



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Youth of the world stand together to demand being recognised as key actors for development**

*Diaspora youths are untapped resources for the development of our societies, defends the final declaration of the 11th University on Youth and Development*

*MOLLINA-SPAIN 18/Sep/10.-* The 11th edition of the University on Youth and Development has concluded with a Declaration that demands to the world leaders a clear strategy towards young people, as it represents half of the world population, and a sincere commitment to achieve on time the Millennium Development Goals, as one billion people is still hungry.

The partners of the university urge the MDGs Summit to recognise that the Millennium Development Goals are indeed Youth Development Goals. Young people present at the University are now calling out for Heads of States to keep their promises in New York by providing political recognition and funds to support developing countries, the UN system and youth organisations in these efforts.

“It is essential that young people are both taken into consideration and listened to when evaluating the lack of progress in lifting the world’s poorest out of poverty by 2015”, declares Katrine Korsgaard, the general rapporteur of the University.

Just few weeks ago, ministers and officials responsible for youth from all over the world met at the World Youth Conference 2010 in Mexico. Then, they recognised the clear link between achieving the MDGs and investing in young people, and requested the UN General Assembly to strengthen the UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development.

The University, focus on sustainable development and participation, has trained hundreds of youth leaders from all over the world in the framework of the International Year of Youth “Dialogue and Mutual Understanding” proclaimed by the United Nations.

Participants come from youth organizations with a global outreach, involving millions of young people on a daily basis and providing for them non-formal and global citizenship education. “This event offers a unique and intensive learning experience for global citizenship and this methodology should be included in both formal and non-formal education”, emphasised the core partners of the University.

Youth leaders also manifest the need to recognise the important role that Diaspora youth and their organizations play in co-development and how their presence in universities has enriched and challenged the debates.

“We commit ourselves to keep including the MDGs perspective in our own work and continue taking any opportunity to raise awareness about the needs for sustainable development.” Heads of State should therefore provide the political recognition and funds to support and empower youth organizations in these efforts,

summarises the Declaration.

The closing ceremony had the involvement of the main partners of the University representing the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, the European Youth Forum, the Youth Institute of the Government of Spain, the Youth Council of Spain, and the Latin American Youth Forum.

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