

PRESS RELEASE

Youth participation is key in achieving the Millennium Development Goals proclaimed their campaigners at the University on Youth and Development

Mexican Youth Institute acknowledges the important role the University played in organising the World Youth Conference 2010 in Mexico

MOLLINA-SPAIN 15/Sep/10.- The XI University on Youth and Development hosted a roundtable discussion on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the role of young people for their fulfilment. Panelists included Marina Navarro, Coordinator of the United Nations Millennium Campaign in Spain; Paola Silva, Organising Committee Member of the Social Forum (SOFOC) of the World Youth Conference 2010; and Eduardo Aguilar, deputy Director of the Mexican Youth Institute.

During her address, Marina Navarro introduced the *Stand Up Make Noise for the MDG* campaign and stressed the importance of citizen participation and the need to engage social and youth organisations to meet development goals. "There have been great strides in education and health, but there are still 900 million people worldwide going to bed hungry."

Likewise, Paola Silva highlighted that young people should not only strive to create proposals, but also fight for them to be implemented. For this, "they should organise themselves and ask the leaders to be part of decision-making process."

Finally, Eduardo Aguilar, recognised the role the University played in the preparation of the World Youth Conference 2010 by supporting the Social Forum Committee. Aguilar also underlined the importance of "creating youth specific indicators according to their needs" and Mexico's commitment in leading this process to bring the concerns of young people to the next United Nations General Assembly.

The MDGs are one of the main thematic focuses of the XI University on Youth and Development, organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, the European Youth Forum, the Youth Institute of Spain (INJUVE), the Youth Council of Spain and the Latin American Youth Forum, in the framework of the UN International Year of the Youth "*Dialogue and mutual understanding*". **The event takes place from 12th to 19th September in the Euro-Latin American Centre for Youth in the Spanish town of Molina (Málaga), where young people from 80 countries will also participate in the *Stand Up Make Noise for the MDGs* action on Friday 17th September.**

More **detailed information and photographs** are available on the website: <http://www.uyd.me> , <http://universityonyouthanddevelopment.org>

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