

World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance 2001

UNITED TO COMBAT RACISM: A YOUTH VISION!

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

of International Youth Summit Declaration and Plan of Action

PART ONE: International Youth Summit Declaration

In the Preamble it is emphasized that young people have a very important role to play in the struggle against racism, although the lack of resources make an equitable geographical participation of young people in the international human rights movement very difficult. Five principal themes are outlined.

Firstly, the 'sources' of racism is outlined including contemporary forms of racism perpetrated by State institutions and those present in educational systems. Poverty is recognized as being the main source of the continuation of racist prejudices and that colonialist countries must be declared responsible for the poverty and continued marginalization and underdevelopment of Africa and other colonized countries.

The second theme related to the 'victims' of racism. The term "racial discrimination" is clarified and noted as including distinction, exclusion, restriction or non-preference of Indigenous Peoples youth, young people of African descent, minorities, Roma people, Dalits, refugees, migrants, displaced people, people living under occupation, caste system, and people with disabilities. It is also noted that victims of past discrimination are still unable to incorporate the oral history of their ancestors in the educational curriculum.

Thirdly, 'measures of prevention, education and protection' as a theme is elucidated. Universal adherence to and full implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination is demanded, as is adherence by States to democratic principles and transparency and accountable governance. The importance of dialogue led by youth is emphasized.

A fourth theme of 'effective remedies, recourse, redress, compensatory and other measures' is outlined. It is recognized that massive institutionalized human rights violations through acts of slavery, slave trade, colonialism, caste system, apartheid and new forms of apartheid in the occupied territories of the Palestinians requires unreserved apologies from historical and current perpetrators to the victims and their descendants.

The final theme in the Youth Declaration was that of 'strategies to achieve full and effective equality'. It was recognized the importance that the role of youth is within civil society to cooperate at all levels in the struggle to eradicate racism and implement networks across and beyond boundaries of race, origin, gender, culture, sexual orientation, class, caste, religion. Language, ethnic origin and color in an endeavor to engage youth at all levels. In particular, the Declaration calls for the creation and operation of an International Youth Network. It is understood that States, the United Nations and other major international organizations can play an important role in ensuring the effective implementation of all relevant international instruments.

PART TWO: International Youth Summit Plan of Action

-Mission Statement

The Plan of Action is practically orientated towards youth empowerment, aiming to accelerate the implementation of all relevant United Nations Conventions through full participation of youth and women in all spheres of decision-making. This Plan of Action requires strong commitment from State and non-State Actors and youth, in addition to adequate funding, resources and mobilization.

-Global Framework

The International Youth Summit is taking place within the context of the United Nations World Conference and the NGO Forum. The Plan of Action recognizes the importance of all regional documents and position papers of previous World Conferences and proposes to build upon the Compilation of All Youth Declarations from the regions, as well as relevant UN resolutions.

-Chapters of the Plan of Action:

1. Education and Employment

Actions to be taken by State Actors include: revising the curricula and educational systems; recognizing the value of the knowledge of groups that are discriminated against; educators should proportionally represent the racial communities they serve; provide equal access to the curriculum for all youth, one that is related to their experiences and perspectives; introduce an anti-racism curricula in early childhood; provide anti-racism training for all educators and staff in positions of power and authority in educational institutions.

Action to be taken by Non-State Actors include: providing support for all youth to have access to free and quality education, provide equal access to technology; financial assistance for training of future leaders.

Action to be taken by National and International NGOs and civil society groups: Provide professional and institutional support for migrant youth and oppressed nationalities and ethnicities; rewrite educational texts to include histories of the oppressed...

2. Health

Actions to be taken by State Actors include: provide free universal healthcare for all; protect, promote and respect the reproductive and sexual rights of young people; provide free condoms and sexual education; translate information into all languages; respect and promote traditional healthcare systems.

Actions to be taken by Non-State Actors include: implement grass roots health programs and provide support and resources; institute independent reviews on sexual and reproductive rights; acknowledging that HIV/AIDS is a global issue.

3. Environment

Actions to be taken by State Actors include: take immediate action to protect the environment and the health of Indigenous Peoples and other marginalized groups in areas of widespread environmental degradation; recognize and campaign against environmentally racist policies that target Indigenous Peoples and other vulnerable groups including nuclear testing and dumping of toxic waste; cease appropriation and exploitation of Indigenous Peoples.

Actions to be taken by Non-State Actors include: Provide opportunities for young women from all groups in society to participate in decision-making at all levels.

4. Justice (Legal Measures)

Actions to be taken by State Actors include: acknowledge and compensate peoples and observe legal instruments to ensure human rights of all peoples; establish a Human Rights Unit including a specific Youth Unit; eliminate laws and judicial processes that condemn children to sentencing as adults, the use of the death penalty and life imprisonment without parole; end the recruitment (voluntarily or otherwise) of children under 18 in military services; grant amnesty to all child political prisoners; provide full citizenship rights to all youth.

Actions to be taken by Non-State Actors include: promote the implementation of alternative programs that assure adequate social reintegration of young offenders; help integrate immigrants into local communities.

5. Poverty and the Economy Including Globalization

Actions to be taken by State Actors include: recognize that poverty crisis propounds racist attitudes; recognize their responsibilities towards Indigenous Peoples whose land they have destroyed through project development; stop exploitation by multi-national corporations.

Actions to be taken by Non-State Actors include: revise the policies of Multi-National Financial Institutions, allowing developing countries to control the price of their products and resources; International NGOs should help fund local NGOs to combat the effects of racism and racial discrimination on the ground.

6. Media, New Information Technologies including the Internet

Actions to be taken by State Actors include: take more responsibility for disallowing propagation of racist images in the media; provide equal representatives of different racial, national, ethnic and religious groups within all public media.

Actions to be taken by Non-State Actors include: Develop and promote campaigns that encourage youth participation in decision-making in the media.

7. Minority Rights

Actions to be taken by State Actors include: Develop and implement educational programs in original languages to encourage participation of young people from minority backgrounds; facilitate participation of people from minority backgrounds within Governmental structures.

Actions to be taken by Non-State Actors include: Undertake research into how policies affect young people from minority backgrounds.

8. Multiple forms of Discrimination and Intersectionality specifically addressing Young Women

Actions to be taken by State Actors include: Analyze from a gender perspective, policies and programs with respect to their impact on poverty, on equality and particularly on the well-being of women; develop programs that improve access to social and economic services and decision-making mechanisms for women living in poverty; recognize the role of police, military and other state actors in perpetrating violence against women; implement anti-discrimination measures; combat sexual tourism.

Actions to be taken by Non-State Actors include: The WHO must have an integral and holistic vision about health, multi-ethnicity at different levels; ensure that structural adjustment programs are designed to minimize their negative effects on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

9. Human Rights and Citizenship

Actions to be taken by State Actors include: Increased funding of legal aid and advocacy services to assist young people to make charges against racial discrimination; increase immigration intake under the family and humanitarian programs to ensure equity in all streams; repeal mandatory detention of refugees.

10. Colonialism and Foreign Occupation, including New Forms of Apartheid

Actions to be taken by State Actors include: Respect and implement International law that protects rights of return for refugees and displaced peoples; cease and desist from all (new) forms of apartheid, particularly Israel against the Palestinians; provide a referendum for Tibet and Puerto Rico in order to express their own willingness for sovereignty and any other political options.

Actions to be taken by Non-State Actors include: Formation of a UN observer force to the region of Israel and the occupied territories; the Secretary General should allocate the necessary funding for UNWRA.

11. Slavery, Slave Trade Including Compensation and Reparations

Actions to be taken by State Actors include: Officially recognize that slavery is a crime against humanity and compensate those that were involved; incorporate the truth about slavery into all history books; demonstrate solidarity to the citizens of politically destabilized states and actively combat contemporary forms of slavery.

-Global View on Youth Commitment "Moving Forward"

Urges State Actors to ratify without delay the relevant International Instruments; providing specific attention to: the creation of an Independent NGO youth-driven Global Youth Network to advocate youth issues in the framework of the youth Declaration and Plan of Action; an annual monitoring mechanism; cooperation of the Global Youth Network with other existing youth networks; States should support youth organizations through providing resources and political support.

For any other related information please review the full International Youth Summit Declaration and Plan of Action.

Monica Aleman
MADRE
2001