



Resolution

The International Youth Year as opportunity for strengthening the importance of Youth Rights by learning from other regions

COUNCIL OF MEMBERS
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, 23-24 APRIL 2010

Committed to the aim of improving the life circumstances of youth from all over the globe,

Recalling the work plan of the European Youth Forum,

Bearing in mind that young people all over the globalised world are facing increasing challenges despite the fact that they are more educated, mobile and globally aware than ever before,

Realising that the global economic downturn puts more pressure than ever before on young people all around the world, who are exposed as one of the most vulnerable groups of civil society and hence today's society risks losing young people and their potentials,

Stressing the fundamental importance of recognizing that the chains of poverty that are tying the lives of young people can not be broken without an even stronger commitment to improving their access to education, decent work and democratic institutions,

Believing that Governments preaching improvement need to show that they are worth the paper that the MDGs are written on by a renewed, stronger commitment to the pursuit of achieving a better world and that it needs to be recognized that enough has not been done, but that the momentum gathering for the International Youth Year and the World Youth Conference to be held in Mexico in 2010 can launch a new era of commitment and improvement in the world,

Reiterating our priority as the European Youth Forum and our member organisations to cooperate with other regions in order to strengthen the role of youth-led organisations as well as national and regional youth platforms,

Recognizing that the African Youth Charter as well as the Ibero American Convention on youth rights are examples of promoting values such as youth participation, youth autonomy and the recognition of non-formal education

We, the European Youth Forum

1. Welcome the fact that from August 2010 the world will celebrate the International Youth Year on dialogue and mutual understanding,
2. Understand that full and effective participation of young people at all levels can only be guaranteed by a rights-based approach to youth policy,
3. Stress that during the international Youth Year the United Nations, its youth related activities as well as agencies, its member states and all stakeholders working on youth have to focus on a solution based approach to young people's needs which has to include how youth' needs have to be met by the different stakeholders on all levels and leads into action as well as monitoring the impact of the decisions related to young people that have been made,
4. Encourage European stakeholders to grasp the opportunity outlined by the aim of the International Youth Year on dialogue and mutual understanding to learn from two other regions of the world: Africa and Latin America have already come

significantly closer to what youth organisations in Europe are working towards – a right based approach to meet young people’s needs,

5. Urge the European Union and the Council of Europe, in cooperation with the European Youth Forum, to enter into a process of sharing best practices with the African and the Ibero American region and other regions of the world which leads into the design and implementation of a European Convention on Youth rights as well as promoting a global rights based approach to youth policy,
6. Call upon all Member Organisations of the YFJ to develop and strengthen activities on a national as well as an international level towards this aim by promoting a right-based approach to meet young people’s need.