

The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment

2007-2015



COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME

COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Acknowledgements

All those who supported the Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE) revision process:

Commonwealth Governments

Young people, including Commonwealth Youth Caucus representatives

All those who have supported the Commonwealth Youth Caucus and the Commonwealth Youth Forum:

Commonwealth Governments

Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council (CYEC)

UNICEF

National Youth Councils and other civil society bodies

All Commonwealth Secretariat staff and consultants who assisted with the PAYE revision process, especially:

Deputy Secretary-General Mrs Florence Mugasha; Commonwealth Youth Programme Director, Mr Ignatius Takawira; Commonwealth Youth Programme Director, Dr Fatiha Serour; Andrew Simmons; Dwynette Eversley; Cristal de Saldanha-Stainbank; Tina Ho; Omowumi Ovie-Afabor; Daniel Woolford; Dr Rawwida Baksh; Dr Mbololwa Mbikusita-Lewanika; Mischa Manderson Mills; Sonia Alexis; Andrew Robertson

Designed by kc gan designs

Cover illustrated images: Sonde Emmanuel, 20, Nigeria; Jessica Beeton, 15, UK; Elizabeth Randall, 17, UK; Nagarajan Vidarthe, 20, India

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Acknowledgements | 2 |
| Foreword by the Commonwealth Secretary General | 5 |
| Preface | 7 |
| Introducing the Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE) | |
| 1. The Work of the Commonwealth Youth Programme | 9 |
| 2. Rationale for the Plan of Action | 12 |
| 3. Youth Empowerment: Definition and Context | 15 |
| 4. Consultation | 21 |
| The PAYE 2007-2015: Action Points and Indicators | 23 |
| Implementing the PAYE | 42 |
| Contact details | 44 |

The Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP)

CYP works to engage and empower young people to enhance their contribution to development. We do this in partnership with young people, governments and other key stakeholders.

Our mission is grounded within a rights-based approach, guided by the realities facing young people in the Commonwealth, and anchored in the belief that young people are:

- A force for peace, democracy, equality and good governance
- A catalyst for global consensus building; and
- An essential resource for sustainable development and poverty eradication.

CYP advocates the effective participation of young women and men in the development process and for social transformation. We value their full engagement at all levels of decision-making.

Within this framework, our work is guided by the following principles:

- Respect for diversity and human dignity and opposition to all forms of discrimination whether based on age, political affiliation, social status, marital status, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, creed or gender;
- Adherence to democracy, the rule of law, good governance, freedom of expression and the protection of human rights;
- Supporting the elimination of poverty and the promotion of people-centred development, and the progressive removal of wide disparities in living standards and equity;
- Upholding international agreements on peace and security, the rule of international law and opposition to terrorism and all forms of extremism;
- Strengthening, enhancing and supporting the role of young people in conflict management and the promotion of a Commonwealth culture of peace enshrined in respect and mutual understanding;
- Promoting a supportive environment including family, kinship and community networks as core contributors to youth well being and development;
- Advocating for the development of indigenous capital, research and technology and the promotion of cultural heritage and values as enablers of youth development.

Foreword by the Commonwealth Secretary-General

The Human Rights approach to development acknowledges that under-18s have *“the right to express...views freely in all matters affecting [them], the views...being given due weight in accordance with [their] age and maturity...”* (Convention on the rights of the Child 1989, Article 12)

With roughly half the Commonwealth's population aged under 24 years of age (closer to three-quarters in many of our developing member countries), youth issues in development are more relevant to the Commonwealth than to many others and are more urgent than ever.

Between 2000 and 2015, over one billion young women and men will enter the labour force, and currently there are not one billion new jobs waiting for them. This raises formidable policy questions. Is there a clear relationship between development planning and demography in policy and practice? Are positive interventions planned to reflect these demographic trends, in training, employment and education activities? What should be the positive measurable outcomes of successfully engaging even a fraction of these young people in economic activity? What is the worst possible scenario if the labour market entrants – the one billion plus – are marginalised, powerless and excluded?

At their 1997 meeting in Edinburgh, Commonwealth Heads of Government endorsed efforts to tackle this policy agenda and crucially, they endorsed the empowerment approach: it was recognised that *“empowering young people means creating and supporting the enabling conditions under which young people can act on their own behalf, and on their own terms, rather than at the direction of others.”* (Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment to the year 2005) The Commonwealth Plan of Action was born, and subsequently approved by Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

Also at Edinburgh 1997 the first Commonwealth Youth Forum (CYF) took place, a partnership initiative between the Commonwealth's governmental and non-governmental sides (with the critical input of the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council). CYF has since grown to be a regular event, bringing together official Commonwealth youth representatives and other young leaders in civil society. I am delighted that in the new Plan of Action the voices of these young people are featured alongside those of government. This is proof positive that the Commonwealth listens to young people and engages them in decision-making at the highest level.

The Commonwealth Secretariat and in particular the Commonwealth Youth Programme wishes governments, young people and civil society partners every success in implementing this new Plan of Action. Collaboration between us all will be the key to success.

The Rt. Hon. Don McKinnon

Preface

When we commenced the review of PAYE 2000-2005 some time ago, we wanted to know how it had succeeded in helping governments to implement youth development programmes. We also wanted to hear from young people themselves whether they felt that PAYE was effective in providing them with a platform for engagement and participation in development at the national level. The fifth Commonwealth Youth Forum (Malta 2005), in which Commonwealth youth representatives played a leading role, was one opportunity to test the waters. So was a survey of Commonwealth youth networks.

We received some sobering responses. While the PAYE was considered an excellent and comprehensive document, not enough people were aware of it and consequently full use of it was not being made. Young people also said much more could be done in the way of setting targets in youth development and measuring progress against them.

This was a wake-up call for us. The PAYE 2007-2015 has been approved as the Commonwealth's guiding strategy to guide youth empowerment and participation in the coming years, and is in keeping with the Commonwealth's commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Our goal with this PAYE is to ensure that it is much better marketed, internalised and used by the key stakeholders: governments; youth networks, including our Youth Caucus; other development partners of the Commonwealth Youth Programme within the Commonwealth Secretariat and around the world. It is already fully in sync with our strategic plan 2006-2008, and the Youth Development Index (YDI), which we are developing as a standard tool to monitor and evaluate youth development in Commonwealth countries.

We are seeking creative ways: to make the PAYE the main reference tool for Heads of Youth Departments; to make the PAYE a bigger part of the work of the Youth Caucus in terms of awareness raising and measuring progress; to make the document more accessible to everyone engaged in youth development; and to be able to document and disseminate good practices in PAYE implementation. There are enormous resource implications in trying to meet these aims. We are challenged to seek out firm alliances with existing and new development partners because our financial allocations have not increased over the last thirty years.

Making the PAYE work for young women and men in the Commonwealth will take tremendous support and commitment from all actors involved in youth development. If we fail to engage our young people constructively, we are failing our own development as members of our local and global community. I am heartened that young people also recognise their responsibility in this process, and that our young Commonwealth citizens acknowledge that “the youth population has to be the driving force behind these programmes to ensure their sustainability and effectiveness.”

Dr Fatiha Serour

Director and Head, Youth Affairs Division

Commonwealth Secretariat

Introducing the Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE)

1. The Work of the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP)

The Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP), part of the Commonwealth Secretariat, is an intergovernmental youth and development agency working primarily with member governments' ministries and departments of youth.

The Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment is a framework for Commonwealth action in youth affairs; as such it is a foundational document for the CYP and its ministerial network. However the PAYE also seeks to stimulate and guide action by other development partners: from intergovernmental agencies, to NGOs, to organisations formed of young women and men themselves.

The work of the Commonwealth Youth Programme falls under three strategic programme areas, all of which are guided by the Plan of Action:

- Youth Enterprise and Sustainable Livelihoods
- Youth Work Education and Training
- Governance, Development and Youth Networks

A major part of our work in **Youth Enterprise and Sustainable Livelihoods** is the Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative: an integrated package of micro-credit, enterprise training and business support targeted at young women and men with the potential for self-employment. Lack of credit is a constraint to the development of small-scale enterprises. Most lack access to lending institutions. The reasons for this range from lack of collateral or a credit track record, to the fact that most financial institutions find it too expensive to administer the small loans usually sought by the small-scale entrepreneur. Micro-credit fills this gap.

- The Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative was piloted in Zambia, India, Guyana and Solomon Islands. It has since been replicated in a further twelve countries. In India the loan write-off rate was 2% and over a thousand enterprises were set up. Nearly a thousand people gained functional literacy through the project, and nearly 9,000 were exposed to health awareness camps and exhibitions.
- Every year CYP makes awards worth approximately £35,000 to

outstanding youth-led development initiatives. Over 150 applications are received every year. Many of the award winners are focused on sustainable livelihoods.

- In recent years several thousand young people have received CYP training in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) – either at CYP regional centres or from mobile ICT-equipped vehicles.



“The Diploma is a dream come true for youth workers here in South Africa. The qualification is important to give weight to the profession.”

Diploma Graduate Kgomotso Mabusela,
South Africa

Our **Governance, Development and Youth Networks** programme aims to promote young people’s participation in policy-making: *“CYP will enhance policy development and implementation through the active*

Our **Youth Work Education and Training** programme is dedicated to professionalising youth work in the Commonwealth: building a body of specialist knowledge, establishing codes of ethics, getting competency standards recognised by public service commissions, and organising youth workers into professional associations.

- CYP delivers a tertiary-level Diploma in Youth Development Work, through a network of 27 partner universities in 45 countries.
- In 2006 nearly 1,800 youth workers were studying for the Diploma. Over 1,500 had graduated in the previous eight years, and a further 320 had completed the Certificate in Youth Development Work or shorter stand-alone courses.

participation of young people in youth networks, governance and other decision-making fora in selected countries. This will be achieved through the following two programme areas: 1. National Youth Policy and Action Plans 2. Strengthening of governance structures” – CYP Strategic Plan 2006-2008

- CYP’s Youth Caucus is involved in CYP’s decision-making at all levels, from strategic planning, to Regional Advisory Boards, to Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting. Members of the Caucus are nominated by government at national level. Members then elect regional and pan-Commonwealth representatives who play a leading international role.
- CYP has offered sustained support for an anti-HIV/AIDS network, the Young Ambassadors of Positive

Living (YAPL). This was piloted in Africa and has since been replicated in Asia and the Caribbean. The Young Ambassadors are HIV-positive young people who have volunteered their time to educate others about the epidemic, as well as to press for appropriate policy responses and treatment regimes in civil society and government. Young Ambassadors have spread their message of hope and de-stigmatisation to people in church groups, the media, the military, youth clubs and elsewhere. Their activities are living testimony to the fact that people living with HIV can nevertheless contribute actively in society and play leadership roles.

- CYP is working with UNICEF and others to mainstream youth participation in development initiatives. This means developing tools and approaches for

consultation and delegation to young people at all stages of projects: from situation analysis to implementation, to monitoring and evaluation.

“You know the ABC prevention strategy: Abstinence, Be faithful or use a Condom. Well, we are not selective, we just promote every aspect of prevention and people must choose which is appropriate for them. You will find that there are these youth groups promoting abstinence and condemning condom use. But, you know, the messages they preach are often contrary to their own behaviour. There is this gulf between behaviour and knowledge. Today, everyone knows about HIV, but it’s just as if they can’t connect what they know to their behaviour. It’s like this medical doctor who is a secret smoker... So our stories are there to bridge that gulf; our stories are the solution.”

Chama Musoka (Zambia), Vice-President of YAPL

Democracy in Action: Drafting the 5th Commonwealth Youth Forum (CYF) Communiqué

Unlike with some conferences, the CYF communiqué was not written in advance. Instead it grew from what was discussed in working groups and plenary sessions. A representative of each working group served on the communiqué drafting team, which worked together throughout the Forum.

In plenary, CYF participants were able to debate a first draft. A menu of different options was presented for each of the more controversial issues. Consensus was reached on nearly all issues. The draft was then refined by a smaller team of the most experienced and interested participants, with the understanding that it should respect the consensus reached in plenary. The final draft was again discussed in plenary. The document was projected and edited on screen to ensure all the key points had been faithfully captured.

2. Rationale for the Plan of Action

The official Commonwealth (the Secretariat and member governments) is not a group of separate organisations; it is a network. Working together with civil society, this network is a powerful force for democracy and development.

The Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment has been developed by the Commonwealth Secretariat, working closely with Ministers of Youth and young people themselves. It is a framework document for governmental, inter-governmental and civil society action for and with young people in the Commonwealth.

The Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE) takes its place alongside human rights instruments, poverty reduction strategy papers, national budgets and other policy frameworks relevant to young people aged 15-29 years. Since it was first launched in the year 2000, its specific contribution has been to stimulate an assets-based approach to youth development:

- Recognising young people as an asset to their societies;
- Building on young people's capacities and agency to overcome poverty;
- Engaging young people in decision-making, as partners in democracy and development.

“You must, in the formulation of your policy agenda, build on the strengths of our youth, rather than focus on the social ills associated with their presence among us.”

Tennyson SD Joseph, (PhD) at the Caribbean Regional Advisory Board Meeting September 2005.

Between 2000 and 2005 a lot of good work was completed under the guidance of the PAYE. The new PAYE 2007-2015 builds upon the lessons learned. Most importantly it was sought to create greater synergy with the Millennium Development Goals and the global human rights agenda.

A rights-based approach to youth development involves the following elements:

- Express linkage to rights
- Accountability to all stakeholders
- Empowerment
- Participation and
- Non-discrimination and attention to vulnerable groups.

All Commonwealth governments have committed themselves to achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, and the work of the Commonwealth is geared to assist

them in doing so. By extending the PAYE to 2015, there is commitment by governments and the Commonwealth Secretariat to mainstream youth development as a crucial part of this effort.

By “mainstreaming” is meant the systematic integration of youth affairs into the work of all relevant stakeholders. For governments this means:

- Allocating a proportion of all relevant departmental budgets to youth development;

- Introducing a youth empowerment perspective to the work of all relevant departments;
- Setting up appropriate mechanisms for youth participation in policy-making;
- Systematically monitoring and reporting progress made in youth development; and
- Building the body of knowledge on youth affairs.

Youth Affairs and the Millennium Development Goals

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Today's livelihoods programmes must take account of adolescent-headed households, out-of-school youth, economic migrants, internally displaced persons and refugees. In this more fluid social landscape youth work expertise is needed to help resolve resource conflict issues, build consensus between the generations and promote skills transfer where traditional pathways have broken down. It is also needed to ensure cross-sector collaboration on youth livelihoods interventions.

2. Achieve universal primary education

Although youth workers usually educate in the non-formal setting, they play a role in encouraging out-of-school youth to go back to education, and also in making sure the parent community understands the value of education.

3. Promote gender equality and empower women

A “youth-worked” community is one in which young women have a voice. Raising young women's expectations and building their self-esteem is at the heart of informal education.

4. Reduce child mortality; 5. Improve maternal health

“Youth-worked” health services are ones which are approachable and non-judgemental toward young mothers, with information campaigns that connect with youth cultures.

6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

As agencies look to peer-education as part of combating HIV/AIDS and encouraging healthy lifestyles, the ability to communicate with young people becomes a life-saving issue. Self-esteem issues are central to young people's negotiating and sustaining behaviour change. HIV/AIDS is overwhelmingly a disease of young adults.

7. Ensure environmental sustainability

Youth workers have a role to play in mitigating unsustainable urbanisation: by helping young people toward a more realistic understanding of life in today's cities, and by building recreation and livelihoods in rural areas. Youth workers are also vital to conservation and public health efforts, the sustainability of which depends on new generations.

8. Develop a global partnership for development

This Goal sets out a number of macro objectives that would improve young people's access to sustainable livelihoods, including inter alia: an open trading and financial system that is rule-based; debt relief; more generous development assistance; and access to affordable essential drugs. It also makes specific reference to young people: "In cooperation with the developing countries, develop decent and productive work for youth."

Key Stakeholders in Youth Empowerment:



3. Youth Empowerment: Definition and Context.

Commonwealth Youth Ministers and Heads of Government have endorsed the view that:

1) Young people are empowered when they acknowledge that they have or can create choices in life, are aware of the implications of those choices, make an informed decision freely, take action based on that decision and accept responsibility for the consequences of those actions;

2) Empowering young people means creating and supporting the enabling conditions under which young people can act on their own behalf, and on their own terms, rather than at the direction of others. These enabling conditions fall into four broad categories:

i) an economic and social base;

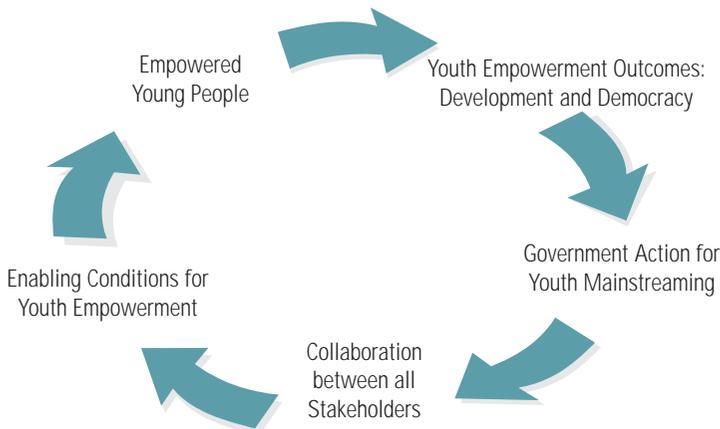
ii) political will, adequate resource allocation and supportive legal and administrative frameworks;

iii) a stable environment of equality, peace and democracy; and

iv) access to knowledge, information and skills, and a positive value system.

Empowerment is both an end and a means. Just because not all the conditions of empowerment have been met in a particular society, it does not mean we cannot empower young people to help bring those conditions about. What the enabling conditions affirm, however, is that young people cannot be expected to do the job on their own and unassisted; empowerment is not about shifting responsibilities of other stakeholders (such as the state) onto young people's shoulders.

The Dynamic Cycle of Youth Empowerment:



The Commonwealth definition of youth empowerment finds an echo in the World Bank's 2007 World Development Report:

“Reducing risk-taking among youth requires that they have the information and the capacity to make and act on decisions.”

Let us briefly examine how far each of the enabling conditions for youth empowerment have been met, as a means of contextualising the new Plan of Action.

i) an economic and social base

In much of the developing world (excluding India and sub-Saharan Africa) the youth population will be peaking in the years leading up to 2015. This “demographic bulge” represents a great economic opportunity: young people will be having fewer children and ratios of productive to dependent populations will improve. However, the benefits will only accrue if the youth sector receives appropriate investment. Under current conditions this largest ever cohort of young people are also the largest ever cohort of unemployed. In many countries rising expectations have been severely off-set by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. In short, “The majority of the developing world’s poor are children and youth. Most of the Millennium Development Goals directly targeting the young are not likely to be

met unless greater attention is paid to the next generation.” (Children and Youth: A Framework for Action 2005, World Bank)

Globally, young people account for about 50% of unemployment – even discounting older youth in the 25-29 years category. Unemployment rates for these younger youth are over three times as high as they are among adults. And despite gains in primary education, 133 million 15-24 year olds are illiterate. Among these are many of the 13 million young women every year who give birth aged 15 to 19. (World Bank, 2005)

The economic and social base, and the youth population, have in many cases been ravaged by HIV/AIDS:

- In 2005, more than half the estimated 5 million people who contracted HIV worldwide were young people aged 15-24, more than half of them young women.
- HIV/AIDS is by far the leading cause of death among Sub-Saharan African youth.
- Kenya, it is estimated that the AIDS epidemic will constrain human capital and income to 1990 levels until 2030. The probability that a 20 year-old Kenyan will die before reaching 40 is projected to be 36% in 2010. Without AIDS this probability would have been 8%. (World Bank, 2007)

“By killing mostly young adults, AIDS does more than destroy the human capital embodied in them; it deprives their children of the very things they need to become economically productive adults – their parents’ loving care, knowledge, and capacity to finance education.” - (Bell and others quoted in the World Development Report 2007, World Bank)

Many countries have suffered economic shocks associated with trade liberalisation and structural adjustment policies. However, “Some countries (e.g. India, and Bangladesh) have used rural public works programmes as an effective method of providing employment to poor workers, especially on a seasonal basis... legal and institutional reforms which reduce vulnerability arising from labour markets can also contribute to reducing poverty among the working poor. A minimum wage can contribute to providing unskilled workers with better living conditions. Similarly, social protection systems can help workers adapt to both cyclical and structural change.... Countries must be given the space to craft their own economic policy.” (An Agenda for Growth and Livelihoods, Commonwealth Foundation 2006)

ii) political will, adequate resource allocation and supportive legal and administrative frameworks

The World Bank points out (2005) that programmes for children and youth

combined have rarely surpassed 15% of its lending in the last 15 years. “Youth remain a largely neglected constituency in Bank analytical and operational work, either as participants or beneficiaries, despite their demographic importance and their potential for positive economic and social contributions” . However, this may be beginning to change. Total investment in youth has more than tripled since the year 2000, with the highest growth being in urban and health sectors.

Political will and commitment at the highest levels are of primary importance in creating the enabling conditions for youth empowerment. At the national level, this commitment is reflected in a government’s willingness to allocate adequate financial and human resources to youth empowerment. Political will is also reflected in legislative, constitutional, policy and administrative provisions as they relate to youth participation and other youth issues. In federal systems, these provisions often result in the devolution of youth affairs to state, provincial or local governments, notwithstanding the need to mainstream youth affairs in national policy-making too.

At the global level, political will is also reflected in international agreements and global mandates of the UN, the Commonwealth and regional organisations. This includes the ratification and implementation status of a range of human rights instruments.

“Even though Africa produces less than 7% of global emissions and only 4% of CO2 emissions, it is one of the regions of the world that is most vulnerable to climate change. The reasons for this vulnerability include susceptibility to recurrent droughts, a limited capacity for adaptation and agricultural dependence on limited and/or over-exploited water resources. This vulnerability to climate change, among African countries, could translate into forced population movement, political instability as a result of exacerbated conflicts around access to natural resources, considerable reductions in biological diversity, damage to coastal zones, rising sea levels and risks of land submersions as well as an increase in the salinity of ground water.”

African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC)

iii) a stable environment of equality, peace and democracy

When young people are disenfranchised they may become drawn into violent movements - albeit usually as footsoldiers (often literally), rather than as leadership. Worldwide, an estimated 300,000 people under the age of eighteen are now or have recently been involved in armed conflict, and another 500,000 have been recruited into military or paramilitary forces. (World Bank 2007).

Several parts of the Commonwealth have experienced war or political violence since the first Plan of Action on Youth Empowerment was drafted, including:

- Uganda
- Sierra Leone
- Zimbabwe (which has left the Commonwealth)
- India
- Sri Lanka

Young people need not only be victims or perpetrators of violence. They have a vital role to play as peace-builders.

“The Commonwealth Plan of Action on Youth Empowerment (PAYE) identifies a peaceful environment of equality, democracy and peace as an enabling condition of youth empowerment. But this does not mean we passively wait for stability before beginning to listen to, and invest in, young people. On the contrary, we build stability by practising youth empowerment as a matter of urgency...To achieve this may mean going beyond restoring peace-time social structures, to understanding their weaknesses, for example in how far they allow young people (especially young women) to express their opinions or practice critical thinking...it will be necessary to examine unequal power relationships between women and men” (Marian Kpakpah in “C21 Citizens”, Commonwealth Secretariat/TSO 2002)

Similarly, young people cannot be treated as the mere recipients of either a well-functioning or faulty democracy. By including CYP youth representatives in its election observation missions, the Commonwealth has signalled the need for something more.

“the Commonwealth’s diversity of traditions and histories, and its emphasis on consensus building, are its great strengths. Democracy cannot be transplanted or imposed. Consensus building throughout state and society is what makes electoral competition peaceful, and what deprives the extremists, the xenophobes, of appeal. In each of our countries, traditions of consensus building differ – that is what is culturally specific. But there is a constant. There can be no consensus without young women and young men on board... We need to look within our own institutions, and recognise that democracy begins at home. For young people, the democratic deficit is sometimes about voting rights, but just as frequently it is about styles of communication and consultation. This is an older challenge than electoral democracy; both the problems and the solutions are more deeply rooted in our societies and economic structures. By recognising this and pursuing youth participation in every sphere, we give our elections a greater chance of being free, fair, peaceful and legitimate.” (Dr Kwadi Afari-Gyan, Chairman of the Electoral Commission Ghana, writing in “C21 Citizens”, Commonwealth Secretariat/TSO 2002)

iv) **access to knowledge, information and skills, and a positive value system.**

“evidence is increasingly demonstrating that the costs of NOT investing in youth are staggering both politically and economically. For the poor in particular, capital market failures leading to continued sub-optimal investment in human capital, such as schooling and health care, and resulting in continuing the vicious cycle of poverty are key arguments for increased public investment.” (Children and Youth: A Framework for Action 2005, World Bank)

Education Gaps

“The dramatic recent progress in the numbers of children completing primary schools, a Millennium Development Goal, does not fully address country needs because the children are not learning as much as they should. Many, even those who reach lower secondary levels, can hardly read or write and are unprepared to cope with the practicalities of daily life. In several African countries, half or fewer of all young women ages 15-24 can read a simple sentence after three years of primary school... Many young people do not know basic facts that could save their lives, such as what causes HIV/AIDS, at a time when many begin sexual activity. Knowledge about condom use is very low regardless of grade attained in both high- and low-HIV prevalence countries.”

World Development Report 2007, World Bank

Young people need a range of knowledge and skills to cope in today's world: literacy, numeracy, life skills and ICT skills, to name just a few. But they also need a positive value system.

A positive value system cannot be simply taught, as if it were another kind of information. A value system is *demonstrated*, by actions. By their actions, youth leaders and other role models in government, civil society, media and education need to demonstrate:

- That all young women and men have grounds for self-worth;
- That people of all backgrounds and in all circumstances deserve the respect and understanding of others;
- That violence is not the way to resolve conflicts;
- That traditions are often things of value, but are not to be followed blindly;
- That change is a constant, and must be faced with hope and creativity;
- That consensus can be reached through dialogue and debate;
- That human rights are to be respected.

“Heads of Government affirmed the importance of promoting tolerance, respect, enlightened moderation and friendship among people of different races, faiths and cultures...against extremism and intolerance. Heads of

Government also requested the Secretary-General to explore initiatives to promote mutual understanding and respect among all faiths and communities in the Commonwealth.”

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2005

Young Commonwealth Election Observers

Together with the Political Affairs Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat, CYP placed the following young people as members of Commonwealth election observation missions:

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Ms Phyllis Andoh (Ghana) | Zambia, September 2006 |
| Ms Hajra Mungulla (Tanzania) | The Gambia, September 2006 |
| Mr Alberto Vellos (Belize) | Guyana, August 2006 |
| Ms Elaine Howard (Tonga) | Solomon Islands, April 2006 |
| Ms Mulako Mwanamwalye (Zambia) | Uganda, February 2006 |
| Ms Fipe Tuitubou | Mozambique, December 2004 |
| Mr Dev Sindhu (India) | Cameroon, October 2004 |
| Ms Nicolette Balcombe (St Vincent & The Grenadines) | Malawi, May 2004 |
| Mr Norman Sigalla (Tanzania) | Nigeria, April 2003 |
| Ms Segametsi Moatlhaping (Botswana) | Kenya, December 2002 |
| Mr Joe Billy Oge (Solomon Islands) | Pakistan, October 2002 |

4. Consultation

The PAYE review process in 2005-2006 built on the following elements:

- Regional Advisory Board Meetings
- Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meetings, including a ministerial Working Group
- A Working Group of the Commonwealth Youth Caucus
- A survey of all countries (governments and youth networks) conducted by Dr Mbololwa Mbikusita-Lewanika
- Youth Forum of the 16th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers
- Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

All of these elements involved youth participation – even Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting was preceded by Commonwealth Youth

Forum 5, whose recommendations to it are quoted extensively in this document.

The formal survey asked governments and youth networks to comment on the PAYE 2000-2005, how it had impacted upon national programmes for youth, how far it had secured youth participation and what had worked well. The questionnaire also asked governments and young people to comment on the issues facing young people, and programming responses that should be adopted to address them. All regions scored unemployment as the most severe issue. Africa and the Caribbean listed HIV/AIDS as the second most severe issue, while substance abuse was second for Asia, and a range of issues scored for second place for the South Pacific such as education and training, sexual issues, inadequate socialisation and preventable health issues.

Percentage of responses citing the issue

| | Africa | Asia | Caribbean | Pacific |
|----------------------|--------|------|-----------|---------|
| Unemployment | 100 | 100 | 81.3 | 66.7 |
| Social & life skills | 63.6 | 60 | 50 | 83.3 |
| Substance abuse | 63.6 | 60 | 56.3 | 66.7 |
| Violence & crime | 18.2 | 40 | 93.8 | 50 |
| HIV/AIDS | 90.9 | 20 | 68.8 | 16.7 |
| Sexual issues | 72.2 | | 56.3 | 66.7 |
| Education & training | 81.8 | 80 | 37.5 | 25 |
| Youth participation | 27.3 | | 43.8 | 25 |

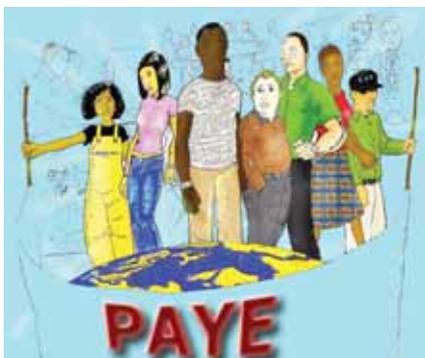
| | Africa | Asia | Caribbean | Pacific |
|---------------------------|--------|------|-----------|---------|
| Financial difficulties | 45.5 | 20 | 18.8 | 16.7 |
| General health | 27.3 | 40 | 12.5 | 8.3 |
| Inadequate opportunities | 36.4 | 20 | 12.5 | 8.3 |
| Suicide | 9.1 | | | 41.7 |
| Preventable health issues | | 40 | | 16.7 |
| Inadequate housing | 18.2 | | | 16.7 |
| Gender imbalances | 18.2 | | | 8.3 |
| Urbanisation | | | | 25 |
| Generation gap | 9.1 | | 6 | |
| Abuse | | | 6.3 | 8.3 |
| Street children | 9.1 | | | 8.3 |
| Youth discrimination | 9.1 | | 6.3 | |

The PAYE 2007-2015: Government Action Points and Indicators

1

Develop and implement measures to promote the economic enfranchisement of young people

Sonde Emmanuel, 20, Nigeria



“We expect the international community to accept its responsibilities towards poorer communities by restructuring the international trading system...”

5th Commonwealth Youth Forum (CYF5)

“We commend the... Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative (CYCI)” - CYF5

- 1.1 **Review and assess macro-economic planning and trade regimes**, and address their impact on young people while seeking to mainstream youth development across all sectors of the national economy.
- 1.2 **Engage with the education sector and with the private sector** to increase access to education, vocational training and soft skills to meet the needs of the employment market.
- 1.3 **Integrate entrepreneurship, savings and investment culture and education** into the education system at appropriate levels.
- 1.4 **Promote and support an integrated approach to self-employment, micro-enterprise and credit schemes**, including:
 - a) the creation of incentives to agencies and private sector partners engaging in micro-enterprise development for youth;
 - b) the creation of policies that support micro-credit and financing for youth enterprise;
 - c) the promotion of partnerships of key stakeholders to manage these schemes;
 - d) the development of youth-led associations for youth enterprise;
 - e) the identification of resources for operating and replicating successful micro-financing schemes.
- 1.5 **Research and develop poverty alleviation and employment programmes for marginalised**

young people including young women, young men in depressed areas, indigenous youth, rural youth and young people at risk.

1.6 **Formulate appropriate policies to address such issues as the age and experience criteria** that facilitate the entry of young people into productive employment.

1.7 **Establish national schemes and apprenticeship/internship programmes** to enable young men and women to acquire a range of skills they will need to be employable.

1.8 **Provide support to young people in gaining access to land**, as a means of building their economic and social base.

1.9 **Promote awareness of the role of international financial institutions** and other multilateral agencies in national economic development.

PAYE 1 indicators:

- Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day.
- Percentage increase of young women and men in formal and non-formal employment by 2015.
- All governments to enact pro-youth employment policies and incentives by 2010.
- All sectors/ministries to allocate at least 25% of their total annual budget in support of youth development mainstreaming.
- Numbers of young people receiving entrepreneurship training as part of formal education.
- Numbers of young people receiving micro-credit.
- Numbers of young people undergoing apprenticeships or vocational/business skills training.

Millennium Development Goal 8: develop a global partnership for development
Target 16: In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth

Indicator 45. Unemployment rate of young people aged 15-24 years, each sex and total.

Millennium Development Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
Target 1: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day

2

Strengthen social support systems and collaboration between key stakeholders in youth empowerment

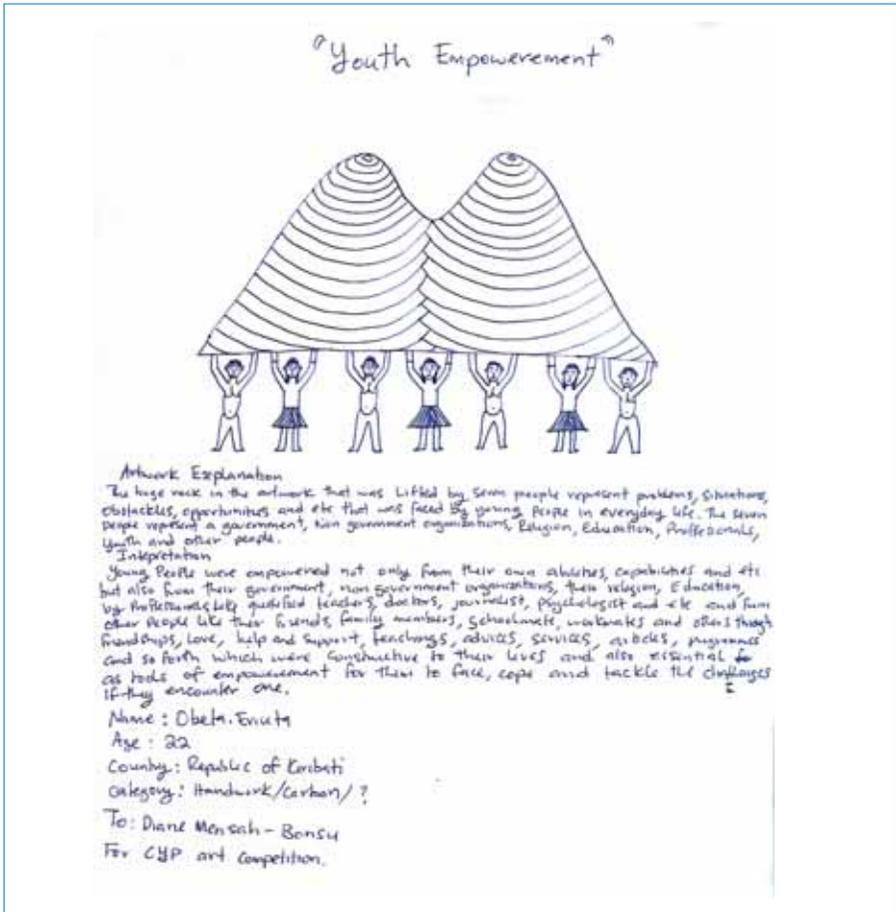
- 2.1 **Establish or strengthen national support for young women and men in the areas of: youth health issues and reproductive health; emotional health and well-being; the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS** and other sexually transmitted diseases.
- 2.2 **Establish or strengthen national programmes for HIV/AIDS peer education** and networking for healthy lifestyles, such as the Commonwealth Young Ambassadors for Positive Living (YAPL) programme.
- 2.3 **Consider the allocation of social sector investment** in each of the areas of health, education and social welfare, to meet the needs of young people.
- 2.4 **Promote the integrity of the family unit** and the strengthening of nuclear and extended family networks.
- 2.5 **Create innovative partnerships** between governments, intergovernmental organisations, NGOs and the private sector to increase the availability of social support systems.

PAYE 2 indicators:

- Percentage increase in social sector allocations and spending for young people by 2015.
- Percentage decreases in incidence of youth crime, substance abuse, teenage pregnancy and suicide by 2015.
- HIV prevalence among 15-29 year old women and men halved by 2015.
- Numbers of young people working as peer health educators.
- Numbers of families benefiting from training (counselling, communication skills and other).

“A healthy society is one which is free from violence and whose citizens enjoy physical, intellectual, social, sexual, moral, spiritual and economic well-being...”

HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases are more than just health problems; they are a global emergency fuelled by poverty and underdevelopment.” - CYF5



Millennium Development Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases.

Target 7: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Indicator 18. HIV prevalence among pregnant women aged 15-24 years

Indicator 19. Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate

Indicator 19a. Condom use at last high-risk sex

Indicator 19b. Percentage of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS

Indicator 19c. Contraceptive prevalence rate

Indicator 20. Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of nonorphans aged 10-14 years

3 Strengthen Ministries, Departments and legal frameworks for Youth Affairs

- 3.1 **Formulate and implement national policies and action plans** on youth empowerment.
- 3.2 **Review and update existing youth policies** and their corresponding strategic action plans based on the assessment of their impact on youth empowerment.
- 3.3 **Create or strengthen ministries/departments of youth affairs**, which should include arrangements for consulting young people.
- 3.4 **Build national capacity to collect and compile socio-economic data** on the youth cohort in a timely and accurate fashion as a function of effective planning, target-setting, monitoring and evaluation.
- 3.5 **Integrate planning, implementation and coordination of youth development with national development planning.**
- 3.6 **Set up machinery to mainstream a youth perspective in all relevant policy areas.** For example an inter-ministerial committee on youth could be created at Cabinet/Permanent



Bruce Amani, Nigeria

“A strong stand should be taken with regard to halting child labour and other exploitative labour practices... [CYF5 calls for] governments to ratify and implement international human rights conventions.”

“Youth issues by nature cut across sectors, while most policies that influence them are set within sectors. So the challenge of coordination looms large.”
- World Bank 2007

Secretary level, with the participation of appropriate youth organisations.

- 3.7 **Promote young people’s awareness of international human rights agreements**, including the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

3.8 **Take action to eliminate the exploitation of young people**, including the total abolition of child prostitution and child labour in general.

3.9 **Implement international agreements on the elimination of violence against women.**

PAYE 3 indicators:

- National Youth Policy and Operational Plans in place in all countries by 2010.
- All youth ministries/departments to have youth consultation mechanisms in place by 2010.
- All youth ministries to have a multisectoral brief by 2010.
- Youth mainstreaming evidenced in a range of policies and programmes.

- Percentage increase in resource allocations to youth ministries.
- Youth development to be represented as 25% of the national budget by 2015.

Youth Mainstreaming

“The process of assessing the implications (for youth) of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making (youth) concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes, in all political, economic and social spheres so that (youth) benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated.” – ECOSOC Agreed Conclusions 1997/2



Ezekoye Chima, 15, Nigeria

4

Promote the participation of young people in decision-making

4.1 **Establish achievable targets for young men and women to participate in political leadership**

at various levels of government, from community level through to national parliaments. This will be supported by citizenship education and consultation programmes.

4.2 **Establish, strengthen and support national and regional youth councils.**

4.3 **Strengthen youth networks at the national and regional level** and integrate them with global youth networks.

4.4 **Build young people's decision-making capacities through volunteering programmes.**

4.5 **Encourage young people to register to vote.**

4.6 **Review the voting age** and consider whether it should be lowered to enfranchise greater numbers of young people.

4.7 **Support civil society organisations that practice participatory democracy.**

4.8 **Strengthen young people's participation in family and community decision-making.**

PAYE 4 indicators:

- National Youth Councils established in all countries by 2008.
- Combined membership of organisations affiliated to National Youth Council.
- Budget allocated to National Youth Council.
- Youth membership of other voluntary civil society organisations.
- Capacity-building for National Youth Councils and other youth organisations.
- Seats for youth on decision-making bodies (such as committees and councils).
- Voting age.
- Percentage increase in Youth voter registration and participation in the electoral process.

“Effective education on rights and responsibilities allows space for young people to arrive at their own informed views and to participate in the governance process without discrimination... The role of youth organisations, National Youth Councils and Parliaments, as well as trade unions should be increased and recognised...” - CYF5

5

Promote positive role models and foster young people's self-esteem

Nagarajan Vidarthe, 20, India



“The media plays a powerful role in shaping perceptions of sexual behaviour among young people. All media organisations should take their responsibilities seriously...” - CYF5

- 5.1 **Encourage the promotion of indigenous images and role models in the media**, and the cross-cultural exchange and sharing of such.
- 5.2 **Take action to curb negative stereotypes of young people in the media**, and provide young people with opportunities to propagate alternative images.
- 5.3 **Develop sporting and cultural models that appeal to young people** and that encourage cultural identification and indigenous self-expression.

- 5.4 **Develop award schemes for excellence in achievement.**
- 5.5 **Promote inter-generational exchange of knowledge through mentoring programmes.**
- 5.6 **Promote awareness on civic pride and responsibility for nation-building.**
- 5.7 **Encourage the protection of natural resources and environmental heritage.**

PAYE 5 indicators:

- National schemes for excellence in achievement (in arts, media, education, environment, nation-building etc) for youth in place in all countries by 2010.
- National schemes enabling youth participation in media programming.
- Numbers of young people participating in mentoring programmes.
- Numbers of young people who are members of historical/environmental conservation groups.

6

Take action for equality between young women and men, and for youth in special circumstances

- 6.1 **Ensure that data on which public policy is developed are disaggregated** according to gender, age, ability/disability, socioeconomic status and ethnicity.
- 6.2 **Adopt an equal employment opportunities policy** and encourage the private sector to do the same.
- 6.3 **Conduct impact assessments** assessing the effects of policies, legislation, administrative procedures and regulations on specific social sectors.
- 6.4 **Provide training for young people in gender sensitisation and awareness raising.**
- 6.5 **Mainstream education and employment opportunities for disabled people.**

PAYE 6 indicators:

- Macro programmes targeting gender equity and youth in special circumstances in place by 2010.
- Equal opportunities policies in place by 2010.

“Legislation, skills training programmes and regulatory frameworks continue to fail certain sectors of society, particularly young women, ethnic minorities and people living with disabilities. Inadequate employment and training policies can have side-effects which endanger plural society and stable democracy, providing an opening for xenophobic movements.” - CYF5

“young people and women are disproportionately affected by violence and sexually transmitted diseases. Governments must improve legal frameworks to protect those affected by discrimination, sexual harassment and violence. These must be seen by all Commonwealth citizens and governments as human rights issues.” - CYF5

Millennium Development Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women.
Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015.

Indicator 9. Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education

Indicator 10. Ratio of literate women to men, 15-24 years old

Indicator 11. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector

Indicator 12. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament

7

Promote peaceful and democratic environments in which human rights flourish

- 7.1 **Provide training for young people in good governance, human rights and democratic practice.**
- 7.2 **Provide training in peace building, negotiation, mediation and conflict resolution;** include such training in school curricula and promote its implementation by youth groups in civil society.
- 7.3 **Ensure that young people are fully informed of their human rights** and are able to exercise their rights freely.
- 7.4 **Involve young people in the monitoring and implementation of human rights instruments, and free and fair elections.**
- 7.5 **Promote the practice of such positive values as equality, tolerance, cooperation and respect for diversity.**
- 7.6 **Take steps to ensure the rights of young people are upheld by the criminal justice system.**

PAYE 7 indicators:

- Human rights education is part of school curricula and part of all youth development training in all Commonwealth countries by 2015.
- Numbers of young people involved in governance, democracy and human rights education a) as educators b) as beneficiaries.
- Youth membership of electoral commissions.
- Ratification status of human rights instruments

“We believe in the liberty of the individual under the law, in equal rights for all citizens regardless of gender, race, colour, creed or political belief, and in the individual’s inalienable right to participate by means of free and democratic political processes in framing the society in which he or she lives” - The Harare Commonwealth Declaration, 1991

“CYF is concerned about democratic deficits at national and global levels... constitutionalism, electoral democracy, and respect for human rights and the rule of law [are] necessary steps towards accountable, transparent and responsible government that ensures the basic needs of all citizens are met.” - CYF5

8

Provide quality education for all

- 8.1 **Prioritise basic education and literacy programmes**, ensuring the participation of rural youth and those in special circumstances.
- 8.2 **Review educational curricula** to include components of enterprise, life skills, conflict resolution, culture, human rights and the environment, as appropriate.
- 8.3 **Broaden access to secondary and higher education**, making use of cost-effective means such as distance learning.
- 8.4 **Promote knowledge transfer through volunteering and mentoring opportunities**, including promotion of indigenous knowledge.

PAYE 8 indicators:

- A 50% increase in literacy and numeracy for young people in rural areas, indigenous youth, young women and girls and other youth in special circumstances by 2015.
- Life skills (including HIV/AIDS prevention) mainstreamed in all education systems by 2010.
- Percentage increase in secondary and higher education students.
- Numbers of young people reached by volunteering and mentoring schemes.

“Education is a right and not a privilege and should therefore be available and affordable to all ... Quality education requires a holistic approach in which learner, teacher and parents support is a key aspect. Financial, moral and psychological support as well as community involvement is equally important to successful learning... we call on governments and heads of state to affirm their commitment to eliminating all barriers to education that result in millions of female learners not accessing quality education.” - Youth Forum of 16th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers

“Education is critical to the formation of young entrepreneurs ... We also see education and employment opportunities for young people as key to maintaining social cohesion” - CYF5

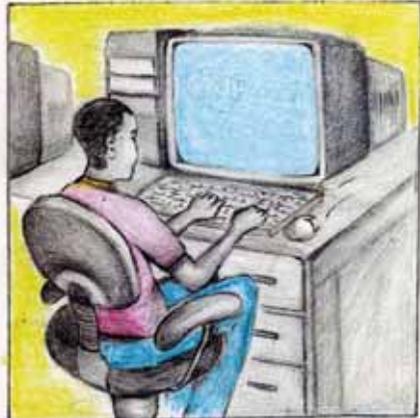
Millennium Development Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Indicator 6. Net enrolment ratio in primary education
Indicator 7. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5
Indicator 8. Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds

9

Improve access to information and communication technology (ICT)

- 9.1 Promote the inclusion of ICT in school curricula.
- 9.2 Incentivise private sector development of ICT infrastructure
- 9.3 Train young people in the use of ICTs
- 9.4 Establish public tele-centres and other community programmes that provide access to ICTs.
- 9.5 Encourage girls and women to make use of ICT through targeted programmes.



Bruce Amani, Nigeria

Improve access to information and Communication Technology - ICT.

PAYE 9 Indicators:

- Number of schools using ICTs and offering ICT training as part of the curriculum.
- Number of community and peer-education programmes using ICTs and offering ICT training.
- Number of government incentives to private sector for youth access to telephones, Internet and other ICTs.

“Today ever greater amounts of information are disseminated over the Internet and by electronic means of communication. Yet the infrastructure for Information and Communications Technology is underdeveloped in most Commonwealth regions... Bridging that digital divide is key to a more equitable future” - CYF5

Millennium Development Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development
Target 18: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

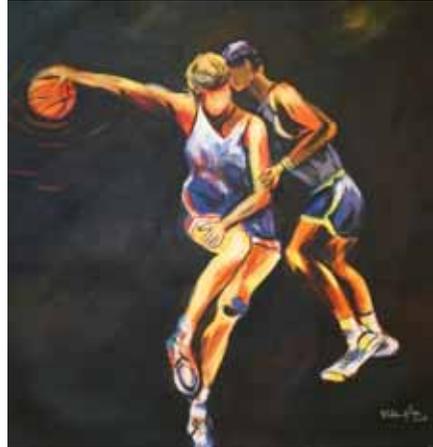
Indicator 47. Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population

Indicator 48. Personal computers in use per 100 population Internet users per 100 population

10

Promote health, development and values through sports and culture

- 10.1 **Promote sport and culture as an investment in national development**, using sport and culture at local and regional levels to engage young people in team-building, leadership and healthy living.
- 10.2 **Integrate drama and sports education with other programmes for basic and/or informal education** on environmental awareness; health and well-being (including diet and nutrition, sexual and reproductive health, substance abuse); and human rights.
- 10.3 **Promote sporting and cultural contacts and exchanges** at the national, regional and pan-Commonwealth level (including the Commonwealth Youth Games) to foster tolerance, understanding and cooperation.
- 10.4 **Encourage young people's artistic and cultural expression** through festivals, competitions and other means.
- 10.5 **Promote national identities and national heritage** at local, national and pan-Commonwealth level in ways that recognise and celebrate diversity.



Nagarajan Vidarthe, 20, India

“Young people are inheritors as well as creators of cultural values. We are aware of our, as well as our governments’, responsibility to foster positive cultural customs and practices... Governments should create and implement culture-conscious school curricula that introduce health and sexuality education from the first years of schooling.” - CYF5

10.6 **Ensure that sport and cultural programmes are gender-aware** and seek to increase the participation of young women.

PAYE 10 Indicators:

- Investment in sporting and cultural facilities at community level.
- Numbers of young people participating in sporting and cultural exchanges at sub-regional, regional and international level.
- National Youth and Sports Policy and Operational Plans integrated in all Commonwealth countries by 2015.

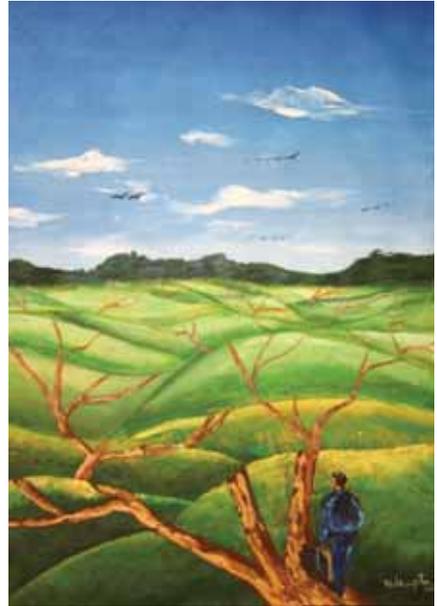
11

Engage Young People to Protect the Environment

- 11.1 **Engage young people in awareness raising** on climate change and other pressing environmental issues.
- 11.2 **Tap the knowledge base of young people** and their grassroots organisations as part of environmental monitoring and scientific data gathering.
- 11.3 **Engage young people in technology transfer and uptake issues**, including for example youth participation in “citizens’ juries.”
- 11.4 **Train young people in natural disaster preparedness and relief.**
- 11.5 **Stimulate ethical consumerism** among young people as an entry point to environmental awareness.
- 11.6 **Mainstream environmental education** and debate as part of school curricula.

PAYE 11 Indicators

- Numbers of grassroots organisations participating in environmental awareness raising, monitoring and data gathering.
- Numbers of school students receiving environmental education.



Nagarajan Vidarthe, 20, India

“The creativity, ideals and courage of the youth of the world should be mobilized to forge a global partnership in order to achieve sustainable development and ensure a better future for all.” - Agenda 21, 1992

“it is not possible to talk of enterprise and sustainable livelihoods without seriously considering sustainable development... namely economic growth that does not threaten the environmental sustainability of our planet [and] that is economically just...” - CYF5

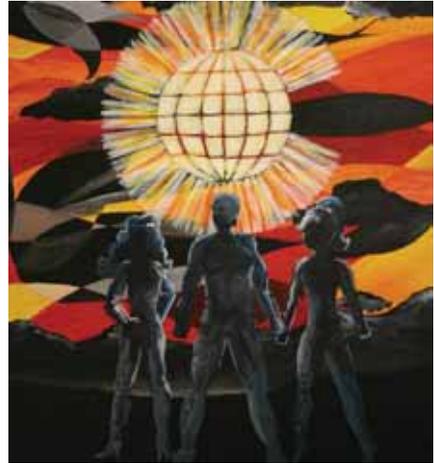
12

Professionalise the youth work sector

- 12.1 **Invest in youth work education and training** by subsidising the Commonwealth Diploma in Youth Development Work and similar programmes.
- 12.2 **Facilitate the recognition of youth work training by Public Service Commissions.**
- 12.3 **Partner with associations of youth workers to draft codes of professional ethics** with express linkage to human rights.
- 12.4 **Partner with associations of youth workers to establish formal registration** and de-registration regimes.
- 12.5 **Consult associations of youth workers** as partners in the policy-making process.

PAYE 12 Indicators

- Level of investment in youth work education and training.
- Youth worker registration formalised by 2010.
- Numbers of formally trained and registered youth workers employed by a) the state; b) civil society bodies.
- Policy initiatives involving youth work professionals.



Elizabeth Randall, 17, UK

“Young people must take the lead in knowledge and skills transfer within their communities.” - Youth Forum of 16th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers

“Civil society also plays an important role in providing the necessary social enterprise skills to young persons.” - CYF5

13

Monitor and evaluate progress in Youth Development

- 13.1 **Collect quantitative and qualitative data on youth development**, including on PAYE Indicators.
- 13.2 **Engage young people in participatory monitoring and evaluation** of youth programmes.
- 13.3 **Synthesise findings into periodic reports.**
- 13.4 **Consider building upon PAYE indicators to develop a national Youth Development Index (YDI)** as a measuring tool.
- 13.5 **Partner with Commonwealth and UN agencies** to share best practices and develop a YDI which is common to participating countries.

PAYE 13 Indicators

- Participatory surveys on youth development issues at local, regional and national levels.
- Inclusion of youth-specific data in poverty reduction strategy papers, national budgets and other policy frameworks.
- Reports on progress on PAYE indicators at Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting and other fora.

- Development of a Youth Development Index (YDI) appropriate to national circumstances.



Jessica Beeton, 15, UK

“The final aim of this document is to push for action in a down-to-earth way amenable to measuring progress.” - CYF5 Communiqué

“There is still no adequate instrument to measure how well these youth development programmes are performing” - Tamam, Suandi and Hamzah, Commonwealth Inter-Agency Consultation on the Youth Development Index (2005)

Implementing the PAYE

The Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment will be implemented primarily at national level, relying heavily on mainstreaming of youth issues into national development agendas. This will maximise the use of scarce human and financial resources and ensure that the cross-cutting nature of the PAYE is realised. Youth ministries and departments must be strengthened as part of this process, to ensure that they can act as lead agencies in research, planning, target-setting, monitoring and evaluation on youth issues.

In this regard PAYE can be used as a model Strategic Plan for youth development that governments can interrogate, reshape and adapt in a way that is most relevant to their own national youth development agenda.

The effectiveness of the PAYE will also depend on the widest possible communication, distribution and

marketing of PAYE publications and a thorough process of public sensitisation, awareness-raising and social marketing. The Commonwealth Secretariat will work with member governments and CYP youth representatives to achieve this, through the strategic use of youth-friendly information and communication in a range of media.

At Meetings of Commonwealth Youth Ministers and Regional Advisory Boards, member governments will be invited to report progress on PAYE Action Points and share best practices. For most indicators governments will decide their own quantitative targets, as these will vary widely in different parts of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth Youth Programme will adopt the new Plan of Action as central to its monitoring and evaluation framework, and conduct a mid-term review in 2010.

The Commonwealth Secretariat will undertake the following actions to support governments in their implementation of the PAYE:

| Commonwealth Secretariat Action | PAYE Government Action Points supported |
|--|--|
| Develop models for promotion of youth employment, for example by supporting the replication of the Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative, providing Enterprise Development training and providing ICT training. | 1, 9 |
| Provide technical assistance on mainstreaming youth issues in national development. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 13 |
| Provide technical assistance and capacity-building for the research, formulation and implementation of national youth policies and implementation plans. | 3, 4, 6, 7, 13 |
| Promote the establishment and inter-linking of youth networks (such as National Youth Councils; Commonwealth Youth Forum) at national, regional and pan-Commonwealth levels, including through the use of IT platforms and including youth in special circumstances. | 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11 |
| Promote the convening of regional fora for policy-making on youth affairs. | 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 13 |
| Strengthen sporting contacts throughout the Commonwealth and promote the use of sport and cultural activities to empower young people. | 5, 10 |
| Partner with other relevant organisations on creative public information projects including on Commonwealth values, human rights and the PAYE. | 1-13 |
| Mainstream youth affairs within the Secretariat, impacting on a range of CFTC-funded projects. | 1-13 |
| Assist governments in the ratification and implementation of international human rights agreements pertaining to the rights of young women and men, including youth in special circumstances. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| Assist participating countries with development of the Youth Development Index (YDI) as a monitoring and evaluation tool for work done under the PAYE. | 1-13 |

Contact details

Commonwealth Youth Programme (Pan-Commonwealth Office)

Commonwealth Secretariat
Marlborough House
Pall Mall
London SW1Y 5HX
UNITED KINGDOM
Tel: +44 (0)20 7747 6456/6462
Fax: +44 (0)20 7747 6549
E-mail: cyp@commonwealth.int
www: thecommonwealth.org
Youth Caucus members' contact details are available from this site.

CYP Africa Centre

University of Zambia
Great Road Campus,
Great East Road, PO Box 30190
Lusaka
ZAMBIA
Tel: + 260 1 252733, 252153, 294102
Fax: +260 1 253698
E-mail: admin@cypafrica.org.zm

CYP Asia Centre

Sector 12 (PEC Campus),
Chandigarh - 160012
INDIA
Tel: 91 172 2744482/ 2744463/274182
Fax: 91 172 2745426, 2744902
E-mail: admin@cypasia.org

CYP Caribbean Centre

Homestretch Avenue
D'Urban Park, P.O. Box 101063
Georgetown
GUYANA
Tel: +592 2 268565
Fax: +592 2 268371
E-mail : cypcc@cypcaribbean.org

CYP Pacific Centre

Lower Panatina Campus
PO Box 1681, Honiara
SOLOMON ISLANDS
Tel: + 677 38374/5/6
Fax: +677 38377
E-mail: regionaldirector@cypsp.org.sb