



POLICY PAPER ON UNITED NATIONS AND GLOBAL YOUTH WORK DEVELOPMENT

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1. Introduction

Increased interregional and global interactions, marked by greater interdependence, have led to new challenges for vulnerable groups, including young people. The dialogue and cooperation between non-governmental and intergovernmental partners in the youth field is essential to ensure that these are tackled by the current system of global governance. The gap between the rich and the poor is widening, both, between the global north and the global south as well as within regions and societies.

Over the past years, there has been increased recognition of young people and youth organisations as key drivers of development and agents for positive change and their role in advancing inter-regional and global cooperation processes has been increasingly acknowledged by governments and intergovernmental institutions. Although this progress is welcome, much more needs to be done to deliver the opportunities of participation, which is a right for young people and youth organisations as responsible global civil society actors.

The dialogue and cooperation among all stakeholders at interregional and global levels are central to the European Youth Forum's ambitions to promote greater democracy, human and youth rights and solidarity. Through this dialogue and cooperation the Forum also makes a strong contribution towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY).

In responding to the issues facing young people today along with the changing interregional and global challenges and opportunities, the Youth Forum has revised its priorities and goals as regards the institutional relations with the United Nations (UN) and the Global Youth Work Development area, as well as the way in which these aspects are developed.

The present paper outlines this revised approach drawn from the Policy paper adopted by the General Assembly in 2006 (0667-06), considering the working areas within the wider strategy and policy priorities of the Youth Forum. By setting out this policy framework, the Forum aims to provide implementation guidance, delivering more effectiveness, in the work carried out in the scope of the institutional relations with the UN and the Global Youth Work Development. This should be underpinned by concrete strategies regarding emerging issues and this policy paper should be updated in due time, considering changes in the concerned fields.

2. Rationale

The Forum seeks to contribute to the definition and development of cross-sectorial global youth policies as well as to raise awareness of governments and institutions on youth issues and national youth policies, through the promotion of youth participation and the role of accountable, democratic, transparent and inclusive membership-based, bottom-up youth organisations and platforms – which represent the voice of young people at the global level.

As part of this mission, the Youth Forum intends to make further efforts to ensure that young people and youth organisations from Europe and other regions of the world

are provided with the political and financial support that enables them to strengthen their dialogue and cooperation on regional and global issues and fully participate in cooperation processes, contributing to the development of coherent and coordinated strategies on youth, for the achievement of the MDGs and the implementation of the WPAY.

The Forum's purpose is to promote permanent and sustainable cooperation, where opportunities for policy dialogue, capacity building and training, networking, exchanges and information sharing are created, building on the advocacy and policy work carried out by its Member Organisations in the field of the UN and Global Youth Work Development.

Considering the importance of a strong regional and global collaboration and partnership in the youth field, sustaining and facilitating political cooperation processes at the regional and global levels with the involvement of relevant actors and stakeholders at the civil society and institutional levels, will therefore remain at the heart of the Youth Forum's mission as regards its relations with the UN and its work on Global Youth Work Development. Hence, the Youth Forum will support the development of independent, democratic, transparent and inclusive youth-led structures that aim to cooperate and to represent the needs of young people and youth organisations.

The Forum is convinced about the need to have a holistic approach to development and of the fact that this cannot be achieved in an isolated manner. Therefore, in order to succeed, the Youth Forum's vision and values should be promoted beyond the borders of Europe, in cooperation with all relevant actors, through the establishment of effective and credible mechanisms of dialogue and cooperation. The European Youth Forum's work in this area is underpinned by the core values¹ of the platform, the value of equal partnerships as well as by a rights-based approach to youth policy and development policies.

A rights-based approach to youth policy at all levels is needed in order to improve the lives of young people all over the world. Ensuring young people's full access to their rights is an indispensable precondition for the development of societies and the inter-regional cooperation should hence have its foundations in democracy and human rights as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the European Convention on Human Rights.

The well-being of young people is of utmost importance and should be acknowledged when considering the issue of global peace and security. Young people are strongly affected by conflict situations and their capacity in conflict prevention and in peace-building processes should be recognised. Thus, the Forum advocates in accordance with its Policy paper on Global Governance (0602-10), a UN Security Council Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security, in order to protect youth in conflict situations and to improve the participation and inclusion of young people in conflict prevention and peace-building processes, ensuring the full use of their potential on

¹ The core values of the European Youth Forum are: Participation; Empowerment of young people; Equality, gender equality and equal opportunities; Inclusiveness; Intercultural understanding; Democracy; Respect for human rights; Solidarity with all young people; Global responsibility; Diversity and mutual respect; and Peace.

issues of peace and security on a global level.

The Forum's work with the UN system and in inter-regional and global cooperation is developed in line with the overall objectives contained in the WPAY and the MDGs. With its action, the Forum seeks to provide to young people the opportunities to explore and enhance global understanding through the means of training, global education and intercultural exchanges.

The Forum reaffirms its commitment with the promotion of the Principles of Global Youth Cooperation² as basic criteria for the progress of its Global Youth Work Development.

Effective participation of young people and youth organisations in the society they live in and a cross-sectoral policy implementation at local, national, regional and global levels are key for the development of policies and programmes that successfully meet the needs and expectations of young people. Therefore, the Forum believes that only by taking into consideration the valuable contribution that young people and youth organisations can make to development and interregional and global cooperation, and through their full and effective participation in these processes, will we be prepared to tackle the greatest challenges facing the world and achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs.

In this respect, the Forum believes in the model of co-management as a framework that brings together institutions and civil society, and specifically youth organisations, in the policy making processes concerning inter-regional and global cooperation. The Forum hence supports the adoption of this principle by the UN system on policies and programmes related to youth at the global level, as well as in other inter-regional cooperation.

3. Political framework - The World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY)

The WPAY, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1995, provides a policy framework and practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people around the world and a blueprint for youth policies. The Programme covers fifteen youth priority areas and contains proposals for action in each of these areas. The programme is closely related to the values of the Youth Forum and it is the main reference document for the work of the Forum concerning the cooperation with the United Nations and in Global Youth Work

² An effective participation of young people in global decision making processes and policy implementation implies that youth organisations with a global and regional scope of action are able to:

- exchange information, experience and concerns
- influence political processes and decisions of international institutions
- work/impact on youth
- increase cooperation at the regional level in order to be stronger and overcome individual limitations
- work together on common thematic priorities and to put focus on global youth work

As stated in the policy paper 0605-04, Adopted by the General Assembly, 11-13 November 2004 – Madrid, Spain

Development. Consequently, the work of the Forum is also contributing to the implementation of the WPAY in a holistic manner.

The Forum recognises the clear linkages between the WPAY and the MDGs: young people are an essential force in the achievement and implementation of the MDGs, which are to a great extent youth development goals, and the implementation of the WPAY is a fundamental milestone in this regard.

The WPAY also allows the development of a common language, making it possible for youth organisations, governments and institutions as equal partners to establish common priorities and goals.

The Youth Forum commits to continuously raise more awareness on the existence of the WPAY and to advocate towards governments and institutions on the implementation of the Programme, in particular, in relation to the development of youth policies. It also intends to continue contributing to the work towards a framework for monitoring and evaluation of the Programme, at the regional and global levels. Therefore, the development of indicators and a political framework, which is participatory for young people and youth organisations, is an important process the Youth Forum will continue supporting.

Furthermore, the Youth Forum considers the WPAY as guidelines for programmes, activities and projects run by the different actors in the UN system and therefore needs to be a central tool for the UN inter-agency cooperation. This will contribute to a more coherent, targeted and focused work within the UN system that fosters the implementation of the Programme.

The implementation of the WPAY will be a key focus of the Forum's work as regards the enhancement of youth development in the United Nations and the engagement of young people in its system. Furthermore, the post-2015 process should be built upon the work on the WPAY in order to ensure that the potential continuation of the MDGs or possible progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will give a holistic approach to development. Youth and youth organisations should play a central role in a life cycle understanding of development. This ensures that young people will be able to access their rights.

4. Institutional Cooperation

The Youth Forum maintains its working and cooperative relations with a number of global and regional institutional partners with an intergovernmental profile, aimed at influencing political decision-making processes and implementing the resulting policies and processes.

The United Nations system is the main and fundamental institutional partner at the global level. Within the United Nations framework, the Youth Forum participates in the following bodies, when issues relevant to youth are discussed:

- the Commission for Social Development (CSocD)
- the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)
- the United Nations' General Assembly (UNGA)

- other initiatives and events organised by the UN youth focal point, namely in relation with the implementation of the WPAY or with a clear focus on issues relevant to the global youth agenda.

The Forum considers it of the utmost importance that the different UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes have a coordinated approach to issues concerning youth. The UN Focal Point on Youth is a key actor in promoting democratic and representative youth participation in the UN and therefore the position of this structure within the UN system should be reinforced.

The UN Focal Point on Youth is the main contact of the Forum within the UN system. The unit is the permanent co-chair of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD), designed as the network of the UN entities whose work is relevant to youth with the aim of increasing the effectiveness of UN work in youth development by strengthening collaboration and exchange among all these relevant entities. The Forum welcomes this step forward in enhancing the coordination and coherence in the UN work in the area of youth development and will continue advocating for the establishment of a structured mechanism for youth participation in this inter-agency initiative. Furthermore, the mandate of the UN Programme on Youth and the IANYD needs to be strengthened and the participation in the network should be obligatory for relevant UN entities in order to increase the effectiveness of the coordination.

The European Youth Forum welcomes the announcement of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the appointment of a new Special Advisor of the Secretary-General for Youth. The Forum believes this Special Advisor will help to give more attention and awareness to the needs of young people. It has the potential to create accountability for young people and youth in the UN system if the position will hold a strong mandate and will get the needed support from the Secretary-General and Member States. The SRSG for Youth needs to use its political role in order to promote the WPAY and youth as positive agents of change as well as to bring relevant points to the political agenda.

The Forum takes a leading role in coordinating the European Youth Delegates in the Youth Delegates Programme. Together with the IANYD and, in particular, the UN Focal Point on Youth, the Forum will also keep on promoting the participation of youth representatives in the UN General Assembly and other relevant meetings, namely the “Youth Delegates” programme, as well as the implementation of UN Resolutions, Conventions and the internationally agreed development goals that are youth-related.

Specific attention will also continue to be paid to the prioritisation of youth in the UN Agenda. An advocacy effort to be maximised through closer working with other regional and global partners.

Furthermore, the Forum will be looking beyond 2015 and advocating for a strong youth perspective in the process towards the revision and redefinition of the MDGs, integrating possible SDGs. Linked to this, the Youth Forum will also push for the update of the WPAY that aims to strengthen it, through a meaningful cooperation with young people and youth organisations, so this policy framework can be improved,

reflecting young people's needs and priorities.

The Youth forum welcomes the goals of the Youth 21 initiative, aiming to improve youth participation and ensure greater accountability in the UN system regarding youth policies and will support its further development, including the establishment of a UN Permanent Forum on Youth.

Pursuing these objectives, the Forum will also carry forward the collaborative work that has been developed together with other entities, such as the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Bank, the United Nations Regional Information Centre (UNRIC), the World Health Organisation (WHO), and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). The work developed in the frame of the United Nations Framework Convention Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as investigations in the follow up to Rio +20, will also be included in this regard.

The main objectives of the institutional cooperation are:

- Placing young people and youth organisations at the centre of their respective activities, programmes and projects;
- Increasing the capacity to change and influence the policies and programmes of these institutions that affect young people;
- Developing effective dialogue and interaction within ICMYO organisations;
- Monitoring and assessing the changes in youth policy brought about as a result of Youth Forum engagement;
- Supporting the development of spaces for critical and constructive dialogue and interaction between young people, youth organisations, and the Institutions;
- Promoting quality, detailed and rigorous analysis and input to Institutions' documents affecting youth;
- Supporting initiatives to increase the capacity of the regional Youth Platforms and youth organisations in ICMYO.

These relations and cooperation always relate to the Forum's strategic priorities and objectives.

Through its work, the Forum puts forward the views of its membership and its global youth partners, ensuring a regional - European - perspective within the global youth work development and advocacy work towards the UN system, while keeping the global agenda and diversity of young people in mind.

Besides the UN system, the Forum also cooperates with several institutions with different geographical and thematic scopes of action. These institutional partners play a fundamental role in the promotion of interregional youth cooperation and are key to the recognition and strengthening of youth organisations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean as well as the Arab and Mediterranean region.

At the European level, the Forum collaborates with the European Union (EU) and the Council of Europe (CoE). In the frame of the EU, the Forum works with the European Commission, mainly through the Directorates-General for Education and Culture, for Development and Cooperation, and the European External Action Service (EEAS). Its partners within the CoE are the Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation and the North-South Centre (NSC).

Such cooperation with regional intergovernmental institutions is shared with our regional youth partners so as to increase the effectiveness, coherence and strength of our common political views and collaboration.

As stated above, the Youth Forum also recognises the value of working in partnership with other institutional stakeholders with a regional focus, such as the African Union (AU), the Ibero-American Youth Organisation (OIJ) and the League of Arab States (LAS). In doing so the Forum strengthens the interregional youth dialogue and cooperation processes, supports the setting-up of or existing independent youth structures and promotes the development of the regional cooperation work carried out by its Member Organisations as well as the institutional recognition of the youth partners in the respective regions.

5. Existing Processes for Global Youth Cooperation

A good coordination with its global youth partners allows the Youth Forum to gain leverage and a broader support for its views and values, as well as to ensure the better coordination of the global youth movement. When co-operating with regional partners, it is of great importance to build these relations on a basis of equal partnership, openness, mutual respect and trust, respecting the different values and views the partners are rooted in. Sustainable cooperation can only be reached on those policy sectors where common interests are shared. The understanding is that through cooperation we can build a coordinated global action to more effectively address the challenges faced by young people and deliver on youth development.

Based on the premise that the foundations and sustainability of the interregional and global cooperation rest on strong regional and global youth co-ordination structures, initiatives and partnerships, the Forum remains committed to the capacity building of its global and regional partners and to strengthen their role and institutional recognition, supporting the development of their capacity of participating in the decision-making processes at all levels of governance.

The development of youth coordinating mechanisms with a global outreach will therefore remain as an integral part of the Forum's activity in the frame of the Global Youth Work Development working area. These structures are:

5.1 GCCC - Global Cooperation Coordination Committee

The GCCC meetings are the principal space for RYPs (Regional Youth Platforms) to come together to share information and report on their activities; this is also a political space where decisions are taken on the priorities for the global cooperation between RYPs.

5.2 ICMYO – International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations:

The main objectives of ICMYO are the strengthening of cooperation among youth organisations at the regional and global levels, and the coordination of political input to global youth policy processes.

In addition, the Forum extends its commitment to promote ICMYO as a tool in developing spaces for the direct engagement of Member Organisations with international institutions and processes.

Furthermore, ICMYO is a tool for the Youth Forum to integrate global youth priorities and needs in its advocacy and hence widening the legitimacy of its activities at the global level.

ICMYO should be strengthened in order to foster legitimate and representative youth participation at the global level and to allow the UN System to improve its outreach to young people and youth organisations from all regions.

The work within the GCCC and ICMYO is aimed to strengthen the organisational capacity of Regional Youth Platforms and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations and to enhance the cooperation among these partners, increasing the efficiency and impact of its work, by promoting the information exchange, networking and cooperation among youth organisations at the regional and global levels, as well as the coordination of the political inputs to interregional and global youth policy processes.

This approach is also focused, as mentioned above, on sustaining and facilitating political cooperation processes at the regional and global level with the involvement of relevant actors and stakeholders at the civil society and institutional levels. These are the processes:

5.3 FEULAC – Euro-Latin American and Caribbean Youth Forum:

The cooperation with youth organisations from Latin America and the Caribbean Region is a priority of the European Youth Forum regional cooperation and the Euro-Latin American and Caribbean Youth Forum (FEULAC) its main framework.

The European Youth Forum contribution to this process will focus on the follow up on the I EU-LAC Youth Summit, held in May 2010, and monitoring the implementation of its recommendations. This covers the actions aimed to build a common agenda and develop joint actions to strengthen the strategic collaboration at policy and advocacy level between European, Latin America and Caribbean youth organisations.

The setting-up of a coherent and coordinated strategy on youth in the EU-LAC strategic partnership, comprising an effective participation of young people and youth organisations in the process and a solid support to their cooperation efforts is one of the main ambitions of the Youth Forum to ensure a permanent and sustainable interregional cooperation.

Strengthening the capacity building dimension of the Euro-Latin American and Caribbean cooperation is key to the empowerment of young people to contribute to this process and achieving its goals. In responding to this need, the European Youth Forum will call for the re-launching of the training track of this interregional cooperation framework so a Training FEULAC can also be created.

Youth Rights will be the core focus of the Youth Forum's cooperation with the region, considering the added value the process of the Ibero-American Convention on Youth Rights can bring to the current working priorities of the Forum.

The main partners in the framework of FEULAC are: the Latin American Youth Forum (FLAJ), the Ibero-American Youth Space (EIJ), the Spanish Youth Council (CJE), the Spanish Youth Institute (INJUVE), the Ibero-American Youth Organisation (OIJ) and the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe (NSC). The youth representatives from the Caribbean region and the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre have also been engaged in this framework.

5.4 Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation – Africa-Europe Youth Platform (AEYP)

Since the I Africa-Europe Youth Summit, held in December 2007, enormous progress was made in increasing the dialogue and cooperation between African and European young people and youth organisations, empowering them to act in partnership and to contribute to the Africa-Europe cooperation.

Fulfilling their vital role recognised by the people-centred approach embraced by the EU and African Heads of State and Government at the II EU-Africa Summit, held in December 2007, youth organisations from both regions have been working together with other civil society organisations and sub-regional institutions on following up the Africa-Europe Youth Summit and the implementation and monitoring of the Africa-EU Joint Strategy.

To ensure a continuous dialogue and cooperation, the Forum will remain actively engaged in the partnership formed by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, with governmental and non-governmental actors in Africa and Europe, to design, implement, monitor and evaluate the Africa-Europe youth cooperation programme, aimed at providing a stable and effective framework for the Africa-Europe dialogue and cooperation and carried out in the frame of a Joint Management Agreement signed with the European Commission EuropeAid Co-operation Office and a Partnership Agreement between the Council of Europe (CoE) and the European Union (EU) in the field of youth.

The Forum will therefore continue contributing to the core actions that form part of this Programme, including its training and capacity building activities and support to youth work and non-state actors promoting youth policies.

At the 1st Africa-Europe Youth Summit, African and European youth representatives recommended the governments and institutions to join efforts in order to strengthen the Euro-African youth cooperation by developing an Africa-Europe Youth Forum as a sustainable framework for cooperation where representatives of youth organisations in both continents have the opportunity to evaluate and monitor the progress of this

process. Along this line, the participants at the 2nd Africa-Europe Youth Summit also stressed the need for a yearly monitoring and evaluation of the Africa-Europe youth cooperation, calling for the establishment of an Africa-Europe Youth Forum.

Following up on these recommendations, at the Youth Leaders Meeting on Youth Policies in the Context of the Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation, held in 2011, the African and European youth representatives built a common action plan on the development of the Africa-Europe youth cooperation framework (2012-2015) and implementation of the recommendations resulting from the Africa-Europe Youth Summits that included the establishment of an Africa-Europe Youth Platform.

The Africa-Europe Youth Platform (AEYP) comprises the African and European youth civil society, including the European Youth Forum, the Pan African Youth Union (PYU), the African International Non Governmental Youth Organisations, the African Diaspora Youth Network Europe (ADYNE), as well as the Institutions, namely the NSC, the AU Commission and the European Commission. The core mission of this Platform is to prepare and coordinate, to monitor and implement and to evaluate and follow-up the Africa-Europe youth cooperation.

Aligning with this action plan, the Forum will prioritise the development of the Africa-Europe Platform and will use this framework to address the common challenges and provide the impetus to institutionalise this dialogue and cooperation and enhance the coordinated action between the partners involved, ensuring the delivery of the Africa-Europe dialogue and cooperation strategy.

5.5 Cooperation with the Arab and Mediterranean Region

In responding to the new political context in the Mediterranean and Arab region, the Forum proposes a renewed focus for the development of this interregional dialogue and cooperation with a high level of commitment to strengthening independent, accountable, democratic, transparent and membership-based bottom-up youth organisations and structures in the region.

A stronger engagement in the political dialogue with all relevant stakeholders, at civil society and institutional level, will be built along with an enhanced support to capacity building initiatives to establish and strengthen, national and regional youth structures, youth policies in the Mediterranean and Arab region and the participation of youth organisations in its development, implementation and monitoring, as well as to consolidate the dialogue and cooperation between young people and youth organisations from Europe and Arab and Mediterranean regions.

In doing so the Forum aims to contribute to a firm interregional partnership that promotes the development of a coherent and coordinated strategy on youth in the Euro-Mediterranean and Arab cooperation. Through this, the Youth Forum expects to also offer to its Member Organisations an adequate framework and support mechanism for cooperation with the region.

The Forum will continue working together with the European Commission, the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States and the World Bank in pursuing these goals, and through mechanisms such as the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Programme

and the EU-CoE Youth Partnership Programme on Euro-Mediterranean cooperation, it expects to forge increased important opportunities for dialogue and cooperation.

5.6 Asia-Europe Youth Cooperation

In the follow up of the EU-China Year of Youth 2011 and the work developed to promote the youth dialogue between China and Europe, the Forum will continue aiming for the enhancement of the youth dimension in EU-China partnership as well as the full participation of young people and youth organisations in this policy dialogue. Volunteering for youth work development will remain as the focus of these relations.

It is also an ambition of the Forum to extend the opportunities for debate, networking and information sharing with the Asia region. This will strengthen the collaborative work between youth organisations from Europe and Asia on which the Asia-Europe Youth Forum (AEYF), linked to the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) process, has the history of delivering on.

5.7 Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship

Committed to further strengthening the interregional and global youth cooperation and the impacts of its activities, the partners engaged in the University on Youth and Development (Spain), the University of Participation and Citizenship (Uruguay) and the African University on Youth and Development (Cape Verde) decided to develop a coherent and articulated system for the Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship.

These Universities have been providing an exceptional space for young people and youth organisations around the world to meet, debate, build their capacity and cooperate on youth policy related issues and with its engagement in the Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship the Youth Forum aims to:

- Enhance the cooperation among the partners in future youth development strategies and actions, increasing the efficiency and impact of its work;
- Strengthen the interregional and global youth dialogue and cooperation, enabling a sustainable and permanent dialogue and cooperation between youth organisations and youth-related institutions at regional, interregional and global level;
- Increase the opportunities for networking, information sharing, capacity building and training for young people and youth organisations;
- Promote youth participation and youth partnerships at the international level contributing to a Global Youth Partnership for Development.

This will be the key approach of the Forum's work as regards interregional and global youth cooperation.

5.8 The 1% Solidarity Fund

Following the decision of its General Assembly (Blankenberge, December 1996), the Youth Forum has been allocating 1% of its Annual Budget to finance concrete development projects involving young people. The Fund specifically aims to

strengthen the organisational capacity of Regional Youth Platforms, promote independent and representative National Youth Councils, enhance the capacity of International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations in the field, and reinforce the Global Cooperation Coordination Committee (GCCC) as a space for support to youth work development at regional level in close connection with the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO).

The 1% Solidarity Fund promotes representative, democratic and sustainable regional and national youth platforms and the development of youth cooperation at global, regional or sub-regional levels and the Youth Forum will continue standing by its commitment to this initiative. When required, the Board shall re-define how the 1% SF is implemented in order to continue fulfilling the actual aims.

6. Future Challenges

The European Youth Forum has made significant progress in the relations with the UN system and in the Global Youth Work Development area over the last years and the review of this policy paper shows proof of some of these achievements. However, several challenges remain.

For example, youth should be put higher on the global agenda and its needs and expectations should be at the centre of policy-making to ensure the achievement of the MDGs and the implementation of the WPAY, with the active participation of young people and youth organisations in the process. This can be achieved by ensuring that the post-2015 process is clearly grounded in the MDGs and that there is a close connection between them and the WPAY.

This will require an increased political and financial support from governments and institutions. But if the current global financial and economic crisis amplified even more the need for support to youth might also impact negatively on the government's readiness to develop such measures.

This is a fundamental challenge towards the development and sustainability of regional youth structures that, in particular outside Europe, often lack the support that ensures their contribution to the development of society.

More emphasis also needs to be put by governments and institutions on youth in the frame of their interregional and global cooperation strategies and partnerships so we can have greater policy coherence.

On all this depends the opportunity of young people and youth organisations to develop permanent and sustainable interregional and global cooperation processes and, consequently, to fulfil their role as key stakeholders and carry out their own initiatives, contributing to the further development of these strategies and partnerships.

7. Conclusion

The European Youth Forum will continue its institutional relations with the UN and Global Youth Work Development activities, in line with the principles and guidelines

expressed in this Policy Paper. The present review aimed to make the work more effective, reflecting the changing interregional and global challenges and opportunities.

The Forum assumes its leadership role as the most empowered regional youth platform existing today and reaffirms its commitment to its global responsibility to address the main issues faced by young people and to work towards promoting their improved well-being.

Supporting the engagement and contribution of Member Organisations in these processes and encouraging governments and institutions to play full part in promoting them is also among the main purposes of the Youth Forum. The action of the Forum will be oriented towards guaranteeing the existence of mechanisms for interregional and global youth cooperation, their recognition and the allocation of the necessary resources for their development.