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ROUTING SLIP		FICHE DE TRANSMISSION
TO: Ms. Susana Malcorra, Chef de Cabinet, Executive Office of the Secretary-General		
FROM: Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information		<i>[Signature]</i> 17/1/14.
ROOM NO. S-1008	EXT. 32912	DATE: 17 January 2014
FOR ACTION		POUR SUITE A DONNER
FOR APPROVAL		POUR APPROBATION
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MAY WE DISCUSS?		POURRIONS-NOUS EN PARLER?
YOUR ATTENTION	X	VOTRE ATTENTION
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NOTE AND RETURN		NOTER ET RETOURNER
FOR INFORMATION		POUR INFORMATION

Dear Ms. Malcorra,

Please find attached a draft letter from the Secretary-General to His Highness Sheik Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, thanking him for his financial support to the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, and requesting a further extrabudgetary contribution for 2014.

A transmittal letter, summary of the Envoy's work plan and progress report for the period February-December 2013 are also included.

The WORD version of the draft letter and attachments will be sent to [sgcentral@un.org](mailto:sgcentral@un.org)

Thank you.

**RECEIVED**



JAN 17 2014  
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 OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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REFERENCE:

XX January 2014

Excellency,

The Secretary-General should be grateful if you would kindly forward the enclosed letter and attachments to His Highness Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates.

A copy of the letter is attached for your information.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Susana Malcorra  
Chef de Cabinet

Enclosure

H.E. Ms. Lana Zaki Nusseibeh  
Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates  
to the United Nations  
New York

XX January 2014

Your Highness,

As the first year since the appointment of Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi of Jordan as my Envoy on Youth draws to a close, I have the honour to express my deep appreciation for the support that the United Arab Emirates has provided to the Envoy and his Office.

Mr. Alhendawi plays a key role in implementing my Five-Year Action Agenda, which identifies working with and for young people as one of my strongly held priorities.

In response to my call for financial support for this important agenda, the Government of the United Arab Emirates has generously contributed to the extrabudgetary funding for the Office of my Envoy on Youth. Your contribution has been instrumental in the establishment and functioning of the Envoy's office during its crucial first year.

I am aware that Mr. Alhendawi had the honour of meeting Your Highness on the margins of the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly last year. Having already established a close working relationship with the General Authority of Youth and Sports Welfare of your country, Mr. Alhendawi participated in the Regional Forum on HIV prevention among young people in the Arab States on 13 to 14 November 2013, and met with senior officials from the General Authority of Youth and Sports Welfare.

Further to these interactions, I write to invite the Government of the United Arab Emirates to consider a second annual contribution to support the Office of the Envoy on Youth. My Envoy will be providing the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations with a progress report on his work and will be available to offer additional details of past and forthcoming activities.

I, as well as my Envoy, look forward to a continued close working relationship with the Government of the United Arab Emirates.

Please allow me, once again, to thank the United Arab Emirates for its commitment to the work of my Envoy on Youth, and for your annual voluntary extrabudgetary contribution to help advance our work for young people.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

BAN Ki-moon

His Highness  
Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of the United Arab Emirates  
Abu Dhabi



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**PROGRESS REPORT, FEBRUARY-DECEMBER 2013**  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S ENVOY ON YOUTH (OSGEY)**

#### **A. Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth (OSGEY)**

- On 22 January 2013, the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly of the appointment of Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi of Jordan as his first-ever Envoy on Youth. As part of the United Nations' collective commitment to engage and empower young people across the world, this appointment will contribute to the deepening and sharpening of the focus on youth in existing programmes.
- Housed in the Outreach Division of the Department of Public Information (DPI) in the UN Secretariat, the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth (OSGEY) draws on assistance from DPI, and receives substantive support from UN-DESA. The OSGEY works closely with the UN entities that are members of the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD), UN Regional Commissions, and UN country teams.
- The OSGEY depends on extra-budgetary funding from Member States. Thus far, several Members States – **one of the major donors being the United Arab Emirates** – have provided financial support. Moreover, several UN entities have seconded staff members to this Office or nominated focal points for coordination. The Office is currently composed of one general staff and three professional staff members, in addition to the Envoy. On 14 February 2013, the Secretary-General wrote to all Member States informing them of the appointment, encouraging them to provide support to the Envoy.

#### **B. Progress on the work of the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth**

- Following the Secretary-General's endorsement of the Terms of Reference for the Envoy on Youth, the Envoy has held extensive consultations with Member States, UN entities, youth-led organisations, and youth-serving institutions in order to develop his work plan for the year 2013-2014. Guided by the World Programme of Action for Youth, the work plan focuses on two thematic areas – economic empowerment and civic engagement – and four principles: participation, advocacy, partnerships, and harmonisation.
- On 27 March 2013, the Secretary-General endorsed Mr. Alhendawi's work plan and called upon the international community – including senior officials at the United Nations – to give the Envoy their full support. On 29 April 2013, the Envoy briefed Member States of ECOSOC on his work plan and achievements thus far.
- Having convened and actively participated in a series of high-level panels, forums and consultations, the Envoy promotes youth-led, youth-serving organisations and other youth stakeholders' participation in the UN system and beyond. On 5 August 2013, the Secretary-General called for the establishment of Youth Advisory Boards to the UN country teams. These Advisory Boards will ensure representation of marginalized groups, young women and girls, indigenous youth, and youth with disabilities, to advise the UN's work and programmes at the national level. In collaboration with the IANYD, the Envoy is piloting the Youth Advisory Boards.

- In 2013, the Envoy undertook five initial coordination visits to regional intergovernmental bodies, including the African Union, the Arab League, the Ibero-American Youth Organisation, the European Union, and the Council of Europe to strengthen coordination with the UN on youth related issues.
- At the global level, the Envoy works closely with various global youth forums aiming to elevate the youth agenda, including with ECOSOC to support the Global ECOSOC Youth Forum.
- In September 2013, the Envoy joined the first-ever IANYD open meeting with youth organisations which aims to actively engage them in the implementation of the UN's System-Wide Action Plan (Youth-SWAP). The Envoy hosted a high-level roundtable with Member States, UN entities, private sector representatives, and youth-led organisations to discuss increasing their investments in youth development.
- The Envoy closely coordinates its activities with Member States, and has held bilateral meetings with over 60 representatives of Member States, at all levels, including Heads of State, Prime Ministers, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Ministers of Youth and Sports, and Permanent Representatives of Member States to the UN.
- The Envoy has been advocating with Member States to join the UN Youth Delegates Programme, which is administrated by UN-DESA.
- The Envoy is leading the UN's advocacy efforts on youth development, including through participating in numerous high-level events and summits. The Envoy undertook 31 official missions to all five regions to participate in major youth-related conferences, and to engage with government officials in charge of the youth sector, youth-led organisations, the private sector, and the UN country team to strengthen UN programmes with and for youth at the national level. Events included the ECOSOC Youth Forum, the World Economic Forum, World Youth Day in Brazil, the National Youth Volunteering Award in Colombia, the ITU BYND2015 Summit in Costa Rica, the Broadband Commission for Digital Development in New York, the UN Media Seminar on Peace in the Middle East in Turkey, the COP19 in Warsaw and its preceding meeting of the Youth Non-Governmental Organisations—the UNFCCC youth constituency (YOUNGO), a series of Model United Nations conferences, the UNESCO Youth Forum in Paris, the Anna Lindh Forum, the 8<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meetings in Papua New-Guinea, a series of events with think tanks and academic institutions, the Building Tomorrow's Europe conference in Bonn, the One Young World Summit in South Africa, the Roundtable on Youth in Conflict and Post-Conflict in Nairobi, the World Bank Group Youth Summit in Washington DC. Furthermore, the Envoy's Office actively participated in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) regional review conferences held in Geneva (ECE), Cairo (ESCWA), Montevideo (ECLAC) and Addis Ababa (ECA). The numerous invitations are a testament to the interest in his role and the commitment and support of Member States, regional organizations, and UN entities to advance the youth agenda.



- The Envoy engages students, researchers, leading academic institutions, think tanks, intergovernmental organizations, and UN entities across the world to highlight best practices and build a community of experts to support Member States to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate national youth policies.
- Through extensive engagement with both traditional and new media outlets in different languages, the Envoy has contributed to increased visibility for youth issues. On 5 September 2013, the Envoy, supported by DPI, launched an online platform ([www.un.org/youthenvoy](http://www.un.org/youthenvoy)), bringing together information from a **number** of UN entities, thereby creating for the first time one source for all youth-related information emanating from across the UN system. The website offers a more accessible and youth-friendly platform for youth related news and opportunities in the UN system.
- Through his advocacy efforts, the Envoy has highlighted the urgency of the youth unemployment crisis, stressed the issues of marginalized youth, the need for increased investment in youth, youth as an asset for sustainable development, and the need for Public-Private Partnerships to support youth development.
- Within the UN system, the Envoy is constantly engaging with a wide range of UN entities and the IANYD. Since taking office, the Envoy has coordinated closely with senior leadership of UN entities on youth programmes to increase their visibility. In addition, the Envoy organised a global live interaction between the Secretary-General and youth-led NGOs from all five regions of the world to discuss UN youth initiatives.
- The Envoy works to mobilize youth voices in the post-2015 development process at all levels. He has supported and participated in numerous post-2015 related events, such as the thematic consultations on Education in Dakar, the Energy consultation in Oslo, and the Arab Development Forum for Post-2015 in Amman. The Envoy has been supporting youth participation in the Post-2015 Development Agenda consultations at the national, regional and international levels, as well as promoting the *My World 2015* survey and *The World We Want* platform. The Envoy has also presented the High-Level Panel of Eminent Person on Post-2015 with a set of eight recommendations on youth inclusion in the future development agenda. These eight recommendations constituted the consolidated result of numerous consultations, which were compiled in close collaboration with members of the IANYD. The Envoy will continue to serve Member States in their deliberations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and expand efforts to ensure active youth participation to this effect.
- In the Envoy's efforts to further harmonise the UN's work on youth and support for the implementation of the Youth-SWAP, he works closely with the IANYD to promote enhanced coordination by supporting the establishment of inter-agency networks at the regional and national levels.
- The Envoy will continue to facilitate multi-stakeholder partnerships on youth development, by engaging Member States, the private sector, academic institutions, media and civil society, including youth-led organizations, in the work of the UN with and for young people.



# Summary of the Work Plan for the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

The overall priorities of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth are guided by the priority areas announced in the Secretary-General's 5-year action agenda.

During the first year, increased focus will be placed on **Economic Empowerment** and **Civic Engagement** while ensuring the **integration of a gender perspective** across all work areas. In parallel, the Envoy will support the **Education First Initiative** and the planned activities in relation to youth and education.

Further to consultations with the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD) and taking note of the Terms of Reference of the Envoy, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth will work on the following priority themes, goals and actions:

## Principles: Participation, Advocacy, Partnerships and Harmonization

### 1. Participation

**Goal:** Increase youth accessibility (including marginalized youth, and young women and girls) to the United Nations through promoting structured mechanisms for youth participation at national, regional and international levels.

**Actions:** Promote structured mechanisms for youth participation in the UN

- Establish a new body, the *United Nations Panel on Youth*, representing different sectors and groups with a mandate to act as advocates for stronger youth agenda at the national, regional and international level
- Work closely with UN Volunteers (UNV) to develop and implement the youth volunteering modality
- Support ECOSOC endeavors to establish the first ever *Regional ECOSOC Youth Forums* (2014) and the *Global ECOSOC Youth Forum* (2015)
- Support working with and for young people by facilitating the participation of youth-led organizations in youth related policies and programmes at the United Nations
- Work with the Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) to establish National Youth Advisory Groups to engage youth in the preparation of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) (Target for the first year - 15 countries)
- Encourage more governments to participate in the Youth Delegate Programme

#### Create active channels of communication between young people and the United Nations

- Meet with youth and youth led organizations in all missions abroad
- Establish regular Google+ Hangout (Topics to cover thematic and geographic debates)



- Maintain regular interaction on UN Social Media sites (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube etc)
- Develop an online platform to provide updates and allow for submission of ideas/suggestions
- Publish a newsletter highlighting the work of the UN System for youth

**Enhance youth access to information related to the United Nations' work on youth in all six UN official languages**

- Launch a UN Youth Calendar (Smart phone application providing information on all youth related events organized by the UN agencies)
- Launch online database for the history of youth related resolutions/declarations and important documents

## 2. Advocacy

**Goal:** Promote stronger youth participation in setting, implementing and evaluating the various development frameworks and increase international awareness and attention to youth issues.

**Actions:** Promote youth participation on achieving the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs)

- Support the "MDG Momentum-1000 Days of Action" to achieve the MDGs

**Advocate for placing youth rights and development at the centre of the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

- Propose concrete indicators including youth persepective in partnership with IANYD and the youth organizations
- Work with the High - Level Panel (HLP) members to ensure prioritizing youth issues across the different goals and indicators
- Participate in at least three of the final thematic consultations
- Promote youth participation in online and offline consultations

**Advocate for youth-friendly International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Beyond 2014 Programme of Action**

- Ensure youth participation in the final regional ICPD meetings and in drafting the global report
- Follow-up on Bali Global Youth Forum Declaration

**Utilize various platforms to advocate for stronger youth agenda at the national, regional and international level**

- Speak at forums and events covering thematic and geographic areas
- Participate in the World Economic Forum and engaging the young global leaders in supporting the UN programmes on youth
- Coordinate with the regional organizations such as the European Union, Council of Europe, African Union, League of Arab States, Organization of American States, the

Commonwealth, and others

**Deploy traditional and new media tools to advocate for stronger youth participation with special focus on marginalized youth and young women and girls**

- Promote updated Facts Sheets on the status of the world's youth by working with IANYD and UN DESA
- Enhance the dissemination of youth-related information/reports
- Provide key advocacy messages through social media and e-publications
- Assure regular media presence on international TV and news channels
- Write regular op-eds in different languages
- Facilitate the celebration of the International Youth Day

### **3. Partnerships**

**Goal:** Engage Member States, private sector, academic institutions, media and civil society, including youth-led organizations in the UN programmes on youth and facilitate multi-stakeholder partnerships on youth issues.

**Actions:** Coordinate closely with Member States to further support youth issues and to reinforce a youth perspective in relevant resolutions

- Support the establishment of Friends of Youth Group to support youth related issues/resolutions.
- Regular meetings with the Permanent Missions and Ministers of Youth
- Facilitate joint meetings between the Ministers of Youth and UN agencies at national and regional levels
- Partner with the government of Sri Lanka in the organization of the 2014 World Youth Conference

**Explore establishing a Global Trust Fund for Youth Development**

- Develop a concept for establishing a Global Trust Fund for Youth Development in consultation with all concerned stakeholders
- Facilitate partnerships between the United Nations and Governments, the private sector, youth organizations, youth-serving institutions, research centers and the media

**Support evidence-based research on youth issues**

- Work with a network of researchers through the Global Colloquium of University Presidents to produce timely research on youth issues

**Support networking of youth-led organizations and explore building a global coalition for youth rights**

- Work with the national, regional and international youth councils and networks

## 4. Harmonization

**Goal:** Work as a catalyst to enhance the coordination and harmonization of youth programming among UN agencies.

**Actions:** Promote the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY)

- Develop principles for creating an enabling environment for young people
- Encourage Member States to develop national youth policies incorporating the principles of the WPAY
- Encourage Member States to report on the implementation of the WPAY

**Support the establishment of inter-agency networks at regional and national levels and the implementation of the System Wide Action Plan (SWAP) on Youth**

- Support the implementation of the SWAP on Youth at regional and national levels
- Promote regional coordination mechanisms between UN agencies in 5 regions in 2013
- Promote national coordination mechanisms between UN agencies in at least 15 countries (countries TBC)

**Enhance the communications and the flow of information between UN agencies**

- Provide an information hub for youth related news/updates in the UN System
- Enhance the dissemination of the UN news on youth

**Support implementation of the Youth Volunteerism strategy and advocate for promotion of volunteering among youth and recruitment of young people as volunteers in large scale UN Programmes**