



UNITED NATIONS
 GENERAL
 ASSEMBLY



Distr.
 GENERAL

A/8743
 9 August 1972

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-seventh session
 Item 55 (a) of the provisional agenda*

YOUTH, ITS EDUCATION IN THE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL
 FREEDOMS, ITS PROBLEMS AND NEEDS, AND ITS ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN
 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WITH YOUTH AND INTERNATIONAL
 YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION	1 - 4	3
II. POINTS OF REFERENCE		
A. Existing channels of communication	5 - 16	4
B. Factors affecting communication	17 - 27	6
C. Political and structural considerations in the strengthening of communication	28 - 33	8
III. RECOMMENDATIONS	34	10
A. Strengthening communication with youth and international youth organizations at local, national and regional levels	35 - 36	10
B. Increasing the availability of information on the United Nations and on the activities and interests of young people	37	12

* A/8760.

CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
C. Increasing access on the part of youth and international youth organizations to the formulation of United Nations policies	38 - 39	13
D. General principles for implementing the above recommendations	40 - 41	14
E. Co-ordination of youth programmes within the United Nations system of organizations	42	14
IV. CONCLUSION	43 - 44	16

Annex

Present arrangements within the United Nations system of organizations for communicating with youth

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 2497 (XXIV), asked the Secretary-General to report, as early as possible, on "the measures to be taken to establish channels of communication with youth and international youth organizations".
2. Accordingly, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, international non-governmental youth organizations, specialists in working with youth and youth organizations and individual young people, has examined existing channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and international youth organizations and measures that might be taken to improve such communication. 1/
3. These consultations have been undertaken over a period of approximately two years. During this period two international youth meetings (the World Youth Assembly in 1970 and the Symposium on Participation of Youth in the Second United Nations Development Decade in 1971) and four regional meetings on the role of youth in development (at Bangkok and Addis Ababa in 1970, at Bucharest and Beirut in 1971) have also been held, at which the question of channels of communication was discussed. At all these meetings, young people either predominated or were a major element among the participants. Many of the insights and conclusions developed at these meetings are reflected in the present report. The process of preparing this report has provided, in effect, an opportunity to discuss improved channels of communication between the United Nations and young people with many persons and organizations who would be directly involved in such communication.
4. In the present report, the term "United Nations" refers to the Organization itself, excluding the specialized agencies. Several points of reference will first be presented and then a number of recommendations will be made.

1/ Although the term "youth" cannot be defined precisely, in the context of this report the term is used to denote young people between the ages of 12 and 25. See Long-Term Policies and Programmes for Youth in National Development, (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.70.IV.12) , for a more detailed definition, especially para. 11.

II. POINTS OF REFERENCE

A. Existing channels of communication

5. Since the founding of the Organization, the United Nations and youth and international youth organizations have established a number of channels of communication. At the level of the exchange of information, in the discussion of policies, and in the implementation of United Nations programmes, young people have provided valuable ideas to the United Nations and support for many efforts of common interest. In some cases, the United Nations has also given support to the aims and programmes of youth and international youth organizations.

6. From the beginning of the United Nations, but particularly from the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of its resolution 1086 J (XXXIX) on youth and national development in 1965, and by the General Assembly of its Declaration on the Promotion Among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding Among Peoples (resolution 2037 (XX)) in the same year, this pattern of communication has been encouraged and advanced by United Nations bodies and by youth and international youth organizations.

7. Information on some of these efforts, involving the United Nations itself as well as the specialized agencies, is contained in an annex to the present report. They include efforts to promote youth participation in policy formulation, to associate young people with the programmes of the United Nations and United Nations agencies, to encourage an awareness among youth of United Nations activities and to employ young people in the secretariats of the United Nations system.

8. The General Assembly in resolution 2497 (XXIV), in which it requested the preparation of the present report, recognized "the important role and contribution of youth in the promotion of world peace, justice, social and economic progress and human rights, and in the realization of the goals embodied in the Charter of the United Nations", and welcomed the views of youth on those subjects.

9. Subsequently, the General Assembly, in resolution 2633 (XXV) requested the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies concerned "to continue to undertake, on a regional and on a world-wide basis, programmes and projects related to the problems and needs of youth, especially those of the handicapped, young workers and rural youth, and their participation in national development, as well as their role in the promotion and protection of human rights, and to co-operate closely, as appropriate, with youth organizations".

10. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General, in resolution 2633 (XXV), "to consult Governments and the specialized agencies concerned on the possibility of convening, in the future, world youth assemblies in the light of the experience gained during the organization of the first World Youth Assembly, especially keeping in mind the need for rules of procedure that ensure fair treatment and the full participation of all youth representatives, for a truly universal representation and for the strict observance of freedom of speech, as well as the financial implications and other relevant aspects, and to submit, when appropriate, a report to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council".

only?
11. The World Youth Assembly, which was organized with the co-operation of 13 international youth organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and held in July 1970 under the auspices of the United Nations in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Organization, provided experience and insights into relationships between the United Nations and youth. Because measures to establish channels of communication with youth and international youth organizations are closely related to the question of possible future world youth assemblies, an interim report on the results of the Secretary-General's consultations on the latter question is included in the section of the present report dealing with recommendations.

why?
12. In spite of the above-mentioned declarations and past efforts, there is increasing evidence that existing channels of communication with the United Nations are inadequate and that major changes are needed. Among the principal reservations expressed by young people and specialists concerned with the subject is that existing channels are primarily one-way channels, from the United Nations to young people, on issues regarding which the United Nations is concerned that youth interest be generated, rather than reciprocal channels on broad issues of mutual concern.

*dialectic
" UN vs youth
establish
vs. it only"*
13. It is widely felt that channels of communication between young people and the United Nations must be two-way channels. Such communication should be aimed not only at increasing youth support for the United Nations, but also at increasing the sensitivity of the Organization to the problems and issues that youth consider to be important, at increasing the influence of youth on these problems and issues and on United Nations activities, and at more effective United Nations programming regarding the needs and aspirations of young people. The free interchange of ideas is a key element in this two-way process.

14. Two considerations emphasize the importance to the future of the United Nations of dynamic communication with young people.

15. The quarter of a century since the establishment of the United Nations has been characterized by revolutionary changes in technology and communications, by the virtual destruction of colonialism, by increasing environmental and population pressures and by basic challenges to traditional assumptions regarding economic growth and the process of development. The fundamental nature of these changes in the conditions of life, if not their specific effects, has often been perceived more clearly during these years by youth than by their elders; if young people have not had the benefit of a sense of perspective in this process, neither have they been encumbered by such a sense in an age when the experience of the past seems to help in the solution of fewer and fewer problems.

16. In a world made smaller by communications, over half of the population is now under 25 years of age, and in the developing areas particularly, this percentage is likely to increase in the years ahead. Unless communications with young people are improved and their participation in United Nations activities increased, the United Nations, as a vehicle for the development of the international community, is in danger of losing the interest and commitment of the future generation.

B. Factors affecting communication

17. The experience derived from past and existing methods of communication, and the process of consultation and research on the question of establishing improved channels of communication with youth and international youth organizations, have yielded several conclusions about which there appears to be general agreement.

18. It is generally agreed that nothing should be proposed or done that would tend to isolate young people from society as a whole. Rather, action should be taken to encourage and assist youth to consider themselves part of the total society, and to take a greater role in the analysis and solution of problems that affect all people. Such action should also seek to gain greater acceptance by those in authority, both nationally and internationally, of this more active role of young people. This is fully in accord with United Nations policy, which has emphasized more effective recognition of the needs and aspirations of youth within the context of the whole of society.

19. Young people throughout the world and within countries are not a homogeneous group. Youth in developing countries often have aspirations and needs that differ from those of youth in industrialized areas. The circumstances and concerns of young people in colonial areas, in rural areas and in areas of rapid population growth are different from those of young people in nations with established institutions of self-government, of young people who live in large cities and who are raised and work where population pressures are slight. Channels of communication between youth and the United Nations should be adaptable to the particular circumstances of young people themselves, taking into account their differing socio-economic, cultural, political and historical backgrounds and experiences.

20. Young people in many, if not most, parts of the world, are wary of being co-opted into a system that promises communication and participation but may prove in practice to be so closely tied to established procedures or special interests that these processes turn out to be little more than a means for ratifying the status quo. There is an uneasiness among many young people over whether international political, economic and social institutions, including the United Nations, are in fact what they represent themselves to be. Many youth do not hesitate to question the utility and the effectiveness of these institutions for political, social and economic progress. Channels of communication should be formulated in light of and to some extent to cope with this uneasiness. There will have to be a willingness within the United Nations to accept the consequences of "opening up" the system to young people. One-way channels of communication that simply convey reasons why their suggestions cannot be accepted, why participation would be unworkable, or why decisions have already been taken, will not last very long and are likely to have negative results in the long run.

21. It is felt by the majority of youth organizations and young people consulted that, to be effective, channels of communication should provide a basis for co-operative action on matters of mutual concern to youth and the United Nations,

mostly it is a mentality question

how can young people who are total accept the schizophrenia of many systems?

/...

and not only a means for sharing points of view and information on these matters. Young people, by and large, are more interested in action and the demonstrable results of action than in the processes by which their elders discover and codify communities of interest.

22. The opinion has often been expressed that, in the process of establishing more effective channels of communication, youth, youth organizations and the United Nations should avoid creating new structures for their own sake. Instead, they should seek to keep open a broad range of opportunities for communication that will accommodate a variety of issues and common concerns and make more effective use of existing institutional and consultative arrangements to achieve such communication.

*don't care!
7 years
in the
age
since the
image of
total
deficiency*

23. For most of the world's young people, the United Nations is a distant and detached institution - if indeed they are aware of its existence. It is perhaps the nature of this institution, working as it does almost exclusively through and with Governments, to be less directly related to people as individuals than are most social institutions. Very few of the world's young people - in some countries the proportion has been estimated at less than 1 per cent - are aware of the specific activities of the United Nations including, for example, its role as the vehicle for a substantial portion of the multilateral assistance now being made available to developing countries or its efforts in the field of social and economic policy and human rights. Effective channels of communication will have to be based in part on an increased knowledge on the part of youth of what the United Nations does, what it is capable of doing and what its limitations are.

*are made
up of
young
people!*

24. A number of international non-governmental organizations have worked for decades to serve youth interests, and many championed the cause of youth when it was not as attractive a cause as it is today. Their contributions are potentially a source of great strength to the work of the Organization, and should not be understated. However, while the Charter of the United Nations acknowledges, in Article 71, the value of consultation with such organizations, and has been the basis of consultative arrangements with many of them in areas of mutual concern, neither the United Nations nor most of the international youth and youth-serving organizations having consultative arrangements with the United Nations have made much more than formal use of these arrangements.

25. In addition, many international non-governmental youth and youth-serving organizations are limited in their relevance to the broad range of youth. This may be either because, by choice, these organizations are linked to a particular religious, professional, vocational or ideological purpose or because they are "representative" of only a small percentage of young people. In a sense this is the natural result of a desire by people to express their specific interests through specific vehicles or structures. However, the question of establishing improved channels of communication involves general as well as specific interests. This question, therefore, must be looked at not only in terms of effective relationships among youth, international youth organizations and the United Nations, but also in terms of how young people themselves can effectively express their views and interests. The question of channels of communication with youth at

the local and national levels, and the question of how well international youth organizations relate to their actual and potential constituencies at these levels are, therefore, key questions.

26. At the urging of their constituencies and because of their fear of becoming irrelevant, many international non-governmental youth and youth-serving organizations are decentralizing their decision-making and programming processes, giving more attention to broad issues of peace, human rights and development, and seeking to accommodate young people who are interested in specific issues and causes. However, these organizations often continue to suffer from lack of financial, management and programming resources, and from inadequate means of relating to the United Nations in areas of common concern. Serious questions also remain among many such organizations concerning their relevance to the many millions of unattached and unorganized youth and how the interests of these young people can be represented.

27. At the same time, partly because it is an intergovernmental organization, the United Nations has not yet developed full and open channels of communication with non-governmental organizations, including youth organizations, or with young people as individuals. This perhaps is understandable, but the need to open such channels remains. Moreover, young people and youth organizations are challenging the view that the intergovernmental nature of the United Nations somehow excuses the absence of vigorous two-way communication or reduces the need for young people and the United Nations to deal fully and openly with one another.

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

C. Political and structural considerations in the strengthening of communication

28. The above-mentioned points of reference are cited as factors that experience and consultation have shown should be taken into account when the question of communication with youth and international youth organizations is examined. Some of these factors are intangible; they deal with concepts regarding the position that young people, ideally, should occupy in the international social order, as well as with the position they actually do occupy in light of the realities of their economic and political situation and of the extent to which their lesser role in that order is accepted as proper.

29. At this level, the question of establishing open and effective two-way channels of communication with youth and youth organizations is a policy question, involving changes in existing patterns of action within the United Nations. This will require a political decision by the General Assembly, which should be followed by the establishment of mechanisms capable of making the views and interests of youth people actually felt.

30. At the same time, the United Nations is also faced with a set of realities that, although perhaps not as immediate in conventional terms as those faced by young people, are nevertheless at least as potent in their implications. These are the realities pointed out in paragraphs 15 and 16 above.

31. Others among the factors mentioned above are more tangible; they deal with the presence or absence of specific opportunities to participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of United Nations policies and programmes, and with the access that young people and the United Nations each have to information regarding the other. Without the political decision to "open up" the Organization to young people, such opportunities, where they exist, will continue to be token opportunities only. At the same time, the political "opening up" in itself, without specific opportunities for participation, would be purposeless. At this level, the question of communication becomes essentially a question of participation.

Key-
question
for originality of UN/col +

32. Channels of communication between youth and international youth organizations and the United Nations, in their present form, are deficient at both of these levels. The consultative arrangements provided for in Article 71 of the Charter have not been used vigorously either by the United Nations or by youth organizations; even if they were so used, they might remain largely formalistic. These arrangements have not encouraged extensive or intensive communication with young people on the social, economic and political issues dealt with by the United Nations.

33. Accordingly, new efforts should be made now to increase opportunities for the United Nations and young people to work with each other in practical programmes, particularly at the local, national and regional levels. Efforts are also needed to increase the availability and sharing of information on programmes and matters of mutual concern. Finally, new initiatives are needed to improve communication regarding basic United Nations policies.

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

34. The following specific lines of action are recommended.

A. Strengthening communication with youth and international youth organizations at local, national and regional levels

35. The views and interests of young people, as well as their needs, can be most clearly understood and expressed in the particular social, economic and political context in which they live. Therefore, a basic condition for vigorous and fruitful communications between youth and the United Nations will be the establishment of concrete opportunities for consultation and co-operation at the local, national and regional levels, where United Nations activities and the lives of young people converge.

36. Attention should be given first to strengthening such opportunities. The following four initiatives are recommended:

(a) National programmes. United Nations activities at the local and national level are directly related to the policies and programmes of Governments. Therefore, the success of efforts to strengthen communications with young people at these levels will depend primarily on governmental action to increase opportunities for youth participation in development. The General Assembly took note of this when, in its resolution 2497 (XXIV) it recommended to Governments that "especially during the Second United Nations Development Decade, youth and youth organizations should be given an appropriate opportunity to participate in the preparation and implementation of national development plans and in programmes of international co-operation". In resolution 2633 (XXV) the General Assembly also recommended "that youth be fully involved in the efforts to accelerate the over-all growth of developing countries, bearing in mind the special social and economic situation of youth in these countries". Accordingly, to give practical effect to these recommendations:

- where?*
- (i) Resident representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) should be asked to explore with Governments and with national youth organizations means for associating young people with the planning, implementation and evaluation of country programmes;
 - (ii) Consideration should be given, within the context of (i), to the establishment of a youth advisory group to the resident representative, including young people who are beneficiaries of United Nations assistance programmes and representatives of youth organizations, to meet periodically with him and with responsible government officials and to review and comment on United Nations programmes;

(b) Joint youth projects. The United Nations should consider providing assistance to programmes by which international non-governmental youth

stress on NGOs - the history shows the pliability of youth
to ideologies
- the growing complexity of the world may
lead youth to abide by the elder's views

A/8743
English
Page 11

organizations, through their national affiliates and in co-operation with interested Governments, would plan, implement and evaluate carefully selected pilot projects to develop new approaches to development problems. Such projects might be financed under the technical co-operation programme, by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) or from special voluntary contributions. These projects might deal, for example, with matters such as trade policies, development education, the detention of political prisoners, the victims of colonialism and apartheid, national youth policies and programmes, the full participation of women in development, the promotion of educational opportunities and educational reform, problems of unemployment and underemployment and the establishment of better working conditions, the improvement of health and nutrition, the development of welfare facilities, the struggle against racial discrimination, the fight against crime, delinquency and drug abuse, population questions, the environment, the achievement of greater rights and responsibilities for youth in society, the promotion of wise leisure-time policies and programmes, rehabilitation and relief, and the problems of refugees;

(c) Regional programmes. The regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut (UNESOB) should be further utilized as key links in the process of communication between the United Nations and young people. Plans made by some of the regional bodies for the appointment of full-time youth officers have not materialized at the time of writing; it is now important to implement these plans:

- Fundação Cuidar o Futuro
- (i) These youth officers should be available to provide Governments, at their request, with technical assistance in the development of national youth policies and programmes;
 - (ii) They should meet and consult regularly with youth and youth organizations at the local and national levels, assist in strengthening the programmes of these organizations and help to relate them to national development planning and action;
 - (iii) With such activity as a base, these youth officers could give attention to strengthening the relationship of national youth organizations to the United Nations as well as to the co-ordination of the regional youth activities of the United Nations;
 - (iv) These youth officers could also report regularly to the United Nations, through the regional commissions and UNESOB, on the views and interests of young people in the regions;
 - (v) They could be responsible for the establishment and servicing of representative youth advisory groups, to consult with the regional bodies and advise them on regional programming;
- (d) United Nations Volunteers. It is important that the United Nations Volunteers continue to be developed to provide opportunities for youth participation in United Nations activities at the field level. In this context, particular

basis
on
NGO //
experience

/...

attention needs to be given to the participation of volunteers in projects in their own countries and of volunteers from developing countries in the programme.

B. Increasing the availability of information on the United Nations and on the activities and interests of young people

37. An essential aspect of the process of communication between young people and the United Nations is the availability to each side of useful information on the concerns and activities of the other. Although in principle a major proportion of the information provided by the United Nations on questions of interest to youth is available to them, in fact the quantity, frequency and complexity of such information is so great that it is very difficult for all but a few to make full use of it. Such information will remain, however, an indispensable tool in communications. At the same time, very little provision is made by the United Nations for the receipt and consideration of detailed information on the activities and concerns of young people and youth organizations. The following initiatives are recommended to increase the availability of such information:

(a) Development education programmes. Increased attention should be given by the United Nations, through the Centre for Economic and Social Information and other bodies, to long-term development education programmes, centred around key issues of international development policy and programming. Such programmes should involve youth in developing as well as in industrialized countries;

(b) Public information programmes. The United Nations public information programmes should be reviewed to determine how the mass media and the United Nations information centres might better be used to inform youth and international youth organizations with affiliates at the local and regional levels of United Nations policies and programmes, and to make information on the United Nations available to young people in forms that will appeal to them. The possibility of associating young volunteers in such efforts should be explored. Efforts should be made to hire young staff members in these programmes to develop publications and materials on United Nations policies and programmes that relate to the interests of youth and youth organizations, particularly at the local and national levels;

(c) Information-sharing on matters of specific interest to the United Nations and youth. The United Nations should intensify its efforts to gather and disseminate to the persons and organizations concerned information on specific United Nations issues in which youth are interested and information regarding the concerns of youth and the programmes of youth organizations related to United Nations activities. Such information might consist of periodic annotated bibliographies of certain items in current documentation, reviews of action taken by United Nations policy-making and programming bodies, time-tables for the consideration of issues by United Nations agencies and organs, travel schedules of technical assistance advisers, project summaries, summaries of meetings and conferences held by youth organizations on matters being considered by the

United Nations, new publications, schedules of forthcoming activities of youth organizations and the like. The Centre for Economic and Social Information of the United Nations Office of Public Information might wish to play a role in this respect. As a necessary part of this process, United Nations personnel concerned with youth policies and programmes should be available regularly to attend meetings, assemblies, conferences and seminars organized by youth organizations in order to help to keep the United Nations fully in touch with the policies and programmes of young people and these organizations.

C. Increasing access on the part of youth and international youth organizations to the formulation of United Nations policies

38. Strengthened co-operation at local, national and regional levels and improved access on both sides to information will help to stimulate a reciprocal process of communication between the United Nations and young people on a wide range of issues as well as on specific programmes and projects. This is fully consistent with the statements of the policy-making bodies of the United Nations, which have acknowledged the importance of encouraging interest on the part of youth in the fundamental issues of peace and development with which the Organization deals. At the same time, while the consultative arrangements provided for in Article 71 of the Charter form a basis for communication with youth and international organizations, it is necessary now to improve their effectiveness.

39. Several precedents exist that may usefully be developed for this purpose, including the informal periodic consultations that have taken place at Headquarters and Geneva between officers of the secretariats of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and representatives of international youth organizations. There is also a need for innovation in providing young people greater access to the policy-making processes of the Organization and for the development of personnel policies to encourage the appointment of young staff members. Accordingly, the following initiatives are recommended:

(a) Ad hoc advisory group on youth. It is suggested that a 12 to 15-member ad hoc advisory group ^{of} (on) youth be convened to advise the Secretary-General on activities that should be undertaken by the United Nations to meet the needs and aspirations of youth, and to convey to the United Nations the views and interests of youth and international youth organizations on issues of concern to the United Nations. The members of the group would be appointed by the Secretary-General and would serve in their individual capacity. They would include persons with extensive experience in government youth programmes and persons active in the programmes of international non-governmental youth organizations. The conclusions and recommendations of the group would be transmitted by the Secretary-General, with his comments, to the Economic and Social Council;

(b) Youth consultations at Geneva; United Nations Headquarters youth caucus. The two series of meetings of international non-governmental youth organization representatives that have been held informally in New York and Geneva should be continued on a periodic basis. These meetings should continue to provide

opportunities for working-level contact between international youth organizations and officers of the United Nations Secretariat concerning the implementation of United Nations policies and programmes and the related programmes of the youth organizations. The organizations participating in these meetings should be asked individually or as a group, to submit a report to the ad hoc advisory group on youth, containing comments and recommendations for the group's consideration;

(c) World youth assemblies. As of 15 June 1972, (25) replies had been received from States Members of the United Nations to the Secretary-General's note verbale of 31 August 1971 on the possibility of convening, in the future, world youth assemblies. Four specialized agencies have also replied to a request for their views. It will be necessary to receive a greater number of replies before conclusions can be drawn regarding the views of the Member States on this question;

(d) Personnel policies. The guidelines for the recruitment of young staff members to the United Nations Secretariat contained in General Assembly resolution 2736 (XXV) should be fully implemented, with a view to encouraging people under the age of 30 to enter and remain in the service of the United Nations.

D. General principles for implementing the above recommendations

40. Three-year testing period. It is suggested that the specific lines of action recommended above be tested during a three-year period. At the end of this period the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the proposed ad hoc advisory group on youth and youth organizations, should evaluate the progress made in the development of channels of communication with youth and international youth organizations and submit a report to the General Assembly with recommendations for future action.

41. Servicing and financing. It is suggested that servicing for the implementation of these recommendations during the three-year testing period be provided by the United Nations Secretariat and financed from available resources within the regular United Nations budget. The possibility of securing extra-budgetary funds should also be explored, to ensure the level of finance needed to test the recommendations successfully. In this connexion, financial and other contributions from youth and youth organizations should be encouraged.

E. Co-ordination of youth programmes within the United Nations system of organizations

42. Although the present report and recommendations deal directly with channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and international youth organizations, the prospects for successful further action will be reduced if continuing attention is not given to improving the co-ordination of youth policies and programming within the United Nations system of organizations as a whole. Youth and international youth organizations often comment that in order to

communicate with the United Nations system of organizations they must deal with a number of bodies and individuals. Existing machinery for co-ordination, including the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and its subsidiary bodies, should be fully utilized to strengthen further the co-ordination of youth policies and programmes and to advance the exchange of information within the system. In addition, the recommendations made above with regard to the United Nations should be reviewed by the appropriate bodies to determine how they might be relevant to other parts of the system.

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

IV. CONCLUSION

43. The proposals made in the present report should be considered a beginning of a longer process of continuously improving channels of communication with young people. The three-year testing period would provide sufficient time to report back to the General Assembly, as suggested above, on experience gained in the implementation of whatever decisions are taken at the present session and to make further proposals in the light of that experience.

44. Change is so rapid at the national and international levels that no system of communication with young people will be adequate unless it is dynamic, and unless it is capable of keeping ahead of and not simply abreast of new ideas and new developments. The channels of communication suggested in this report are intended to help in the accomplishment of this aim.

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

ANNEX

Present arrangements within the United Nations system
of organizations for communicating with youth a/

1. Since their establishment the United Nations and the specialized agencies have developed a number of means by which they communicate with youth on matters of common concern. The following are cited as examples of the means that have been used for this purpose.

A. Youth participation in policy formulation

1. Consultative process and other methods of consultation

2. The principal channel now in existence for international, non-governmental youth organizations to influence policy-making in the United Nations is the consultative process set forth in Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations:

"The Economic and Social Council may make suitable arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which are concerned with matters within its competence. Such arrangements may be made with international organizations and, where appropriate, with national organizations after consultation with the Member of the United Nations concerned."

3. At present there are approximately 400 international non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. Although definitions differ as to what constitutes youth and youth-serving organizations, approximately 60 of these may be placed in that category.

4. Among United Nations matters that have been of concern to youth and youth organizations are international technical co-operation for development, political questions, such as the detention of political prisoners, policies underlying trade and development problems, the formulation, implementation and evaluation of national youth policies and programmes, the promotion of educational opportunities and educational reform, problems of unemployment and underemployment and the establishment of better working conditions, the improvement of health and nutrition, the development of welfare facilities, the fight against crime, delinquency and drug

a/ The purpose of this annex is to describe some channels of communication with young people that are at present employed by organizations of the United Nations system. The term "United Nations" as used in this annex may refer to one or more organizations of the United Nations system, depending on the context in which the terms are used. However, such usage is not intended to imply that a unitary system of communications with youth and international youth organizations exists within the system. Such communications are the responsibility of each United Nations body, as determined by the relevant governing authorities.

abuse, population questions, the environment, the achievement of greater rights and responsibilities for youth in society, the promotion of wise leisure-time policies and programmes, rehabilitation and relief and the problems of refugees.

5. Consultative functions have also been established by the governing bodies of the specialized agencies of the United Nations. For example, observers from international youth organizations at the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) are entitled to make statements on matters within their respective competence in the commissions, committees and subsidiary bodies of the General Conference with the consent of the presiding officer. They may address plenary meetings of the Conference on matters within their competence, subject to the approval of the General Committee.

6. There are also structures within the United Nations system of organizations to facilitate the consultative process. At United Nations Headquarters and at the International Labour Office (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNESCO, UNDP and UNICEF, there are offices concerned with relations with non-governmental organizations, including youth organizations.

7. The ILO has two forms of consultative status, general and regional, which are broadly confined to international central organizations of employers and workers, and a special list of non-governmental organizations which have a recognized interest in some particular field of activities of the ILO. The latter include about a dozen youth organizations. Membership of the special list entitles them to receive certain publications and information and to attend the International Labour Conference as "registered observers", and in this capacity to circulate documents for the information of Conference committees. They may also apply for formal invitations to attend the Conference which, if granted, permit them to address the Conference (with the permission of its officers) or to make statements to Conference committees (again with the permission of their officers). Organizations on the special list have no privileges with regard to the Governing Body, but may be invited at its request to other ILO meetings. In addition, representatives of non-governmental youth organizations sometimes participate as experts in ILO meetings on special subjects or serve on expert consultative panels, particularly the tripartite Panel of Consultants on the Problems of Young Workers. The structure of the International Labour Office includes a special branch co-ordinating and administering the relations between the ILO and non-governmental organizations generally, in addition to the regular flow of consultations between these organizations and particular technical branches of the Office (for example, in connexion with youth employment promotion or social education for young workers).

8. At the national level, some UNESCO national commissions have youth organizations as members or have sub-committees on youth. Many of the commissions call upon youth to serve on expert committees or to present information for questionnaires. In addition, there are now some 50 youth sub-committees of national committees for the Action for Development/Freedom from Hunger Campaign, and UNICEF national committees in a number of countries actively support and publicize UNICEF programmes.

9. A recent elaboration of the process of consultation among youth, youth organizations and the United Nations has been the convening of informal meetings in New York and Geneva between a group of international non-governmental youth organizations and United Nations officials.

10. The Geneva meetings started in 1968 and are attended by representatives of international youth organizations with headquarters in Europe. Thirteen of the organizations attending these initial meetings were invited at the end of 1969 to constitute the Planning Committee for the 1970 World Youth Assembly. This Planning Committee ceased to exist when the Assembly convened. The informal meetings take place at intervals of one to three months; they provide opportunities for the exchange of information on matters of mutual concern to the United Nations and participating organizations, and to some extent for the exchange of views and the analysis of youth policies and programmes of the United Nations system of organizations and the youth organizations participating. Some youth organizations with headquarters at a distance from Geneva, however, have found it difficult and expensive to participate in the meetings regularly.

11. At United Nations Headquarters, a group of representatives and observers designated by a number of international non-governmental youth organizations have met with officials of the Secretariat at intervals of one to two months since 1969 to exchange information on matters of mutual concern. The New York meetings have complemented those held at Geneva by permitting the discussion of United Nations policies and programmes as they are evolving through the policy-making organs based at Headquarters and the Secretariat and have served as a channel of communication between the headquarters of the international non-governmental youth organizations and United Nations Headquarters. Since all the participants in the United Nations Headquarters Youth Caucus (as the New York meetings are called) are resident near United Nations Headquarters, it has been possible to call meetings, when necessary, at short notice and at minimal cost.

12. It is generally agreed that the informal meetings at Geneva and United Nations Headquarters represent a positive elaboration of the consultative process in which international non-governmental youth organizations have been involved, which has tended in the past to be limited to the submission of written statements and oral interventions at United Nations meetings. However, among the shortcomings of these informal meetings that are mentioned is the fact that they place too much emphasis on the role of established youth organizations, to the exclusion of ad hoc youth groups or groups concerned with specific issues, specialists on youth and individual young people, particularly from the developing areas. It is also said that the meetings often do not take place sufficiently in advance of final decision-making by the United Nations, to permit an effective contribution from the participating organizations; that the meetings tend to be too formal to encourage completely frank and realistic assessment of the possibilities for mutual consultation; that they are not sufficiently action-oriented; that insufficient documentation is available early enough to be useful and that no mechanism exists for effectively channelling the views developed at the meetings into the United Nations decision-making process.

13. The New York and Geneva meetings have provided opportunities for the discussion of several issues, including the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, the establishment of an international university, youth participation in the Second United Nations Development Decade and the advancement of human rights.

14. Meetings of the Commission on Human Rights have provided opportunities for young people to express their opinions on questions of human rights and United Nations programmes in the human rights field. In 1970 the United Nations Division of Human Rights organized, at the invitation of the Government of Yugoslavia, a Seminar on the Role of Youth in the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights that included as observers representatives of 20 international youth and youth-serving organizations. Further seminars on this subject are being planned.

2. Youth in government delegations

15. Some United Nations bodies have foreseen the importance of including youth in government delegations to policy-making meetings, particularly those discussing youth questions. The UNESCO General Conference was the first to vote to encourage youth participation in its future sessions. Subsequently the United Nations Commission for Social Development adopted a similar resolution, and more recently the General Assembly adopted a resolution recommending that Governments include youthful representatives in their delegations to the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

16. A few delegations have chosen young delegates from youth organizations, for example from among young civil servants whose responsibilities include work with youth, or from among young people who are studying or working in the city in which the United Nations meeting is taking place. However, such practices are followed relatively seldom.

3. Advisory bodies

17. Some of the specialized agencies of the United Nations have set up advisory groups to make it possible for youth experts, selected persons from international youth organizations or young people chosen at large, to influence the development of the agency's programmes, including youth programmes. For example, the Director-General of FAO has convened an Advisory Group on FAO Youth Programmes. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has had, on occasion, an International Advisory Committee on the Development of Out-of-School Education, and has called young people together or has polled them in other ways on matters such as the nature and organization of the proposed 1973 UNESCO International Youth Conference. The International Labour Organisation has a panel of consultants on the problems of young workers that acts as a two-way channel of advice and assistance and includes members from youth organizations. A number of specialists from trade union organizations also deal with young workers, and serve in such informal consultations as those on social education for young workers.

18. In practice, these advisory groups have provided channels of communication with international youth organizations, and occasionally with ad hoc groups of youth or with unorganized youth, with regard to some sectoral concerns of the United Nations system of organizations. They have also transcended purely technical issues and have enabled youth to deal with issues of policy as well. However, in the past such advisory bodies have sometimes been short-lived because they have been thought to be unrepresentative or because it has been difficult to institutionalize acceptable means for action on the advice given.

4. World Youth Assembly

19. From 9 to 18 July 1970, a World Youth Assembly was convened under United Nations auspices at United Nations Headquarters as part of the observance of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Organization. Approximately 650 participants attended, and deliberated in four commissions (on world peace, development, education and man and environment) on issues of common concern to youth and to the United Nations. The World Youth Assembly adopted a message to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session (see General Assembly resolution 2633 (XXV)).

20. In itself, the World Youth Assembly was a major innovation in the development of channels of communication between the United Nations and the youth of the world. In addition, the planning process, which was undertaken by 13 international non-governmental youth organizations, represented a new approach both to co-operation among these organizations and to the question of how international youth organizations might relate effectively to the United Nations.

21. Criticisms of the World Youth Assembly as a channel of communication between the United Nations and youth have centred primarily around the fact that while the Planning Committee was able to agree on questions such as the number of youth who should be invited and how this number should be allocated among States, non-governmental organizations and movements, it did not agree on rules of procedure that would permit full participation of all the youth participants and a free interchange of ideas. This called into question somewhat the validity of the Assembly as a vehicle for communicating the views of youth on matters of mutual concern to youth and the United Nations.

22. The Assembly was also criticized because approximately 35 per cent of its participants were above the age of 25, the age limit set by the Planning Committee.

23. The replies received by 15 June 1972 to the Secretary-General's note verbale on the possibility of convening, in the future, world youth assemblies, transmitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2633 (XXV) (see paragraph 39 (c) of the body of this report), were not yet sufficient in number to warrant a summary. This can be prepared when a greater number of replies has been received.

5. Attendance at meetings

24. Several of the specialized agencies have provided for youth participation in United Nations meetings dealing with broader questions than those clearly definable as "youth questions". For example, in the field of social and economic development, international youth organizations, among others, were invited to submit the names of young people who might attend the Second World Food Congress held at the Hague in June 1970. Three hundred of the 1,500 participants were young people, and about half of these met prior to the Congress to map out a "youth strategy" for action at the Congress. Young people comprised a majority of the 24 participants in the Symposium on Participation of Youth in the Second United Nations Development Decade held in 1971, but the meeting dealt with many issues of social, political and economic development. Non-governmental organizations are regularly invited by WHO to send representatives to expert committees, scientific groups and study groups.

25. Youth and youth-serving organizations have sent observers to such meetings as the United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Tokyo, 1970) and youth participation at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 1972) was the subject of discussion and preparation by the United Nations and youth organizations.

26. International non-governmental youth and youth-serving organizations are invited to attend and participate with Governments in regional meetings sponsored by the United Nations. For example, in 1970 and 1971 meetings on youth and development were organized by ECAFE, ECA, UNESOB and the United Nations Office at Geneva; in varying degrees, these meetings included participation by such organizations in the discussions and preparation of final reports.

6. Special arrangements for consultation

27. Apart from the consultative arrangements with the Economic and Social Council, certain committees of the General Assembly have made their own arrangements for consultation with youth and other non-governmental organizations. Representatives of certain youth organizations, not all of them in consultative status, have testified, for example, before the Special Committee on Apartheid, while the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples has had direct contact with youth and other non-governmental organizations. Youth organizations have been regularly invited to attend meetings with the Co-ordinator of the United Nations Volunteers programme, to be kept informed of the developments and the progress made in the implementation of this programme.

B. Associating young people with the programmes of the United Nations system of organizations

1. Approaches of the specialized agencies

28. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is permitted by its constitution to "make suitable arrangements for co-operation with non-governmental international organizations concerned with matters within its competence, and may invite them to undertake specific tasks". In the early days of UNESCO, the entire youth programme was carried out through non-governmental organizations, with periodic meetings of representatives of international youth organizations with the UNESCO secretariat to decide on programme emphasis. Later, Governments and youth organizations worked side-by-side at conferences on the promotion of out-of-school education and on a world strategy for developing rural youth work.

29. Youth organizations may receive financial aid to promote co-ordination in a particular field or to carry out particular programmes. For example, the Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service works under contract to UNESCO to operate an information service on opportunities for short-term and long-term voluntary service, and is co-operating with the United Nations in the implementation of the United Nations Volunteers programme. The Co-ordination Committee for the Presentation of Science and the Development of Out-of-School Science Activities also receives a UNESCO grant for clearing-house activities. Youth organizations affiliated with the International Theatre Institute and the International Music Council receive assistance from UNESCO. In addition, more than 1,300 UNESCO clubs in some 35 countries provide opportunities for students and young people to gain a better understanding of UNESCO activities and to lend their support to them.

30. Since 1954, a system of associated youth enterprises has been in operation with UNESCO, through which over 250 experimental programmes in the field of education for social and international responsibility have been organized by youth organizations. Examples include the creation of filmstrips and other audio-visual aids for education in villages, and the preparation of a monograph on cultural festivals.

31. Travel grants are available from UNESCO for leaders of national and international youth organizations, for study programmes in fields such as literacy, group work and work camp organizations.

32. Youth organizations have often co-operated in inquiries initiated by the United Nations system of organizations. For example, they have contributed to United Nations studies on the training of professional and voluntary youth leaders by international organizations, on a study entitled New Trends in Service by Youth, b/ and on a study of national youth service programmes, with particular reference to

b/ United Nations publication, Sales No. 71.IV.1.

youth volunteer service. The World Health Organization makes certain financial grants and meets certain expenditures in connexion with specific studies or inquiries made on its behalf. In co-operation with UNESCO the World Assembly of Youth and the World Federation of Democratic Youth undertook, in 1970, a study of the rights and responsibilities of young people.

33. The International Student Movement for the United Nations and the World University Service have prepared a Guide to Student Action for Development, and the Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service has made studies of the impact of international volunteers on development, both at the request of FAO. Students and representatives of youth organizations have been included in workshops set up in different countries to gather information for the report on the needs and aspirations of youth that is to be completed in 1972.

34. The Centre for Economic and Social Information of the United Nations Office of Public Information has encouraged the active interest and participation of youth, particularly in the industrialized countries, in the implementation of the strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, and has assisted in the development of study and travel programmes for youth leaders for this purpose. The Action for Development/Freedom from Hunger Campaign of FAO has undertaken programmes through affiliates in developing and industrialized countries, to encourage youth participation in development programmes at the local level.

2. Missions of the Interregional Adviser on Youth Policies and Programmes and other United Nations youth officers

35. In the course of their missions to advise Governments on national youth policies and programmes, the United Nations Interregional Adviser on Youth Policies and Programmes and other United Nations youth officers regularly meet with representatives of youth organizations. In several instances, these meetings and the work of United Nations personnel stationed in the countries concerned have brought local representatives of non-governmental youth organizations into the process of planning United Nations programmes as well as into training programmes and special projects.

3. Field programmes

36. An increasing number of projects dealing with youth needs and aspirations are being established as a result of co-operation between the United Nations system of organizations and non-governmental international youth organizations. Efforts are now being made, for example, to link youth organizations with the UNESCO Experimental Programme for the Development of Out-of-School Education in Chile. In addition, several international youth organizations are exploring with United Nations bodies the possibilities for co-operation at the field level in programmes involving population policy and drug abuse.

37. Projects under the ILO Workers' Education Programme are carried out through close collaboration between the ILO and workers' organizations. In some of these,

/...

youth sections of trade union organizations play an active part; in others, many participants in seminars and courses are young workers.

38. Young people have demonstrated an active interest in being associated in the field programmes assisted by the United Nations. About 100 associate experts and over 600 young volunteers have served in United Nations-related development projects in agricultural education, health and public works.

39. A major new development is the creation, on 1 January 1971, of a programme of United Nations Volunteers, which will provide opportunities for youth from developing and industrialized countries to participate in field projects assisted by the United Nations. As of 1 May 1972 the programme had sent 53 volunteers to participate in field projects assisted by the United Nations in seven countries.

4. Fund-raising campaigns

40. Each year through UNICEF national committees tens of thousands of young people are associated with drives to raise funds for UNICEF. It is estimated that approximately 25 per cent of the UNICEF budget comes from voluntary organizations and from the efforts of volunteers, many of whom are young people.

41. The Action for Development/Freedom from Hunger Campaign of FAO depends in part on the efforts of youth organizations for its programmes. About 75 Young Farmers Clubs and rural training institutes in over 50 countries have been aided by "Miles for Millions" walks and cultural and educational programmes organized by youth groups.

42. The World Health Organization has a Voluntary Fund for Health Promotion which accepts special contributions, such as that of the Students' War against Yaws resulting from a campaign by high-school students in Canada.

43. A number of international youth organizations have helped to raise funds for country-level youth programmes through the UNESCO Gift Coupon Scheme.

C. Learning and teaching about the United Nations

44. United Nations information centres in countries throughout the world are a source of information on United Nations programmes for youth, but they have not especially emphasized communication with youth and youth organizations.

45. United Nations associations established at the local level and the activities of the World Federation of United Nations Associations have provided some means for less formal, person-to-institution relationships.

46. A number of youth organizations are sponsoring seminars and study groups to discuss topics related to the work of the United Nations and are promoting thinking about such topics through their organizational press. For example, Human Rights

Year (1968) was the occasion for the discussion of human rights by many youth organizations during that year, and a number of them have also undertaken activities in support of International Education Year (1970) and the International Year to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (1971). The International Student Movement for the United Nations (ISMUN), affiliated to the World Federation of United Nations Associations, carries on an extensive programme at national and international levels to inform students about the aims and activities of the United Nations and to mobilize student opinion and action on international issues, including voluntary service, human rights, development and educational reform.

47. To facilitate the interest of the youth press in publicizing United Nations activities, the United Nations system of organizations offer press services for youth editors, including news features, photographs and background information. For example, UNESCO Features regularly includes a section on youth, and the Centre for Economic and Social Information of the United Nations Office of Public Information periodically issues communiqués on youth questions being examined by the United Nations.

48. Since April 1969, the United Nations interagency liaison officer based at the United Nations Office at Geneva, has issued periodically an informal Youth Information Bulletin compiled from information supplied by agencies of the United Nations system of organizations and international non-governmental youth organizations. The Bulletin, which contains summaries of current United Nations activities in the youth field and of activities of youth organizations, is distributed to Secretariat officers responsible for youth programmes, to international youth organizations and to United Nations information centres.

49. The United Nations regularly invites some 50 to 75 graduate students to spend six weeks or more as interns at Headquarters or to take part in a two-three week graduate study programme at the United Nations Office at Geneva. These young people take an active role in planning their own programmes of briefings and discussions about the United Nations. Each is assigned to a professional officer and helps to carry out particular assignments. Since 1969, UNESCO has organized a summer intern programme for university students. Some 15 paid stagiaires go to UNESCO for the months of July and August to work in different programme units of the secretariat. It is hoped that a winter programme in 1972/1973 will start for students from the southern hemisphere.

50. At United Nations Headquarters, representatives of international and national youth organizations, along with other non-governmental organizations, are able to obtain information about all aspects of United Nations activities through services provided by the Office of Public Information, including access to press releases, documents and public information material produced for global consumption; tickets to official meetings; and weekly briefings by senior officials. The weekly briefings frequently deal with questions of special concern to youth and youth organizations. There is also an annual conference and occasional regional conferences at which non-governmental organizations discuss ways in which they can further develop public understanding and support for specific United Nations activities.

D. Young people at work in the United Nations

51. Efforts are being made to bring more young people into the United Nations Secretariat, but it is felt by some that a major obstacle to encouraging competent young professionals is the lack of a sound system of hiring and promotion. The report on personnel problems in the United Nations (Professional category and above) by Maurice Bertrand of the Joint Inspection Unit points out, for example, that 95.4 per cent of the United Nations professional staff is over 30 years of age (A/8454 (Part II), annex II.5).

52. The ILO has a long-established policy of recruiting its permanent staff members from among persons under age 35, and UNESCO has developed means for young professional staff to implement youth programmes and programmes of interest to youth. The UNESCO staff has convened informal meetings of younger professional staff to consider common interests and evaluate current programmes. The United Nations is also organizing such meetings.

53. In 1969, A Study of the Capacity of the United Nations Development System (DP/5) recommended increased employment of youth in the field programmes of the United Nations system of organizations.

54. At its twenty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2736 (XXV) which stated in part,

"In the interest of long-term recruitment planning policies, special efforts should be made to recruit qualified young men and women for service with the United Nations through the development of more objective selection methods such as, wherever appropriate, open competitive examinations, special allowance being made for candidates whose mother tongue is not one of the working languages of the Secretariat."

The implementation of this resolution will advance the participation of young people in the work of the United Nations and increase the interest of young people from developing areas in employment with the Organization.
