



**Statement of CONGO Committee of Youth Organisations  
to the [2007 ECOSOC High-level Segment \(2-4 July 2007\)](#)**

**Submitted by:** The CONGO Committee of Youth Organisations in Geneva.

With more than 50% of the world's population under the age of 24, and with young people disproportionately affected by poverty, youth organisations strongly believe that in order to achieve the MDGs and, therefore to eradicate extreme poverty, governments, the private sector and civil society must all work closely with young people.

We know from experience that for development policies to be truly sustainable we need to involve the people most directly affected by those policies. So we call on policy makers to involve young people at all levels of the decision making processes. "Participation is an essential part of development, for development is the process by which communities, families and individuals grow stronger, can enjoy fuller and more productive lives and become less vulnerable – including to poverty. A community may be considered developed if it ensures that all its members, whatever their age, are involved in trying to shape lives of dignity for all. " (Children and Young People, Participation in Decision Making, UNICEF and the Alliance of Youth CEOs)

**Our recommendations:**

1. Governments should work alongside youth and youth organisations in relation to political youth processes. An example of good practice in this regard is the cooperation between the Ibero-American Youth Organisation (made up of youth ministers) and the Latin American Youth Forum (young leaders of national youth platforms).
2. UN agencies and governments must give support for youth led programmes, especially in the developing world where there are few youth ministries. There should be separate youth ministries.
3. There must be spaces for young people to co-ordinate their actions if development is to be tackled seriously. There must be spaces for young people at all UN and government meetings and at every level – local, national, regional and global. The current spaces are too small and need enlarging.
4. Governments must think seriously about the issue of migration and must consult seriously on this issue with young people.
5. The UN agencies need to coordinate global youth processes, something which is seriously missing at present. This should be supported by human and financial resources.
6. All member states should bring youth delegates to the General Assembly as well as to important meetings in the UN as they can defend the interests of young people. They should be given financial support to attend and this financial support should be extended to other young people too.
7. We don't need more commitments, we need action