



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

How youth drive change

**Young people in the world:
so different and so alike**

Monique Coleman

Mobile revolution

Gigi Ibrahim

Spring of outrage

Alfredo Trujillo Fernandez

Miracle Weapons

Serge Amisi

When poetry is louder than a bomb

Nate Marshall

Moonlight stars

Carol Natukunda

A young sughar

Noshan Abbas

Rebels with a cause

Jens Lubbadeh

Prescriptions for a sick planet

Zhao Ying

Green architecture

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**Revolution: one of the
great feats of civilization**

Khaled Youssef

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OUR AUTHORS

International Year of Youth 2010–2011

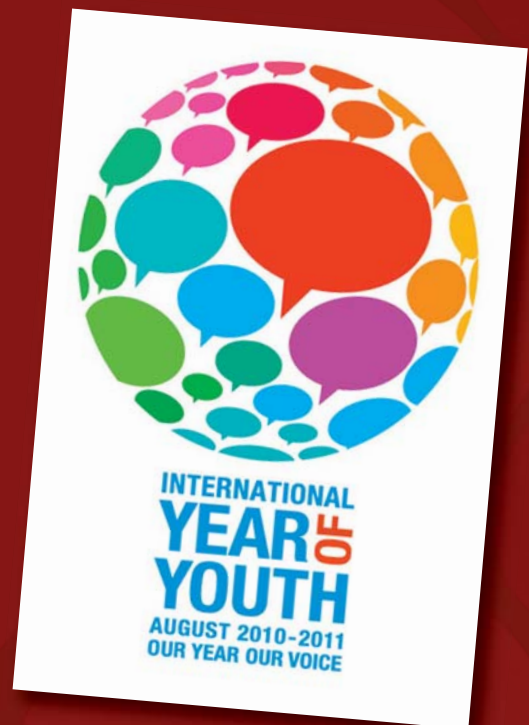
“Five years away from the 2015 target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, it is more important than ever to encourage young people to dedicate themselves to achieving a more just and sustainable world,” wrote Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, in her message on the occasion of the launch of the International Year of Youth (August 2010 – August 2011) and of International Youth Day (12 August).

Proclaimed in December 2009 by the United Nations General Assembly, the international year puts the accent on dialogue and mutual understanding. It aims to promote the ideals of peace, respect for human rights and solidarity between generations, cultures, religions and civilizations.

During the year a large number of young people have been striving to build a more just world, starting with the “Arab Spring”. All over the world, they have been speaking out, demanding a place in their country’s future. The 7th UNESCO Youth Forum, “How youth drive change”, to be held from 17 to 20 October 2011, will provide them with an opportunity to discuss their experiences, present their projects and exchange ideas.

Since its creation, UNESCO has considered youth a major priority. Its Youth Programme aims to promote opportunities for young people to be given greater responsibilities and to see their role in society recognized.

From February 2010 to February 2011, the Organization jointly chaired the United Nations Interagency Network on Youth Development, alongside the United Nations Programme on Youth. It was in this capacity that UNESCO participated in the coordination of the International Year of Youth.





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Director of publication: Eric Falt

Editor-in-chief: Jasmina Šopova
j.sopova@unesco.org

Managing editor: Katerina Markelova
k.markelova@unesco.org

Editors:

Arabic: Khaled Abu Hijleh

Chinese: Weiny Cauhape

English: Cathy Nolan

French: Françoise Arnaud-Demir

Portuguese: Ana Lúcia Guimaraes

Russian: Irina Krivova

Spanish: Francisco Vicente-Sandoval

Intern: Vanessa Merlin

Photos: Danica Bijeljac

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Information and reproduction rights:

+ 33 (0)1 45 68 15 64 · k.markelova@unesco.org

Web platform: Chakir Piro and Van Dung Pham

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"Mordabella",
mixed media,
2009. By
Lebanese artist
Ghassan
Halwani.

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Sport: only a starting point

While the greatest players in football were competing in Johannesburg (South Africa) for the 2010 FIFA World Cup, 32 teams of young people were coming together from around the world

for a more unusual tournament, the Football for Hope Festival 2010. Organized by *streetfootballworld*, FIFA, the 2010 FIFA World Cup Organising Committee South Africa and the City of

Johannesburg, the festival brought together for two weeks more than 250 boys and girls from disadvantaged communities—from tiny rural villages in Cambodia to the inner cities of the United States, the slums of India to the favelas of Rio. Conquering cultural barriers, they came together through the language of the game. They broadened their horizons and gained the confidence they needed to return to their homes and shape not only their own destinies, but those of their communities as well.

Empowering disadvantaged youth to improve their lives is the goal of the *streetfootballworld* network. It unites over 80 organizations with a special approach to tackling social challenges like HIV/Aids, crime and homelessness: they use football to bring young people into social development programmes—and keep them there. Working with the network and partners, *streetfootballworld* aims to reach out to 2,000,000 young people worldwide every year until 2015.

Football can help find solutions to problems too complex to be solved by conventional methods. The game is only the starting point. ■

www.streetfootballworld.org

Empowering disadvantaged youth to improve their lives is the goal of the streetfootballworld network.



© Football's Hidden Stories – Peter Dench

Youth Olympic Games

The International Year of Youth (IYY) coincides with the creation of a new Olympic tradition. The Youth Olympic Games (YOG) were inaugurated by the International Olympic Committee (IOC)* last August, just days after the start of the UN Year. The Youth Games combine sport, education and cultural activities in a unique format for young people between the ages of 15 and 18. At the games, young people learn from athlete role

models and from each other in a setting that encourages lasting friendships.

The first YOG, held in Singapore, drew about 3,500 young people from around the world. The results exceeded expectations on every level. The participants offered their assessment of the inaugural YOG in December at the 7th World Conference on Sport, Education and Culture in Durban, South Africa, cosponsored by the IOC and UNESCO.

In keeping with the theme of the conference, "Giving a Voice to Youth," teenage delegates took an active role at

the meeting. Delegates also urged the IOC to keep the spirit of the YOG alive in the period between Games.

That spirit is certainly alive and well in Innsbruck, Austria, where organizers are in the final countdown to the first Winter Youth Olympic Games in January 2012. Meanwhile, Nanjing, China, is preparing for the second Youth Olympic Summer Games in 2014. ■

International Olympic Committee
www.olympic.org

* In late 2009, the IOC received official UN Observer status.