



## European Youth Forum Resolution

# Youth issues in danger at the United Nations

*Adopted by the General Assembly  
Malta, 14-16 November 2002*

## YOUTH ISSUES IN DANGER AT THE UNITED NATIONS

As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2002, the organisational unit dealing with youth, ageing and the family, in the United Nations Secretariat, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), has been merged into one new section, tentatively called the 'Intergenerational Issues' Section.

Within this section, the former Youth Unit will continue as the focal point on Youth. The work on youth will still be part of the Social Integration Branch of the Division for Social Policy and Development at DESA.

The European Youth Forum wants to express its deep concern about this change that might lead to:

- less recognition of youth issues within the UN System;
- less recognition of youth NGOs within the UN System;
- lower political profile of youth NGOs;
- lower access to decision-makers of the UN;
- the decrease of the activities such as the World Youth Forum, the Consultative Sessions in co-ordination with the UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes;
- decreased recognition of youth as independent actors of society and in political processes.

Regarding the tentative name of the section, the European Youth Forum would like to stress that due to the nature and general understanding of the term 'Intergenerational issues', it does not correspond to the objectives for the previous Youth Unit based on the mandate of the General Assembly.

In order to avoid this change in the UN Secretariat having the negative results mentioned above, there is a need to organise a lobby action towards:

- the Member States, through the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Representatives in New York;
- the other regional youth platforms taking part in the GCCC;
- the UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes co-operating with youth NGOs;
- the relevant bodies of the Council of Europe and The European Union.

This lobby action shall be made before the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the Commission for Social Development, which will take place in February 2003.

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The European Youth Forum shall undertake and co-ordinate this lobby action in Europe in conjunction with the member organisations and invite the members of the GCCC to be part of it.