



Flad

CHEMIE
PHARMAZIE
UMWELT

Institut Dr. Flad · Breitscheidstraße 127 · 70176 Stuttgart

Stuttgart, 6 July 2006

Mr. Director-General Dr. Matsuura,

We, the youth gathered at the UNESCO World Youth Festival 2006 in Stuttgart and present today at Institut Dr. Flad, are honoured and happy to be able to handover this letter to you, the UNESCO Director-General, Excellency Dr. Matsuura.

After a vital discussion, we have agreed on the following issues to pass on to you and your organisation.

Over all:

Children and youth perspectives are important in *every* topic and issue in national and international politics. Together, these two groups make up almost half of the world's population. They are the generation that has to experience all the good and bad results of today's politics most. Therefore young people have to be given the chance to actively take part in policy and decision making on every level, from local to international. This includes setting new topics on the agenda, bringing in young peoples' views and opinions before the decisions are made, participating in decision making and implementing the policies and finally taking part in the evaluation of these policies.

We call upon states and international organisations to be aware of this and implement full and effective youth participation strategies. To strengthen youth issues at the UN, the Focal Point on Youth shall be guaranteed more resources.

Education:

Every child, regardless of gender, religion and origin, has the right to get the education he needs according to his abilities and interests. We request states to fulfil this right, but also recognise the responsibility/accountability of young people to use their rights.

On the way to reaching this aim, every child must have the possibility to attend primary school. Secondary education is important for young people in order to get better economic and social prospects and to contribute to economic prosperity. Education is also a key factor for participation in political processes.

We demand a focus on teachers training. Where states cannot provide adequate teacher training, international assistance by the UNESCO should be given. Also teacher exchange programmes and programmes where older youth teach children should be provided.

State governments shall scale up their investments in education by a lot. To finance this, they shall decrease their military budgets respectively.

Schools shall not only pass on basic knowledge to students, but also be a place of social and cultural learning, where especially understanding between different social, religious or cultural groups is promoted. Especially industrial countries should

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UNESCO-
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Mitglied
des Europäischen
Schulverbandes



Mitglied bei der
International Schools
Association (ISA)



zertifiziert nach
ISO 9001



promote awareness for environmental issues and sustainability. Additionally, political education is necessary in order to make young people capable to effectively understand and take part in the political life of their societies.

Culture:

The culture of peace has to be promoted worldwide. This includes peace between nations, but also between ethnic, social, religious and cultural groups, both between and inside countries.

Young people play a crucial role in this process. Mutual understanding between those groups has to be raised by including them into school curricula, by extra-curricular programmes, by international youth meetings and exchange programmes. We request especially industrial states to provide sufficient funds for such programmes. International organisations shall organise such programmes in addition to national programmes.

Settling conflicts peacefully has to be part of curricula in schools. The capability to solve conflicts without violence and in a mediating way is integral for peaceful coexistence of all human beings.

Girls and young women:

We demand effective protection of girls and young women from any harassment, such as mutilation or discrimination on the basis of gender. Girls must have the same rights and possibilities to go to school as boys.

Furthermore, women shall be given special possibilities to and support in building up their own small businesses, by means such as for examples micro credits.

The opinions above are not just ours but they reflect common sense among youth in many countries. However, the international situation is far from being satisfying in any of the points mentioned above.

We therefore request UNESCO to actively support these issues by implementing actions that well serve these needs.

Additionally, we call upon the UNESCO to assess young peoples' opinions regularly when working on and implementing new policies and to take them into account as a factor equally important to other opinions and statements.

Sincerely Yours

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