



Celebrating the 2010 International Year of Youth

Today, 12 August 2010, stands as a special and important milestone for youth and youth policies around the world, as we celebrate both International Youth Day and the start of the 2010 International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding, as proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly through [resolution A/RES/64/134](#) in December 2009.

The North-South Centre's action in the field of youth is clearly in line with the values and the message of this International Year of Youth and will continue generating its contribution by bringing together youth leaders and youth representatives from all over the world to facilitate an engagement towards fruitful dialogue, networking, mutual understanding and joint action.

Today, more than ever, while the eyes of the world are on youth, it is important to remind young people that they constitute the majority of the world's population and are often those most affected by the series of unprecedented and interconnected crises that shake the world. They are also the world's most valuable resource with the ability to change the world through positive transformation of our planet and with lasting positive relations between our societies through dialogue and mutual understanding.

On the occasion of International Youth Day and commencing this year, the North-South Centre wishes to honour the work of young people who are building a more interconnected and understanding place on our planet. The Centre would particularly like to honour the anonymous work of the thousands of youth leaders and youth workers that engage every day in bringing positive change, through their committed work in youth organisations, in their communities, and in our collective spaces.

In 2010, the North-South Centre is implementing an intense inter-regional and global programme with special attention to Global and Euro-African youth co-operation. In this context, the Centre will be facilitating the 11th University on Youth and Development¹ which will take place in September 2010 under the chosen theme of Sustainable Development in the framework of the UN International Year of Youth. The outcomes of the University will serve as a contribution for the year and a moment for the Global Youth Movement to unite forces and strengthen their action by using the opportunities presented by this challenging and promising year.

Throughout the work of the North-South Centre, young people have proven themselves to be a core partner in Global Development. They are involved in the different areas of action of the Centre and co-manage a programme that aims at improving the political participation of their peers in north-south co-operation and providing capacity building to youth organisations and youth groups.

Young people are often at the forefront of global transformation leading by example and practice. Their proven commitment towards citizenship, participation, promotion of intercultural dialogue, access to new technologies, education, health, solidarity should inspire us, their practice of sustainable, fair and healthy lifestyles encourage us.

Wishing that, as of today, this symbolic International Year of Youth brings the solutions and conditions needed for young people around the world to continue their work as actors and resources, making this very change possible.

¹ www.universityonyouthanddevelopment.org/