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Report on Workshop on “UN and the YOUTH”: **UNIC Yaounde** **(18 - 19 May 2011)**

The United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) Yaounde organized a 2 day Workshop on **“United Nations and the Youth”** to commemorate **National Day** (20 May) and World **Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development** (21 May) to link to the ongoing **International Year of Youth** (IYY) (12 August 2010 – 11 August 2011).

UNIC used the opportunity to share information about the Role of Youth in National Development, Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, proposals in the UN General Assembly Resolution 64/134 of December 2009 proclaiming the International Year of Youth under the theme **“Dialogue and Mutual Understanding”**.

During the 2 day workshop opened officially by the **UNFPA Cameroon Representative, Mr. Alain Sibenaler**, the 22 representatives of Youth Associations from all regions of the nation grouped under the umbrella Association **UNYA** (United Nations Youth Association legalized on 30 October 2007) listened to the following presentations by UNIC's NIO, Anne Nsang:

- **History of the United Nations**
- **United Nations and Youth**
- **World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY)**
- **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**
- **IYY Framework and Actions for Cameroon Youth.**

The participants also had Presentations by 4 Representatives of UN Agencies on **Actions / Interactions with the Youth in Cameroon**, precisely:

- **Mr. Vincent Seck, Head of Culture Sector, UNESCO** on Dialogue and Cultural Diversity including, Patrimony and the Mondialogo School Contest.

- **Dr. Aissata Cisse, Monitoring and Evaluation Adviser, UNAIDS** on HIV/AIDS prevalence among Youth . “Les Jeunes Face au SIDA”. And Actions needed by Youth in Cameroon.
- **Ms Tayou Njende, Programme Assistant for Human Rights** on the UN Regional Centre’s actions with Youth.
- **Dr Yap, Reproductive Health Specialist, UNFPA.**
 - **An additional presentation was made by a Youth Leader** working with UN System, actually, the **UNDP Africa Youth Laureate for MDGs, Mr. Eugene Ngalim Nyuydine** who told his story to inspire the Youth to ACTION.

The **Group Work done on Day 2** after the presentations enabled the participants to put all the information into practice through 3 Project Ideas , Shared in plenary at the end of the day :

- **Organise a National Forum on Youth in Cameroon with theme “Youth and Actions for MDGs” to stimulate participation by Youth.**
- **Production of TV VOX-POP by Youth to concretize IYY slogan “OUR YEAR OUR VOICE”**
- **UN Youth Angel Programme to mobilise Youths on UN and Development...**

These ideas, in the form of Projects “were shared with the UNFPA Representative, Mr. Sibenaler at the closing session, as possible axes for action before the end of the International Year of Youth.

Mr. Sibenaler advised the Youth leaders (participants) on the importance of being realistic on Projects and Actions for IYY and thereafter, raising new issues such as:

- **How do we get Youth into decision making in Cameroon?**
- **How do we get a place for Youth in Conferences, Government Meetings to Plan for Development?**
- **How do we change behavior?**
- **How do we give value to Youth, to oneself?**
(**Huge Food For Thought!**)

At the end, **Attestations of participation** was handed over to each participant, as well as, an Information Kit containing UNSG Message on Youth Day, IYY Resolution, Basic UN Documents like Charter, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, MDGs, Africa Renewal were distributed to all participants. Posters of MDGs and IYY were also given to participants along with Documents given by UNCHRD, UNAIDS and UNFPA.

UNYA also received a packet of UN Documents for its Library and further distribution to other Youth Associations.

Herewith pictures of some highlights of the workshop:



Mr. Alain Sibenaler, UNFPA Representative officially opening the Youth Workshop



UNIC's NIO, Anne Nsang thanking the UNFPA Representative for Hosting the Youth Workshop and participants »



Wide shot of Youth participants at the Workshop.



UNYA President speaking on behalf of the Youth participants



View of Representatives of UN Agencies, (UNESCO, UNAIDS, UNCHRD, UNFPA) speaking to the Youth at Workshop.



Presentation by Youth participant during Workshop



UNFPA Representative, Mr. Sibenaler with some participants at the end of Workshop



One Youth participant receiving attestation



Group picture of participants and UN Staff at end of workshop