



RESOLUTION ON DELEGATION GENDER BALANCE

ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS, 13-15 NOVEMBER 2008

Taking into consideration that the YFJ Statutes state that “Each full member can delegate two representatives at each General Assembly”. The General Assembly of the European Youth Forum understand that this means that it is the member organisations that can, and should, decide in who they delegate the responsibility to represent them at the GA.

The General Assembly of the European Youth Forum considers that the rule agreed by the Bureau at their meeting in January 2008 and communicated to the YFJ membership in the notice for the General Assembly (13th of August), where the Youth Forum shall “reimburse 2 delegates for the General Assembly if the delegation is gender balanced” means that some organisations will be discriminated against on a financial basis. If they wish to send two delegates of the same gender, and cannot pay the expenses of the second, (since the YFJ will no longer cover these costs) they will therefore be underrepresented in the GA.

The General Assembly of the European Youth Forum:

- 1) Reaffirms the objective of equality for men and women but considers this response a simplistic and ineffective response to the matter.
- 2) Agrees that we should all do what we can, at all times, to promote and achieve equality between men and women and applauds the attention that the Bureau is paying to this important issue.
- 3) Does not agree that the proposal of the Bureau to apply a rule concerning gender balance in delegations to the GA is an appropriate response to this issue.
- 4) Believes that this regulation will discriminate against some organisations and interfere in their right to democratically determine within their own structures who will represent them in the General Assembly and that the consequence of this decision will not in reality achieve the intended aim of addressing inequality between men and women.
- 5) Requests to the Bureau that the question of gender equality in the YFJ and in our member organisations and other youth structures is addressed through other methodologies such as awareness raising and detailed debate and discussion and if quota system is to be used it should apply to all bodies in YFJ structure.
- 6) Therefore, taking into account the above, the General Assembly urges the Bureau to refrain from taking any financial decision that aims at determining the composition of delegations to the GA and to amend the Internal Financial Guidelines.