and programmes. For example, ESCAP has organized meetings on adolescence and crime prevention, youth in entrepreneurship programmes, and educational reform. ECLAC is planning an inter-agency meeting of Latin American regional offices of the concerned United Nations bodies and agencies.

52. Collaboration with non-governmental youth organizations has remained a priority. WHO fosters partnership with youth organizations to increase their participation in its programmes. UNESCO organizes annually the Collective Consultation of Youth non-governmental organizations to discuss their involvement in the UNESCO work programme. UNICEF collaborates with youth organizations within the context of both its Child Survival and Development Strategy and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Youth organizations have played an important role in preparing for the World Summit for Children, which took place in September 1990.

VII. CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND YOUTH AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

53. The United Nations has long recognized the vital importance of young people, both in their ability to embrace the ideals of the Charter of the United Nations and their potential to approach afresh the problems facing mankind. Young people represent the future, and the entire United Nations system has a definite stake in the future.

54. Channels of communication embody several elements: (a) structures that facilitate direct and representative consultation between youth organizations and the United Nations (for example, the Geneva Informal Meeting of International Youth Non-governmental Organizations); (b) publications issued by the United Nations that facilitate a regular and two-way flow of information between the United Nations and youth organizations (for example, the "United Nations Youth Information Bulletin"); and (c) messages transmitted through the channel, on the work of the United Nations system of relevance to youth organizations and the work of youth organizations of relevance to the United Nations system.

55. Channels of communication have come under constant review by the General Assembly since 1968. Major initiatives were undertaken at all levels to strengthen the channels. During the period 1968 to 1979, Governments have included youth representatives in their national delegations to the General Assembly, where they contributed to the deliberations on channels of communication in the Third Committee; youth structures were set up at Geneva and in New York; the "Youth Information Bulletin", a major channel of communication, was launched; extrabudgetary funds of the United Nations were allocated to increase the representation of regional youth organizations in United Nations youth meetings; missions of the United Nations Interregional Advisor on Youth Policies and Programmes focused on identifying channels at the national level; and an ad hoc advisory group on youth met during the period 1973 to 1975 to advise the Secretary-General on youth policies and programmes, including channels of communication with youth and youth organizations. The General Assembly considered and adopted guidelines for the improvement of the channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations (resolution 32/135, annex).

56. During the period 1978 to 1985, further work was undertaken on the guidelines to incorporate comments and suggestions from Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, and intergovernmental and non-governmental youth organizations. The International Youth Year opened a new phase in the growth and evolution of channels of communication. Many national youth organizations joined national co-ordination committees in over 100 countries, which provided a needed impetus to strengthen channels at the national level. Several major international non-governmental youth organizations contributed to the work of the Advisory Committee for the Year and the momentum and publicity attached to the Year resulted in a dramatic increase in channels of communication with youth and youth organizations throughout the world.

57. During the period following the Year, non-governmental organizations continued to play an important role to improve the situation of youth. Many organized meetings, seminars, workshops and conferences at all levels to foster the participation of young people in society. Consultations between the Centre and non-governmental organizations are continuing with regard to the ongoing United Nations programme on youth, the development by non-governmental organizations of programmes for the follow-up to the Year and the promotion of meetings within and outside the United Nations system. Non-governmental organizations are represented in national co-ordinating committees, have participated in the preparation and implementation of policies and programmes at all levels, and have formulated programmes for youth involvement in developing activities. Individual agencies and bodies also provide substantive support to various international non-governmental organizations and are increasing collaboration with them in specific sectoral areas.

58. For the following reasons, the improvement of the effective and efficient functioning of the channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations proved increasingly difficult:

(a) While the topic of channels of communication has been discussed over a 20-year period, there still is a need better to define its conceptual and operational framework;

(b) The Geneva Information Meeting of International Non-Governmental Organizations - a main channel of communication - has been hampered by financial and other resource constraints;

(c) The proliferation of consultative platforms between international youth organizations and individual organizations and agencies of the United Nations system has dispersed initiatives and resources, making information exchange more difficult and hindering the joint formulation of projects by the United Nations system and youth non-governmental organizations;

(d) The majority of national youth organizations do not directly participate in international youth platforms related to the United Nations system;

(e) Resource constraints limit the activities of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs;

(f) There is a lack of a joint inter-agency strategy for collaborating with youth non-governmental organizations at all levels.

59. The Assembly, in paragraph 6 of its resolution 44/59, requested the Secretary-General to develop methods that indicated specifically how the channels of communication could efficiently be attuned to youth-related projects and activities of the United Nations organs and of the specialized agencies. It also requested that the present report include concrete suggestions for co-operation between the United Nations system and the non-governmental youth organizations. The Secretary-General has made several specific recommendations on that question as noted in section II of the present report.

VIII. INSTITUTE OF HOPE '87

60. Youth unemployment is a problem of almost universal dimension. Although falling in some parts of the developed countries, youth unemployment is still alarmingly high in these countries. In the developing countries, the problems caused by the influx of young people to the employment market are far more acute. According to ILO estimates, more than 100 million new jobs would have to be created within the next 20 years in order to absorb the growing number of young people in the economically active population of developing countries. The advent of a generation without adequate skills or productive work experience could disrupt the process of renewal of the labour force and seriously jeopardize future economic growth.

61. In recognition of the problem and in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 40/16, 42/53, 43/94 and 44/59, the Government of Austria established the Institute of HOPE '87 (see A/42/595, A/43/601 and A/44/387).

62. The secretariat of the Institute of HOPE '87 (Hundreds of Original Projects for Employment), established in August 1988, promotes youth participation in income-generating activities by encouraging vocational training, appropriate educational programmes and youth employment competitions. Its budget for 1990, allocated by the Government of Austria, is \$ 3,000,000. The Hope-Databank, operative since September 1989, registers over 400 youth employment projects world wide. HOPE offices have been established in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Colombia, the Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, India, Kenya, Nepal, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Switzerland and Yugoslavia. Eight more offices are planned in different regions. The secretariat recently developed contacts with Eastern Europe to establish HOPE branch offices there.

63. As follow-up to "HOPE '87", another international event, called "HOPE '90", will be held in Austria in late 1990. It will underline Austria's concern for employment among youth, especially those without adequate education and training. It will represent an effort by the Government of Austria to share with other countries, in particular developing countries, its expertise in education and vocational training. HOPE '90 will consist of three parts: an international competition to generate ideas for youth employment projects, an exhibition and a symposium on youth employment. The competition will be open to persons throughout the world between the ages of 15 and 27.

64. In compliance with paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 44/59, a draft memorandum of understanding between the United Nations and the Government of Austria, represented by the Institute of HOPE '87, was prepared on the basis of the relevant rules and regulations of the United Nations and within the framework of the objectives and strategy of the guidelines, taking into account the importance of that Institute for promoting income-generating youth employment projects.

IX. EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION
ON THE PROMOTION AMONG YOUTH OF THE IDEALS OF PEACE,
MUTUAL RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEOPLES

65. The General Assembly, in 1965, adopted the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples. In its resolution 43/136, the Assembly invited all States to submit to the Secretary-General their views and comments on the impact of the Declaration and on the measures that should be taken for its implementation and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the matter to the Assembly at its forty-fifth session. In September 1989, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to Member States, requesting them to provide their views and comments as called for by the resolution. As of 30 June 1990, 18 Member States had responded to the note verbale. Those States included Australia, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Grenada, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, Rwanda, Sweden, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates. As with the comments made in section IV, the Secretary-General questions the utility of distributing such questionnaires to Member States based on the meagre response of Governments to such exercise. The results are not commensurate with the efforts involved.

66. Based on the 18 replies received, the following analysis is presented. The major measures adopted by Governments for the implementation of the Declaration can be grouped into five categories: (a) educational activities; (b) promotion of opportunities for young people to exchange views and acquaint themselves with foreign cultures; (c) support to youth groups and organizations; (d) information activities; and (e) support to international efforts to achieve the objectives of the Declaration.

67. Educational activities have been recognized as a major tool for the promotion among youth of the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding between peoples. A few Member States have incorporated the principles of the Declaration into school curricula, textbooks and training programmes for teachers and educators. Also, measures were taken to increase the access of young people to political education. The learning of foreign languages was promoted by integrating their teaching into the school curricula and facilitating their learning outside the school. Some Governments have promoted youth participation in sports events and competitions. Another measure has been to highlight the objectives and activities of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in the school curricula. Some Governments felt that more time and resources should be made available for peace studies in schools and that such institutions should address themselves to major international issues.

68. Student and youth exchanges have been undertaken and various Governments have established various structures and institutions to promote such exchanges. Efforts have been made to promote student and youth tourism. National, regional and international student and youth meetings, camps, seminars, competitions, artistic exhibitions and theatrical performances have also been promoted.

69. Another area related to supporting youth organizations. A number of Governments have provided youth clubs, societies and organizations with financial assistance, services and facilities, and have encouraged them to participate in anniversaries and activities of major international events. Support was also provided to national peace movements involving youth.

70. Information activities have been pursued by Governments. Youth information centres and specialized libraries for youth have been established. It was suggested that the potential of the mass media should be fully exploited and that the United Nations and other relevant organizations should seek to create data banks on youth. Information networks should be established to facilitate the effective exchange of information between governmental, non-governmental and youth organizations.

71. A few Governments have also participated in the efforts of the international community to promote the principles of the Declaration, particularly by supporting the work of international organizations. They provided financial support to youth programmes of international organizations, participated in expert meetings and facilitated co-operation between national youth organizations and relevant organizations of the United Nations system.

72. The importance of involving and consulting with young people in the decision-making processes was stressed. It was pointed out that parents had a major role in educating young people in the spirit of peace, mutual respect and international understanding. It was indicated that the language of the Declaration was difficult for young people to understand and, therefore, future documents should be easily readable. It was further pointed out that in order to realize the principles of the Declaration, the Governments, the United Nations and the international community should devote special attention to promoting international peace and security, the fair and just solution of regional conflicts and friendly relations between countries on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence and respect for State sovereignty.
