



Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations

REPORT OF THE NGO COMMITTEE OF YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

December 2008

Committee Title	CONGO Youth Committee
Chairperson	Timotheus Kamaboakai, World Alliance of YMCAs (... December 2008) Francesca Traglia, Lutheran World Federation (January 2009.....)
Membership	The committee has 16 member organizations, but only 7 of the members are actively involved in the meetings and discussions. See full list attached.
Meetings	The Committee meets monthly. In 2008, we had 10 meetings.
Communications	The committee currently has two main forms of information sharing : - A Yahoo group, which provides a single email address that can be used to contact all of the members of the committee. This is used for sending information to all of the organizations on meetings and other events. (congo-un-geneva-youthorgs@yahoogroups.com) - A Facebook group, which provides more interactive tools for the committee. Members of the committee that are on facebook are connected through a group called : 'CONGO Youth Committee – (Geneva) and can post messages, comments, events and other notices to the rest of the group.
Networking	The CONGO Youth Committee also has close relationships with other major youth networks such as the International Coordinating Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO) and the Alliance of Youth CEOs. This is because most of the organizations that are part of these two networks are also members of the Youth Committee. Information from these networks are shared during meetings of the committee and vice versa.

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COMMITTEE REPORT
CT07 – CR.B3.027.GVA – 02122009

Conclusion	<p>As the committee is in the process of refining its purpose, we look to 2009 with more concrete ideas of what the committee should be. This committee provides a unique space for young people and can be a powerful advocacy mechanism at the UN and international events on issues that affect young people. Hence, the organizations are demonstrating more commitment and staff members to be permanent representatives at the committee meetings.</p> <p>We look forward to more avenues for the full participation of young people in activities of CONGO.</p>
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Geneva, 5th February 2009

Dear CoNGO Board and Secretariat,

Greetings from the Geneva CoNGO Youth Committee.

We would like to take this opportunity in early 2009 to ‘reintroduce’ our committee and share our vision for the future.

The Geneva Youth Committee of CoNGO is a space for information sharing among the youth NGOs based or represented in this city. Until now the committee has provided a nucleus for youth advocates in Geneva active within the UN system, and a base for NGO representatives who arrive in Geneva from other areas of the world who work to promote youth issues at the global level.

The committee is currently made up of 16 large worldwide and regional youth NGOs with ECOSOC status and 4 organisations which are represented in our meetings with Observer status. Furthermore, committee members are under the age of 35 and are committed to the vision of youth representation in civil society..

As you prepare for the CoNGO Board Meeting and Launch of CoNGO’s Asia Regional Committee in Thailand, we ask that you ensure youth is addressed in all your discussions. By investing in young people, CoNGO is investing in positive social change now and for the future.

We look forward to work in partnership with CoNGO through youth representation in other CoNGO Committees. Our aim is to ensure young peoples’ voices are heard on a wide range of issues in different forums of discussion at the UN. We hope this initiative will help create more momentum and sustain our vision for future cooperation.

We look forward to meeting with you in the forthcoming months and hope that you will also take the opportunity to reach out to us. We are excited about the opportunity to explore more avenues for the full participation of young people in activities of CoNGO, and look forward to a dynamic collaboration and fruitful partnership in the years to come.

Kindest Regards

Francesca P. Traglia

Chair of the Geneva Youth Committee of CoNGO

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